

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Rest and relaxation: during the summer months we are blessed with opportunities that are not always available to us during the school year. In fact, don't you find it interesting that our year seems to revolve around the academic year? For many the summer vacation season generally starts after Memorial Day and continues through Labor Day. It seems natural that the schools use these two National Holiday bookends to define the academic year.

Then again there is the agricultural cycle. Farm work generally tends to take place during the favorable months of spring, summer and early fall. When the family farm was the norm for a great portion of the country, I suspect that farming families would want their children home to work on the farm from late spring to early fall. Thus, a more favorable time for school year was late fall through the winter up to early spring. In its own way it makes sense.

With the industrialized/technological transformation of society factory work became prominent. There was an increasing difficulty for labor under the burden of a hot stifling summer while working in factories. I recall the summer months during my college years when I worked in automotive factories. The majority of workers would take vacations during the summer months in order to get out of the hot factory. Factory work during the summer was miserable. This is why the automotive companies had summer employment for college students. Although it was miserable, I knew that I was only allowed to work for twelve weeks. With that in mind I also knew I could put up with it. This misery was also a great motivating factor for me to stay in school and take my college studies seriously.

So, in a round-about way the summer months became synonymous with vacation time. For the most part summer affords us an opportunity for vacations, rest and leisure. We take a break from those activities that are oriented toward productivity. Taking a break from doing in order to have time for being. It is easy for us to define our lives by our doing as opposed to understanding our lives as human beings. In a greater sense, leisure time is the most "productive" time. It is during our leisure time that the most important aspects of our humanity are enhanced and mature: the bonds of family and friendship, our personal and spiritual growth. All of this is hinted on the Seventh Day of Creation when God Rested from his work in creation.

In the Ten Commandments we have the third commandment that charges us to keep holy the Sabbath: The Lord's Day. Of all the world religions in existence there is only one, the religions of the Judeo-Christian tradition, that has a commandment about the observance of a Sacred Day during the week. No other religion has such a law. This is an incredibly curious thing to take into consideration. Like all Ten Commandments this particular law has a purpose: a very important purpose. For people who put a high priority on doing, a.k.a. being productive and not wasting time, this particular commandment speaks to our identity in relationship with God. A misreading of this commandment would interpret it as encouraging rest taken to the level of total inactivity. But there is a type of activity involved here; we are directed to address the most important aspect for our lives as human beings. These are the matters of the mind and heart concerning our relationship with God, our family and others, our growth in holiness.

There is no doubt that we live in a time where we are focused on productivity and mastering our world. There is a great temptation to measure the value of a person by their productivity. It is easy to judge a person based on their work. It's true that we

take great pride in all that we accomplish by our doing. We can easily be so focused on doing that we tend to use this in our judgement of people who produce little or even do nothing at all. Realistically we do understand and appreciate our need for rest and we are tempted to look at rest as a means for us to get back to work. This type of rest is solely on worldly work. This type of rest is all about physical work and production: when rested you should be able to work more.

My suspicion is that this is not, although important, the whole picture of rest God has in mind. We can misunderstand the command for Sabbath Rest. There is something present here that goes beyond mere physical rest from the exhaustion cause by our work. There is a sacred purpose for Sabbath Rest that touches upon our very nature as human beings. Sabbath Rest is about God's gift of *time* that we may enter into *His Rest*. It is time that God gives us and invites us to spend it with Him. The purpose is to spend this time in relationship with God.

We work hard in building up our little world. We work to build our bank accounts to support our homes, our family, our community... in a word we build up our earthly kingdom. This is the business of the world. We are busy about this world. We do this throughout the week. Because this is a commandment, we are to take the Lord's Day seriously. This has its reference to the story of creation, before the Fall, where God "worked" for six days in creating the world and all that is in it. On the seventh day God rested after his work saying it was "*very good*". God's rest is His delight in all that he created. Because of Original Sin this is distorted. As Human Beings, who are created in His image and likeness, we were and still are invited by God to share and delight in His goodness. Because of sin, this is distorted. Nevertheless, on the Sabbath we are to be thankful and open to refreshment in the gracious presence of God. We grow in friendship with God and others. When we turn to God with thankful hearts we are blessed. This is God's rest: a blessing.

The creation of the Sabbath as a day of rest is a time or space intended for a particular purpose: a time to build relationships in goodness. It is the time where God in his goodness invites His people to spend time with Him. In a way we also invite God to be with us, His people. Throughout the week we use our time to produce and transform our world to our purposes. On the Sabbath God has given us a Sacred Time allowing God to enter and transform our lives to His purpose: our relationship with Him and with others in Building His Kingdom. This is the business of Sabbath Rest and leisure. This rest and leisure appear to be non-productive, yet it is precisely this time that is the most productive and essential. This is the time in which all good relationships are built: with one another and most especially our relationship with God.

