

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

After we have celebrated the Solemn Feasts following the Easter Season, we return now to the Sundays in Ordinary Time resuming our Gospel readings from St. Mark. This Sunday, we find ourselves in the middle of the fourth chapter of the gospel. In this chapter we reflect on Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom of God. It is good for us to remember that the Kingdom of God is where God reigns. God is not limited to time and place. God is omni-present. The Kingdom of God is fully present in heaven at the end of time. However, as God's children we are to make the Kingdom of God present in this world by making manifest the goodness of God here and now. The one who did this perfectly in this world is Jesus Christ: the perfect manifestation of the goodness and holiness of God. Thus, we can say that where Jesus Christ is present there is the Kingdom of God.

Pushing this understanding a little further, we can say this is the very reason we have the Eucharistic Presence of Christ in the tabernacle, in the Church. This is a sacramental image of heaven on earth, the Kingdom of God here and now. When we enter the church building, we leave the created world "outside" and enter into a different world. In the act of leaving the physical world "outside" we deliberately enter into the presence of God. Upon entering the church, we bless ourselves with holy water that recalls our entering the Church at our baptism. This is the mark of our membership into the Body of Christ. Although this is imperfect, because we live in this fallen world, in faith we enter the Kingdom of God.

In this world the Kingdom of God is present yet imperfectly. Although imperfect, we are still to strive to make it real. This is our Christian calling: making Christ present to the world.

Returning to this particular section of St. Mark, chapter 4 and following, of which we are reading for our Sunday liturgies, we have a wonderful image of the church: The Kingdom of God in the world. For many years I did not take particular notice of the imagery presented in this section of the Gospel of Mark. Throughout chapter 4 Jesus is presented as teaching the people from a boat. Looking at the other synoptic gospels we notice that Matthew has Jesus teaching the people from the mountain in the famous Sermon on the Mount: chapters 5 – 7. St. Luke has Jesus preaching in what is commonly called the Sermon on the Plain. Now St. Mark has Jesus preaching from a boat in what can be considered the Sermon on the Sea: chapter 4.

There are a number of biblical images contained in this passage. When we read these teachings of Jesus, we do not realize that they are in the context of Jesus preaching from the boat. We usually figure that since they are self-contained teachings, we rarely consider them as part of a larger whole: from the boat. We usually assume that Jesus is walking about and teaching. The teachings/parables in chapter 4 have a common thread: The Kingdom of God.

The boat is a biblical image representing the Church. The Christian community is aware that Jesus is present in the Church proclaiming the Word of God to the world. The crowds are on the shore: this world. The sea is an image of chaos, as in the beginning of Genesis, which is also an image of the forces of evil. The Church, with Jesus present, rides upon the evil forces which are sometimes calm and sometimes turbulent. Those in the boat are safe in the presence of Jesus. This event is recalled in Matthew and Luke, with a variation of this event found in John. Just the same, the message is clear, Jesus Christ who is present in the Church assures us that we will never be overcome or swallowed up by the forces of evil and sin.

The Word of God goes forth into the world from the Church. The Word of God is for all people, especially for those not in the boat.

Another noticeable element in these parables are the people who are acting in these stories: the sower of the seeds. The disciples of Jesus are ordinary working people. They are the ones who are who had the boat and did the work of being sailors or fishermen. In other parables referring to the Kingdom we see other ordinary individuals doing ordinary things: a woman baking for example. What is being hinted here and elsewhere is that ordinary people play important roles by doing ordinary things that brings about the Kingdom of God. God works through ordinary people doing ordinary things.

The parables of the Kingdom used here have to do with sowing seeds. This is very simple yet it has a powerful message. In the early days of following ordination, I was concerned with making a difference in the lives of parishioners and more specifically seeing results from being in the classroom. A wise priest giving me some guidance wrapped up our conversation with the words..."God did not ask you to plant a tree. God asks you to plant seeds. You may not see the harvest but that doesn't matter and don't get discouraged." This was a big relief. It is also profoundly biblical. The first parable of the Kingdom of God uses this agricultural imagery of a farmer sowing seeds. The seed falls on various type of ground: a path, rocky ground, land cluttered with weeds and finally rich soil. These are all things over which he has no control. Even though that may be the case, the effectiveness of the seed also depends on the receptivity of the ground in which it is sowed. God will provide the growth with the cooperation of the one who receives the Word.

Parables using this imager are repeated with the farmer who sows seed but does not know how it sprouts and grows. The word of God is powerful in itself. Just sow it! God will provide the growth.

Again, there is the example of the mustard seed. The smallest of seeds yet when it grows it becomes the largest of plants. Again, just sow the seed and God will provide the growth.

