

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 1, 2021



This Friday evening August 6 marks the beginning of our Annual Parish Festival. Please join us for this important parish fundraiser. Visit with friends, enjoy good food and refreshments. Like last year we

will enjoy a great chicken dinner prepared by the Falls Township Fire Department. Last year's dinner was a big success considering we were still observing some restrictions due to the Corona virus. This year the dinner will take place in the Parish Center (a.k.a. the School Gym). This is a great opportunity to gather with family and friends to enjoy a great chicken dinner. If you like you may take your dinner outside under the tent. It's all good.

As usual we will have entertainment, raffles, games of chance, rides for the kids and more food and beverages. Please join family and friends at this year's St. Nicholas Parish Festival.

Ticket returns so far have been very good. We all know the importance of the sale of Raffle Tickets. The sale of the raffle tickets for the Grand Prize is directly connected with the success of our festival. This, in reality, is true for all parish festivals. So, I encourage you to help make our festival successful in this aspect by buying/selling your raffle tickets. Besides... who wouldn't take a chance to win \$5,000.00? Good luck.

The benefits from the festival are a great asset to our parish as well as the school. The funds generated from this event are only one part of the overall benefits of having a festival. Working together, visiting with family and friends, enjoying a good time contributes to the building of relationships. People gathering and working together for a common cause always builds community. There is a twofold benefit, the building of relationships of our parish community and the necessary funds for our parish and school. Please plan on attending.

This week we continue to read for the Gospel of St. John chapter 6, the Eucharistic Discourse. As John relates, the people were searching for Jesus. We did not read verses 16 – 23. These verses deal with Jesus walking upon the waters at night. The Disciples were frightened and finally they arrive at Capernaum. The people were looking for him and finally finding him in Capernaum. This is where our passage for today begins.

Jesus confronts the wrong understanding of the people. As noted last week, these people wanted to "carry him off and make him their king." They wanted the luxury of always having bread. As Jesus says, "you are not looking for me because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled." Jesus warns them not to rely on perishable food but for food that endures for eternal life. The people are locked into material things of which will come to pass.

Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves in feeding the people, he wants them to see that he is the one who will give them that which will endure for eternal life. They have to see beyond the material bread. Just as bread is necessary for this life here, he will provide that which is essential for eternal life. Jesus is setting forth the foundation for his discourse on the Bread of Life. People should work to obtain the "food that endures for eternal life" which he will give.

What is this "work"? The people ask *what* they need to do (work) to accomplish the works of God. Do they need to do pious works? If so, then what are these works needed to be done? Is this work a matter of living out the Ten Commandments? Yes. These need to be done but there is more. There is a work that is expressed as openness to God. Living the Word of God plus an openness to God.

Jesus describes this "work of God" as... "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." The work of God takes place within the person as an act of faith. God's work is the act that the Father performs in the hearts of believers, which enables our act of faith in Jesus; on "whom the Father has set his seal." The "work of God" not only refers to the work that God does within us (grace) leading us to faith in Jesus. (Grace proceeds all good works.) It also applies to our work of yielding to God's action in us. We have free will. Thus, we freely yield to God's work within. Then we are able to believe in his Son and receive him as the source of our eternal life.

Jesus enters into a discussion with the people about their ancestors who ate Manna in the desert. They associate this great act with Moses himself. Jesus corrects or more properly redirects this in saying it is the Father who gave them the bread from heaven and not Moses. This event becomes the center point for the following discourse on the Bread of Life.

To make a long story short, if it is possible with this discourse on the Eucharist, the words of Jesus are powerful: "My Father gives you the true bread from heaven." Moses was not the source of the Manna in the desert: it was the Father. Jesus provided bread for the large crowd in the deserted place. This was earthly bread. Jesus gives them a sign through this earthly bread. This sign points beyond what they physically see and hear. Jesus wants to move them beyond physical bread to Bread that comes down from Heaven: "true" bread. This is not to say that the Manna and the bread Jesus multiplied is not real. They are. However, they are incomplete; less than perfect. The Manna and the multiplied loaves foreshadow the even greater gift from God.

The bread come down from heaven, is now connected with the true bread: Jesus. As we will see, Jesus will provide this true bread. In fact, who has come down from Heaven is the perfect, true bread. This Heavenly Bread/Jesus gives life to the world.

From this point the discourse moves to a whole new level. "I am the bread of life".

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

Note well today's insert about the Real Presence Real Future program. Enclosed is a summary of our parish survey.

