

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH – July 25, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Seventeenth Sunday in ordinary time. At this point in the Gospel of St. Mark we would be reading the passage of Jesus feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fish. However, during this liturgical cycle we do not read St. Mark's account of this miracle but we instead turn to the Gospel of St. John and read his account. St. John's account is found at the beginning of chapter six. In fact, we will be reading from the Gospel of St. John for the next three Sundays. In the sixth chapter of St. John, we find the *Eucharistic Discourse*. This is a difficult chapter for many people. In fact, this was also very difficult for the people in Jesus' day. Today many prefer to skim over it or avoid it altogether. The teaching of Jesus on the Bread of Life is blunt and difficult to hear. Many of our protestant brothers and sisters say that Jesus was speaking figuratively. Yet there is no indication in the Gospels where Jesus tells us that he is speaking figuratively. Jesus bluntly says, "I am the bread of life..." and "my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink..." "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you do not have life within you." These words are blunt and hard to hear. They are difficult to accept. Yet, what is the difference between these words and Jesus saying, "your sins are forgiven" or when Jesus tells a dead girl "Little girl I tell you to rise"? Are these words literal or figurative? Nevertheless, we can all agree that this whole passage is difficult. Like all faith it calls us to trust the words of Jesus even when it is difficult to accept and understand. Jesus does not tell us to take and understand. He asks us to believe.

There was a page from my past that I would talk about in our RCIA classes. It had to do with this the topic of the Eucharist. I recall finding myself at the funeral home back in Dennison, Ohio. I used the room where they met with families for funeral planning. While preparing myself for a funeral service or a wake service I would look at the various bibles they had on their shelves. These bibles represented all the various Christian Denominations from the area. I would look through these various editions taking particular interest in how they would treat the sixth chapter of St. John along with the last supper narratives from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). I took particular notice of the institution narratives..." *Taking the Bread...*" etc. I also noted all the footnotes and notations. While I was at it, I also checked out St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 11. This is where St. Paul instructs the Corinthians about their Eucharistic gatherings and the words of Jesus at the Last Supper concerning His body and blood. I wanted to see what the notations at the bottom of the pages said in reference to bread/wine and Body/Blood of Jesus. The notations consistently indicated that Jesus was speaking figuratively. In these cases, Jesus was not speaking literally. This is a serious issue for many of the Protestant traditions and particularly the fundamentalist type Christian churches. I believe these folks were sincerely following Jesus and desired to serve him faithfully, however, these passages reveal the real difficulty in faithfully following Jesus and trusting him when his words challenge our earthly sensibilities. These words were difficult in Jesus' day and they remain so even to this day. They can be disturbing.

I was once told by a Protestant friend that he had two problems with Catholicism: our treatment of Mary the mother of God and Transubstantiation. He couldn't find our teachings of either in the Bible. He didn't accept the idea that the seeds of our Catholic doctrines are found in the Word of God. The doctrines are the forest of trees that developed from those seeds.

Nevertheless, over the following three weeks we will be reading from the Gospel of St. John chapter 6 pressing deeper into the awesome mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Our Gospel readings will be supplemented with the first readings chosen for each of these Sundays. These passages from the Old Testament will highlight an aspect for our reflection as an interpretive key for the successive passages of St. John for each Sunday Liturgy.

As a way to better engage in the Sunday liturgy it would be good to read the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John in its entirety at some time over the next few weeks. Also, before Sunday mass reread the Gospel passage of the day as well as the first reading for each of the corresponding liturgies. Again, the first reading, from the Old Testament is not a random selection. There is a purpose for which those passages were chosen for each Sunday liturgy.

A word on the second reading would be helpful here. These passages are taken not because they are a direct reflection on the other two passages, but rather they are sequential readings from the epistles. However, since all Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit, they are connected in one way or another with the Old Testament and Gospel passages. At least I have found them connected in various ways and find them inspiring.