We often speak words like *spending our time with friends*. Time with friends is essential for our development as human beings. We cannot learn and live the most important virtues and lessons of life in isolation. Our most important friendships are foundational for meaning and purpose in our lives. Friendship sustains us especially when times get difficult. In times of great crisis, we need and depend on the support of our loved ones: our family and friends. Ultimately, we depend on the one most important relationship in our life... our relationship with God.

God has given us a commandment to pause from our busy lives to observe a very specific time to spend with Him. Out of love, this time is given for our greater good. It is an invitation to enter into God's time: Sacred Time. Our response needs to be thankful acceptance of God's invitation to spend time with Him. God invites us to share in this Sacred Time so that in our sharing in

God's time our time/lives are transformed by God. This is time in which God works on us; even when we may not be aware that this transformation is taking place.

God gave a command to his people..." *Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy.*" God gives the means for us to grow in holiness: The Commandments and the Sacraments. More to the point, sharing in Sunday Mass we share in the gift of God's Time and welcome God to "work" on us by transforming our lives to his purpose as individuals and as a community of faith.

With the blessing of extended leisure time of summer vacation, let us use it well.

Have a Blessed Week
Father Ralko

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

Church Support

July 4, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$8,118.00
EFT	\$6,040.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$10,269.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Surplus this week	\$3,409.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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. Drive up and go style lunches.

Jr. Bishops Soccer Camp July 19, 20 and 21, 2021 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Rosecrans High School, ages Kindergarten - 8th Grade Cost \$35.00 Contact Hugh Maxwell at 740-319-4764.

Daughters of Isabella- All women ages 16 and up are invited to join us on **Tuesday, July 13TH at 6:00 p.m.** in the parish office, Upper Level. Please join us as we work to build community in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship, and charity.

St. Nicholas Parish Festival – August 6 & 7. Help St. Nicholas Church continue to be a light in the community. Volunteers are needed. Many hands make light work and there are many small ways you can help. To volunteer contact Kevin Jones (614) 561-6381 or kevin.jones@jonesschlaterflooring.com

The RHS Class of 1971 is gathering at the St. Nicholas Festival on **Friday, August 6.** Come join in the fun! For questions or more information please call Mary Maxwell at 305-395-0704.

Children's Bulletins are available near all the doors of the church. They are for use during and after Mass. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to take one for their children and grandchildren.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Kevin Dooley will hold a **Protecting God's Children** class on **Monday, July 12th at 6:00 p.m.** The class will be held at the St. Nicholas Parish office, upper level. This class is mandatory for adults age 18 and up who would like to volunteer in any capacity at Bishop Fenwick School, Bishop Rosecrans High School or St. Nicholas Parish, including Vacation Bible School. Please register in advance at www.virtus.org.

Vacation Bible School–VOLUNTEERS, ages 12 and up, are needed to help with planning, decorating, and to work at Vacation Bible School. (Behind the scenes, planning, and the event itself) Actors are also needed for character acting and skits. **The next meeting is Tuesday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.** For more information call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail pboggs@stnickparish.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – WILDERNESS ADVENTURE

Through the Sacraments **Registration is now open!** Registration forms can be found near the entrances of the Church, on the parish website and in the parish office. Please register by **July 20th**. Questions? Please call the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail: pboggs@stnickparish.org.

Real Presence, Real Future - Summer Q&A Sessions

Join CLI and Diocesan leaders to learn more about the Real Presence, Real Future initiative at Information Sessions throughout the summer. Each session will be similar consisting of an overview of the Real Presence, Real Future initiative, and the opportunity for your questions and comments. We want to hear from you! What are you hearing about RPRF? What is it? Why are we doing this?

Virtual Sessions from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 14 Monday, July 19
- Wednesday, July 21 Wednesday, July 28
- Wednesday, August 4 Wednesday, August 11

Registration is required for each session, so sign up today at www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

PRE-JORDAN CLASS – JULY 20TH - Parents of small children and infants are required and sponsors are encouraged to attend a baptismal preparation class (Pre-Jordan). This month's class will be held on **Tuesday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m.** in the parish office. Please call Patty at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 to pre-register.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Blood Drive sponsored by Park National Bank at Bishop Fenwick Elementary

Gym
1030 East Main St.
Zanesville, OH 43701

**Friday, July 16, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-Cross or visit
RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: PNB