2021 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



CALLING ALL ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS!

We are still in need of volunteers for this year's 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@jonesschlatterflooring.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!

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



*We pray for those who have died recently:
Ann Baker and Tony West*

*We welcome into the Church the recently baptized:
Zachary Francis DeCoy son of Bo & Laura DeCoy*

Church Support

August 1, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$5,049.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$1,160.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
	\$(5,700.00)

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.



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, August 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

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.



Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Experiencing God's Miracles

Deacon Doug Yglesias, St. Brendan the Navigator Parish, Hilliard

In the Gospel, the crowd asks Jesus for another miracle so that they will know God sent Him. Jesus just came from feeding five thousand people. What did they miss? I often feel like the crowd. How often do I experience God's miracles in my life, yet quickly forget? I find myself asking God for more. As you draw closer to Jesus' Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, take the opportunity to recognize all that God has and is doing in your life. Spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament and let Jesus know how grateful you are.

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.

Bulletin Announcement for Parishes/Schools

Real Presence Real Future Gathering on August 27 and 28 will bring together the faithful of the diocese for an opportunity to have an encounter with Christ and one another. In faith, hope and charity, we rejoice in the real presence of Christ, and we rejoice in our relationship with the Lord. On Friday, August 27, we invite you to join us via livestream for a beautiful prayer service that will include a Eucharistic Procession, at St. Joseph Cathedral. On Saturday, August 28, join us on site at St. Charles Preparatory School, for confessions, praise and worship, Mass and inspiring talks by Bishop Brennan and Archbishop Perez.

Christ promised to be with us always and it is fulfilled in his mystical presence among us and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus' mission to the disciples is the same message for us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...behold, I am with you always." (Mt. 28:19-20). We are called to imitate Christ and the Apostles as missionary disciples and go forth and proclaim the Gospel. Let us come together in prayer and Eucharist, to prepare our hearts and minds, and renew our commitment to the Real Presence and Real Future.

Please note: Friday's event is by invitation only due to the Cathedral capacity, but you are encouraged to watch via the live stream. Online registration for Saturday closes end of business Friday, August 20th. <https://realpresencerealfuture.org/>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - WILDERNESS

ADVENTURE Through the Sacraments was held last week. There were 48 participants and 30 volunteers. Everyone had a great time learning about the sacraments and making new friends. Thank you volunteers you were fabulous!

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.

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

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PARISH LIBRARY: The parish office is home to many “good reads”. Parishioners may borrow books throughout the year. Can’t find what you are looking for anywhere else? Maybe we have it in our library. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday’s from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Other times by appointment.

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, August 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli
8:00 a.m., Mass: Pat Tanner, Church

TUESDAY, August 3
9:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church
10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office Upper Level

WEDNESDAY, August 4, St. John Vianney
9:00 a.m., Mass: Wayne Dozer, Church

THURSDAY, August 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
8:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church

FRIDAY, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00 a.m., Mass: Richard Blaz, Church

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, August 7, St. Sixtus II, Pope
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: L/D Members of the RHS Class of ‘71, Church

SUNDAY, August 8
8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: Kathy Shawger, Church

Readings for Week of August 9

Monday	Dt 10:12-22	Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday	2 Cor 9:6-10	Jn 12:24-26
Wednesday	Dt 34:1-12	Mt 18:15-20
Thursday	Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17	Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday	Jos 24:1-13	Mt 19:3-12
Saturday	Jos 24:14-29	Mt 19:13-15
Sunday	Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab	Lk 1:39-56

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – August 7 & 8, 2021 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, July 17 5:15 p.m.	Rachel Taylor	Robert Rowe	Coord: Daniel Snider Charlotte Snider, Josh Wright
Sunday, July 18 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Sue Hillis	Coord: Jim Hillis Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester
Sunday, July 18 10:45 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Keena Hansel	Coord: Karen Hardman Claire Tiberio, Gerald Tiberio
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			