Nevertheless, we will be embarking on this challenging passage from St. John and we will pray with them. Prayerfully we hope to have our minds and hearts expanded with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist. Christ is truly present in each and continually calls us into deeper communion with him. This is a foretaste and the promise of the eternal Kingdom of God: perfect communion with God in and through Christ.

As we pray during our Sunday liturgies it would also be helpful, another suggestion, to read the section on the Eucharist in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The section dealing with the Eucharist can be found in paragraphs 1322 – 1419. It is a rather long section, but it is well written and helpful for our understanding of the Holy Eucharist. We can never read and reflect enough on this most important part of our life as Catholic Christians.

"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life'. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." 1324.

The Eucharist is the *source and summit* of Christian life. It is the origin of our life in Christ and it is the final goal of our Christian life. All is life in Christ. This is the greatest gift that God has given to us: Jesus Christ himself. God gave us the gift of his son in the Incarnation. Christ himself gave us the gift of himself in the Eucharist. God's great gift of his son Jesus has one purpose: union with God now and for all eternity. Our response is Thanksgiving and Praise.

In two weeks, we will have our parish festival. The festival will take place on Friday and Saturday. As you may recall we had a small gathering last summer for one day. It went rather well considering all the restrictions. One thing that was a great success was the Chicken Dinner prepared by the Falls Township Fire Department. The dinner was GREAT. Chicken dinners will be available again this year on Saturday evening in the Parish Center (GYM). So, come on in, sit with your friends and enjoy a great chicken dinner. At the end of the night, we will have our Grand Prize Drawing. The purchase of your raffle tickets is an important part for the success of this event. You can make your returns at the festival or in the offertory collection. Good Luck! So please join

us at the festival for food and drink, music and socializing. It is a good time to visit with family and friends. It is also a wonderful way to support our parish and school.

One last thing; I am hoping to head north on Tuesday for a couple days. I have a nephew getting married next Saturday. I will return Saturday night. A friend, Fr. Tom Kessler will be here to take the Saturday evening mass.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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

Church Support

July 18, 2021

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| OFFERTORY | \$11,479.00 |
| Diocesan Tax | \$(770.00) |
| Fenwick Subsidy | \$(2,635.00) |
| Rosecrans subsidy | \$(485.00) |
| Available for Parish Operations | \$7,590.00 |
| Parish Operating Expenses | \$(7,825.00) |
| Religious Education Expenses | <u>\$(890.00)</u> |
| Other Income | <u>\$1,855.00</u> |
| | \$730.00 |

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.

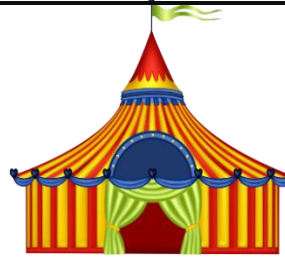
The RHS Class of 1971 is gathering at the St. Nicholas Festival on **Friday, August 6**. Come join in the fun! For questions or more information please call Mary Maxwell at 305-395-0704.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - WILDERNESS

ADVENTURE Through the Sacraments **begins Monday, July 26th at 6:00 p.m.** Students are encouraged to **arrive at 5:45** so we will be ready to begin on time. On the first day we will learn about the Sacrament of Baptism. Students are asked to wear white shirts. However, parents are cautioned that we will be playing hard and might get a little messy in the process. Please choose clothing accordingly. Please call the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail: pboggs@stnickparish.org with any questions or concerns.

Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortion. It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message to Congress right now as it moves to impose 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. 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. Catholics are urged to sign a USCCB's petition at www.notaxpayerabortion.com.

2021 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



CALLING ALL ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS!

We are still in need of volunteers for this years' parish festival. Please consider giving a little of your time to your parish! Please help this tradition carry on for many more years to come! Kevin Jones (614) 561-6381 or kevin.jones@jonesschlaterflooring.com

CAKE STAND: ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need cakes, cookies, pies, candies, breads & more. We will need new items every day of the festival. HUNDREDS of people will take home baked goods made by our wonderful St. Nicholas parishioners. Please drop off items in the St. Nicholas cafeteria before festival hours and at the booth anytime during the festival. If you have any questions, please call Brandie Scott at 740-225-1961. Thanks & Happy Baking!

