

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi: *The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*. We focus on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives. We believe in the Divine Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Christ is indeed present to us. He is not symbolically present or thoughtfully present. No, Christ is substantially present to us in the Church, the Body of Christ: in the Eucharist. Recall the last lines from the Gospel of St. Matthew from which we heard last Sunday... "*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*" Mt 28:20. Christ is truly present to us. We trust His Word and His presence.

There was one aspect of life that is important for our human condition that was often repeated by St. John Paul II throughout his life. That aspect was the importance of *culture* in society. "Culture" is defined as... "*The totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought characteristic of a community or population.*" Culture is the expression of those things that are important to and identify our lives especially as we identify with a particular social group. The importance of cultural expressions is seen as keeping the particular social group focused and alive. This came into play in the life of St. John Paul II during WWII. As the Communist infiltrated Poland, the young Karol Wojtyla was part of an underground theater group that performed plays from Polish History. This group read the great works of Poetry and the important works of Polish thinkers and authors. This activity was strictly forbidden by the occupying forces. If caught the penalty was death. The communist reasoned that in prohibiting this activity they would defeat the Polish people by destroying their common culture: their art, poetry and plays. They needed to destroy the memory of their history and great historical heroes. In destroying their roots, they would put an end to the Polish people and thus make them disposed to embracing Communism.

A major element woven through the Polish culture was the influence of the Catholic Church. Poland had a strong Catholic identity. In their modest way, hidden from view of the communist, they persisted in their pious Catholic devotions and reception of the sacraments. The Church was a real problem for the Communist. At a crucial point in his life, Karol Wojtyla secretly entered the Bishop's residence and secretly began his studies for the Priesthood.

Resistance to the Communist was fought on many fronts. Resistance to the Communist was necessary, but the resistance needed to be about something. The people need to be committed to their Polish culture, especially their Catholic Faith. This had everything to do with their identity as a people. The shared memory of their history and culture was a source of strength and gave them the will to resist the occupying powers that sought to destroy them as a people and a nation. With their culture eradicated the people would easily assimilate into communism. Culture is an essential element for their identity and meaning. Again, a major factor that permeated their Polish culture was their Catholic Faith.

I mention this idea of culture because it is important for us and our life as Catholic Christians. There is such a thing as the "Catholic Culture". We call it the "practice of the faith". The practice of the faith is expressed in the everyday details of our life. Attentive to our faith find that it influences the way we think and the way we act. Our Catholic Culture grows as our faith is expressed in our art, music, pious gestures, devotions and worship. This is the way we live and present ourselves in the world. In turn these cultural expressions reinforce and support our identity as Catholics Christians in the world. Consciously or unconsciously

these expressions keep us mindful of our identity and the presence of Christ.

I think of this because we do have much to be thankful for here at St. Nicholas. We do have a "Catholic Culture" in our parish. We need to appreciate it and keep it alive. For instance, there are many of our parishioners attending morning mass. There are many who during the morning hours when the church is open, stop by the church to light a candle or to pray, a.k.a. "make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament." One common expression of our Catholic Culture is found in the manner of dress for Sunday Mass. This is reflective of the importance of the Eucharistic Celebration in our life. However, there is always need for improvement in this area since we tend to be more relaxed during the summer. Nevertheless, we have to stress and express the centrality and importance of the Eucharistic Celebration as essential in shaping our lives, reinforcing our identity as Catholics and the building of the Catholic Culture.

It is difficult to maintain a culture. It takes effort. It also takes dedication to the importance and expression of the Catholic Culture. That means being mindful to the "little things." In a way we can consider these little things as the essentials: *the indispensable minimum*. If we do not maintain the minimum details, we will eventually lose our sense of the Catholic Culture in our parish and our homes. The indispensable minimums happen to be what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the *precepts of the church*. These are the small minimum things that we need to do. They are simple but maybe not easy, like attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, daily prayer and prayer before meals. This is basic. The minimums are not impossible nor are they burdensome. They are basic things that Catholics do. We can do these with ease. They are essential in building the Catholic culture in our families and community.

This may be likened to basketball. It is impossible to play basketball if one cannot run, dribble the ball, make a pass, do a lay-up, or shoot a free throw. These are the essentials, the "*indispensable minimums*" that must be practiced all the time. These are always the first thing done at every practice and warm-ups before a game. If these are not mastered and become second nature, one can hardly hope to play the game well if at all. For the sake of the argument we can call these the indispensable minimums of the "basketball culture."

Secondly, there is the proper attire for the sport. A suit and tie, or a dress, are not the proper attire for the game. Tee-shirts, shorts and shoes (no cleats) are the appropriate attire for a basketball court and for practice. Matching uniforms are needed for the team especially for the scheduled games. The basketball culture dictates the appropriate physical demands, mindset, and attire. These give the players their identity and meaning/purpose.

When we make Jesus Christ the center of our lives something changes within us. We become all the more aware of his constant presence and our identity as followers. Our daily life is accented with subtle gestures that are expressions of our faith. The piety and devotion of our prayer life reflects this cultural mindfulness of the faith. Our prayer life is strengthened as we desire to gather for the Sunday Liturgy where we come with our fellow Catholics. In the Eucharist we are all nourished by the Body of Christ. We cannot be Catholic Christians without the Sacraments, most especially the Eucharist. We are mindful of this as we celebrate the *Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ*. Out of love, individually and communally, we worship the Lord and open our lives to His loving presence.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

This week we pray Week II of the Liturgy of the Hours. Church Support

May 30, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$6,539.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,650.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Deficit this week	\$(4,210.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

We pray for those who have died recently:
Christopher Baum

Saint Nicholas Religious Education needs volunteer teachers and substitute teachers. The 2021/2022 school year begins **Sunday, September 12, 2021**. Classes will be held in the Bishop Fenwick School building "at the top of the hill". If this is something you feel you would like to do please call 740-319-2170 and talk with Suzanne or Kevin Dooley. Thank you!