The end of the chapter, the disciples go to another shore but not until they are tossed about on the turbulent waters and Jesus is asleep. Once they wake him, he calms the waters and they arrive at another shore. There is nothing to fear Jesus is in the boat. There is nothing to fear, Jesus is in the Church.

I say it often and we really need to make it the center of our faith life, Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh. The power of the Word of God is the Power of Jesus Christ. This power is manifested in the growth after the seed is planted. This power over all creation is in the Church. This is most especially noted during turbulent times (i.e., the boat on the seas). What is needed is faith in the Word of God: be not afraid.

The growth and the abundance are manifestations of the presence of the Kingdom of God. The Word of God that is preached and the growth and abundance of Christian living is the manifestation of the Kingdom of God here and now. The growth in God's goodness and holiness in this world is a foretaste of heaven. This is the Kingdom of God.

The opposite is also true. The rejection of the Word of God (Jesus Christ) leads to negative growth but darkness. When people embrace vice over virtue, hell on earth is established. Vice and sin lead to darkness and death. Note well, the parable about the placing a lamp on a lampstand and not under a bushel is also preached from the boat.

In essence the Kingdom of God is where Christ is present. Jesus Christ is the Word. The Kingdom is present when the Word is

sown, when it grows, when it blossoms. The disciples, in fact all followers have a role to sow the word, encourage the growth, and harvest the crop. What is required of us is to know that it is only Jesus Christ who is the Word, the growth and the final harvest. It is all dependent on him at the first, in the present and in the end. Wherever there is Jesus Christ, there is the Kingdom.

Have a great week
Father Ralko

**This week we pray Week III of the
Liturgy of the Hours.**

Church Support

June 6, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$13,851.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$9,962.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Surplus this week	\$3,102.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!



*Happy 70th Anniversary
to Don & Rosie Snider,
married on June 16, 1951.*

The Catholic Schools of Zanesville

Our School Lunch Summer program is open from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. every Wednesday. This program is Free and open to all students 18 and under. We are serving now! Drive up and go style lunches.

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.

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 in the parish office beginning **Tuesday, June 22 at 10:00 a.m.** 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 Meeting – Those interested in helping with Vacation Bible School to be held July 26-30 should attend the meeting on Tuesday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office. Volunteers, age 12 and up, are needed to help with planning, decorating, and to work the event. Actors and a director are also needed for character acting and skits. For more information please contact Patty Boggs (740) 453-0597 ext 14 or e-mail pboggs@stnickparish.org.

Jubilee of Anniversaries: 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 p.m. 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

Seed in the World

Mary Thompson, St. Matthew Gahanna Parishioner & RPRF Commission Member

In the parable of the sowing of the seed, Jesus reveals the growth of the Kingdom of God through the Church and each one of us. The preaching of the Gospel, the generously sown seed, will unfailingly yield its fruit throughout all ages, including the present time. It is God who gives the growth, it will happen “we know not how.” The Kingdom of God also refers to the action of grace in each soul. God works in us, causing a transformation when we surrender to grace. The real initiative comes from God, but we prepare “the ground for sowing” through daily prayer, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and acts of service.

NCYC

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. 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 and 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.

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Change someone's life – just by being there

Hospice of Central Ohio has served patients and families in the Zanesville/Muskingum county area for over 30 years. We've cared for your neighbors, your friends and your families. We continue to give our best to the people in our care and invite you to join us as a volunteer member of the team. From visiting patients to sewing items of comfort, our volunteers make an impact on the lives of the people we serve. To learn more, please contact Hospice of Central Ohio Services: Liz Adamshick, 740-788-1404.

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.

Readings for Week of June 14

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

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 14

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Sandy Young, Church*
2:00 p.m., Rosary, Parish Office Chapel

TUESDAY, June 15

9:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*
7:00 p.m., Vacation Bible School Meeting, Parish Office Meeting Room

WEDNESDAY, June 16

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

THURSDAY, June 17

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

FRIDAY, June 18

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Lorraine Kolo, Church*

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, June 19

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Camillus Sullivan, Church*

SUNDAY, June 20

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Joy Larson, Church*
10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

June 20, 2020

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 19 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Rachel Taylor
Lector: Nicole Hannahs
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Daniel Snider
Eucharistic Ministers: Charlotte Snider, Josh Wright

Sunday, January 20 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Kerby Staker
Lector: Bill Sullivan
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Phillip Kocoloski
Eucharistic Ministers: Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester

Sunday, January 20 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Wendy Hart
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Karen Hardman
Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Hoffer, Jim McKee