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: **Why Bother?** **Deacon Jeff Carpenter, St. Bernadette, Lancaster:**

We have all felt like the apostles in the gospel today. We see hunger, poverty, sickness, disaster, or other human suffering, but when we look at our resources, we feel we have so little to offer. We think why bother? Our connection to Jesus in the Real Presence gives us the courage to be like the apostles, offering what we can and trusting in the Lord to bring forth fruit. With a strong connection to Jesus through the regular reception of his presence in the eucharist we are always aware that we are working with and for him in all we do.

To read more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

Eucharistic Adoration -All are encouraged to participate in **Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, August 6th (First Friday).**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m. Guardian adorers are essential and needed as Christ exposed in the Monstrance must never be left alone. While drop ins are welcome, and there is no limit on the number of participants at any given time, there is a need for a minimum of two people per hour for the day. If you are able to commit to an hour, please contact the parish office. (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org.

Men of the East Traveling Holy Hour

St. Leonard Church, 57 Dorsey Mill Rd. E., Heath, OH 43056 will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, August 12** 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.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Attention Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors: Please provide schedule requests for September and October no later than August 15th. Thank you for your ministry.

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 26

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|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mon. | Ex 14:5-18 | Mt 12:38-42 |
| Tues. | Ex 14:21-15:1 | Mt 12:46-50 |
| Wed. | Ex 16:1-5, 9-15 | Mt 13:1-9 |
| Thurs. | Sg 3:1-4a | Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 |
| Fri. | Ex 20:1-17 | Mt 13:18-23 |
| Sat. | Ex 24:3-8 | Mt 13:24-30 |
| Sun | 2 Kgs 4:42-44 | Jn 6:1-15 |

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, July 26, SS. Joachim and Anne

8:00 a.m., Mass: *The Davis Family, Church*

6:00 p.m., *Vacation Bible School, Parish Activity Center*

TUESDAY, July 27

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

10:00 a.m., *Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office Upper Level*

6:00 p.m., *Vacation Bible School, Parish Activity Center*

WEDNESDAY, July 28

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Mary Hupp, birthday, Church*

6:00 p.m., *Vacation Bible School, Parish Activity Center*

THURSDAY, July 29, St. Martha

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

6:00 p.m., *Vacation Bible School, Parish Activity Center*

FRIDAY, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus

8:00 a.m., Mass: *The Sergio Family, Church*

6:00 p.m., *Vacation Bible School, Parish Activity Center*

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, July 31, St. Ignatius of Loyola

4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Pat Tanner, Church*

SUNDAY, August 1

8:15 a.m., Mass: *William C. Kohler, Church*

10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time.

August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 31 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy

Lector: Nicole Hannahs

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Daniel Snider

Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Robinson, Charlotte Snider, Jim McKee

Sunday, August 1 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette

Lector: Susan Thompson

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Tammy Dovenbarger

Eucharistic Ministers: Philip Kocoloski, Scott Peterson

Sunday, August 1 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy

Lectors: Sam Palleschi

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Karen Hardman

Eucharistic Ministers: Claire Tiberio, Gerald Tiberio



Let's have a party!
Reconnect with friends and family
at the annual
St Nicholas Parish Festival
August 6 & 7

Live music
Gambling tent
Kids games and fun
Beer garden
Delicious food & drinks

Behind Bishop Fenwick School on East Main St.
Parking and Admission is free

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

Capital Prize tickets have been mailed to our parishioners and are available at the church and parish office. 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. Tickets will also be available at the Capital Prize booth at the Festival.

We are also asking for your support to help work at 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!**

**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.



| 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 |

If you have any questions you can reach Kevin Jones 614-561-6381 Thank you again for your support! We look forward to partnering with you.

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

www.facebook.com/StNicholasFestival

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