St. Nicholas Church is looking for someone to take over the responsibility of decorating the church. The main times of the year are Easter and Christmas. If interested, please call the parish office, 453-0597.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mt. Olive Cemetery has a part time position available. Duties would include mowing, weed eating, helping to open and close graves, help pouring footers for headstones and snow removal. If interested, please call the Parish Office at 453-0597.



The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m.** at the St. Nicholas Parish Office. Please bring your lawn chairs, we will meet in the courtyard, weather permitting. We will meet in the Parish Office Upper Level the case of inclement weather.

Men of the East Traveling Holy Hour

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 394 E Main St., Newark, OH 43055 will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, June 10th** starting at 7:00 pm in the Church. All Men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once-monthly Holy Hours.

St. Nicholas Parish Festival – August 6 & 7 Needs volunteers. Many hands make light work and there are many small ways you can help. To volunteer contact Kevin Jones (614) 591-6381 or kevin.jones@jonesschlaterflooring.com

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we study the Bible Timeline from Ascension Press. Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office beginning **Tuesday, June 22nd**. This 24-week study covers Genesis through the Acts of the Apostles. Please call the office to preregister. Books are \$40.00 and includes online access to the videos. Please register by **June 14th** to ensure your book is delivered on time. (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

Vacation Bible School – VBS will be held this summer **July 26-30**. Volunteers are needed to help with planning, decorating, and to work the event. Actors and a director are needed for character acting and skits. To volunteer please contact Patty Boggs (740) 453-0597 ext 14 or e-mail pboggs@stnickparish.org. Watch the bulletin and parish website for registration information beginning **June 15th**.

Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebrates Marriages. Bishop Robert Brennan will recognize the gift of Holy Matrimony at the Diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebration taking place on **Sunday, June 27**, with 2:30 Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Powell. Married couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in 2021 – or every five-year anniversary thereafter – are invited to attend, as well as ALL couples celebrating 60 or more years of marriage. The Jubilee Mass will be livestreamed for couples who prefer to attend virtually, and family members. All registered couples, whether attending or not, will receive a personalized certificate. Couples who **R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, June 16**, will be included in the Mass worship aid and The Catholic Times. Visit www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment to register and for more information, or contact the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560

Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortion. The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. It's credited with saving the lives of over 2.4 million children to date. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. Without it, billions of taxpayer dollars could go to abortion. It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message before Congress moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. Catholics are urged to sign a petition at www.notaxpayerabortion.com.

It Is Really Jesus, Deacon Tim Birie, Knox County Consortium of Catholic Churches

"While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.'" At that meal with his disciples, Jesus gave us the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist. He is truly present in the Eucharist, as He promised. This Real Presence of Jesus brings us as close to Him as we can be while on this earth. We must explain and share this gift of our faith in order to have a Real Future and so that everyone can share in this joy every time we receive the Eucharist.

May Booster Mania Winners: \$25- Annette King, Sophia Schoeppner, Mathew Schmieder, Ronald Paul, Paul Young, John Biedenbach, Sam Palleschi, Bonnie Bendure & Mike Schramm

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEENS
2021 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE –
“ABLAZE”

St. Nicholas Church is pleased to announce that we will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference to be held **November 18-21** in Indianapolis. Students who live in a small town can come to believe that they are the only ones interested in the Catholic faith. Not true. Every two years more than 22,000 high school students and their adult chaperones converge on the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium to make new friends, hear dynamic speakers and celebrate our life in the church. Here are some of the speakers: Chika Anyanwu, Noelle Garcia, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Fr. Leo Patalinghug. Emcees are Sister Miriam Heidland and Brian Greenfield. A student only has 2 opportunities to attend because the event is held every 2 years and students must be in high school to attend. (This includes incoming Freshmen). Registration is now open! Registrations are due by June 24, 2021 **SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!** Please contact Patty Boggs as soon as possible to reserve your seat as tickets are limited! (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when something prevents you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: stnickparish.org.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.

Please join us each Monday at the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession or the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 7

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Sr. Mary Ann Nugent, Church*
7:00 p.m., *Mercy Bible Study, Parish Office Meeting Room*

TUESDAY, June 8

9:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

WEDNESDAY, June 9, St. Ephrem

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Ann Bronkar, Church*

THURSDAY, June 10

8:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

FRIDAY, June 11, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Linda Dosch, Church*
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Church*

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, June 12, The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Dixie Criswell, Church*

SUNDAY, June 13

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*
10:45 a.m., Mass: *Jennie Jalbrzikowski, Church*

Readings for Week of June 7

Mon.	2 Cor 1:1-7	Lk 1:39-56
Tues.	Th 2:9-14	Mk 12:13-17
Wed	Tb 3:1-11a	Mk 12:18-27
Thurs.	Tb 6:10-11	Mk 12:28-34
Fri.	Tb 11:5-17	Mk 12:35-37
Sat.	Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20	Mk 12:38-44
Sun	Ex 24:3-8	Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Cantor Schedule

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 12 5:15 p.m. Sr. Bernadette
June 13 8:15 a.m. Janet Moses
10:45 a.m. Rachel Taylor