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 July 12

Mon.	Ex 1:8-14, 22	Mt 10:34-11:1
Tues.	Ex 2:1-15a	Mt 11:20-24
Wed	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12	Mt 11:25-27
Thurs.	Ex 3:13-20	Mt 11:28-30
Fri.	Ex 11:10-12:14	Mt 12:1-8
Sat.	Ex 12:37-42	Mt 12:14-21
Sun	Jer 23:1-6	Mk 6:30-34

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, July 12

8:00 a.m., Mass: Don Greulich, Church
6:00 p.m., Protecting God's Children, Parish Office

TUESDAY, July 13, St. Henry

9:00 a.m., Mass: Sandy Young, Church
10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office Upper Level
6:00 p.m., Daughters of Isabella, Parish Office
7:00 p.m., VBS Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 14, St. Tekakwitha

9:00 a.m., Mass: Tom Nash, Church
7:00 p.m., Mercy Bible Study

THURSDAY, July 15, St. Bonaventure

8:00 a.m., Mass: Rita Greiner, Church

FRIDAY, July 16, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

8:00 a.m., Mass: Jean James, Church

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, July 17

4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Linda Dosch, Church

SUNDAY, July 18

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.

July 18, 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 17 @ 5:15 p.m.

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

Sunday, July 18 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses
Lector: William Sullivan
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Tammy Dovenbarger
Eucharistic Ministers: Cheryl Sylvester, Daniel Sylvester

Sunday, July 18 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy
Lectors: Sam Palleschi
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Tim Hoffer
Eucharistic Ministers: Jim McKee, Gerald Tiberio

July 11, 2021

It is that time of year again! Our annual 2021 Parish Festival is just around the corner – **Friday, August 6th & Saturday, August 7th**. Our goal for this year’s Festival is to increase the involvement of the community including, businesses, school parents and parishioners. The Festival is a very important social and fundraising event for our community.

Enclosed with this letter are 3 books of Festival tickets for your use and others you may know who have not received Capital Prize tickets in the mail. We are asking you for your help in reaching these generous people. As in the past, we know we can count on you. The tickets sell for \$1.00 each, 7 tickets for \$5.00, and 15 tickets for \$10.00.

Please return **ALL TICKETS, SOLD OR UNSOLD**. You can return the sold ticket stubs and money in the St. Nicholas Sunday collection basket, by mail, or deliver them to the Parish Office. You may also bring them to the Capital Prize Booth during the Festival. The Capital Prize drawing is August 7, 2021 at 11:00 p.m. Also, if you need additional tickets to sell, please contact the Parish Office 740-453-0597. Tickets will also be available at the Capital Prize booth at the Festival.

We are also asking for your support to help work the Festival. Any help you could give would be very much appreciated. Please call Kevin Jones at 614-561-6381 to sign-up and be a part of this year’s Festival by volunteering your time to work one of the many booths. If you are unable to work in a booth, maybe you could help out by donating a cake for the cake stand.

Your support by selling tickets for the Capital Prize and/or working at the Festival allows Bishop Fenwick School to continue its tradition of providing Quality Education in a Christian Environment with a Catholic Tradition. Thank you for your cooperation and your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kevin Jones

Executive Sponsorships...GREAT Business

Your donations and sponsorships are very much appreciated; your business will receive promotional exposure before, during and after the festival. All donations are tax deductible. **Our Tax ID and a Tax Exemption letter are available upon request.**

Executive Sponsor - Businesses, Parish or Community Members

- **Advertisements** on our Festival Signs, around town, on local media and in the bulletin
- **Recognition** on our **FACEBOOK** Page
- **Exposure** to ALL Festival Attendees

Along with our Gold, Silver & Bronze Sponsorships we are introducing the **Booth Sponsorship** this year. For **\$250** your **Business Logo** or **Family Name** will be advertised in one of our 15 booths, we will take up to 30 Booth sponsors – **so don’t wait, reserve yours before they’re gone!**



Promoted On...	GOLD \$500	SILVER \$300	Bronze \$100	SPECIAL - Booth Sponsorship \$250
Signage @ the Festival	X			
Signage About Town	X			
Media Outlets	X			
Ticket Distribution	X	X		
Festival Facebook Page	X	X		
Church Bulletin for 1 Year	X	X	X	X
Sign on One of the Festival Booths				X

Sponsor Name:
Contact Person:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Gold, Silver & Booth Sponsors, please email your logo to kevin.jones@joneschlatterflooring.com

**Please mail your check & the above completed form to:
St. Nicholas Parish Office – 955 East Main St. Zanesville, OH 43701**

**All sponsors will be contacted regarding the information that will appear on signs and promotional literature prior to print. If you have any questions you can reach
Kevin Jones 614-561-6381**