Message from Your St. Nicholas Parish Team



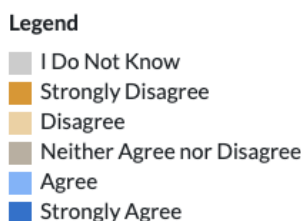
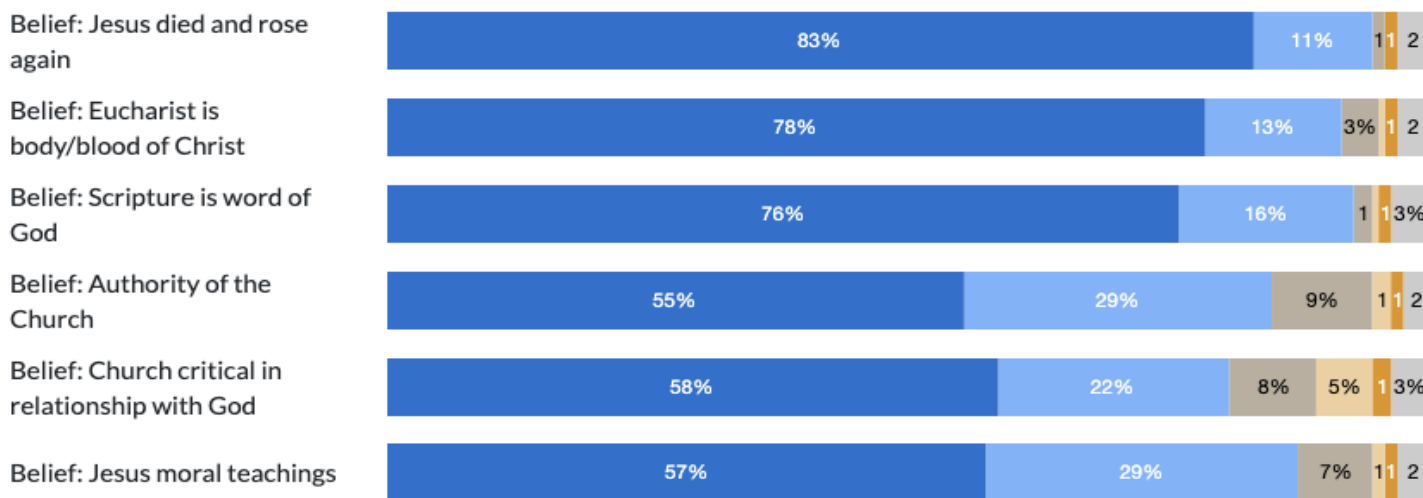
St. Nicholas Parishioners,

Some you may remember the survey that was offered several months ago known as the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. That survey was part of a greater initiative in the Diocese of Columbus known as Real Presence, Real Future (RPRF). This is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers, and all the faithful. The purpose is to:

- Reimagine how the Church serves her people throughout the diocese.
- Foster viable, sustainable, and vibrant parishes and schools that support the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.
- Ensure we are serving effectively and preserve the faith for future generations.

The success of this initiative lies with you, all the members of St. Nicholas Parish, whatever your role. We need your support and participation to truly revitalize our parish and cultivate long-term sustainability. Without a solid parish foundation, our effectiveness in our mission of spiritual growth and evangelization suffers. The St. Nicholas RPRF team has reviewed and analyzed the survey results and other data as part of the process in the development of a strategic plan. We would like to share a summary of the takeaways.

Of a potential estimated 605 survey responses, we received 190 (~31% response rate). Before even looking at the responses themselves, this response rate shows that we may not be reaching people (COVID likely didn't help), people are not engaged and interested, or both. With that said, the responses did show that, of the respondents, core Catholic theological and doctrinal beliefs are widely accepted. As a parish, we have a strong Catholic foundation to share.



In order to share our deep Catholic faith more effectively among ourselves and with the community at large, we need modern and powerful communication strategies. Our survey results showed that, compared with other parishes with data, we underperform regarding online-platform communication (emails, texts, social media, etc.). Results also showed that our parishioners generally don't feel involved in parish decision making, that we could do better to provide opportunities for parish involvement, and that we could improve our follow-up with people who would like to become more involved. The survey data also showed that parishioners would appreciate more parish-sponsored events and groups, from small-group activities to retreats and workshops. In addition, Mass attendance has fallen about 8% over the last 4 or so years, and our parish baptism-to-funeral ratio is 0.4 (i.e. more parishioners are dying than being born). These trends do not bode well for a vibrant, sustainable parish.

Fellow parishioners, we want to hear from you. This fall, you will have an opportunity to make your voice heard in the RPRF process during parish-level consultations. More details will be coming soon; please plan to participate, and please spread the word about this initiative. “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”

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Ultimately, we need to work hard to build our community – our Catholic community, but also our secular community. Zanesville and Muskingum County have a rich Catholic history. We need to seek to build on what we have for the future while honoring those who dedicated their labors to establishing the parish we call our spiritual home. Like the German immigrants who blasted out the hill to build our magnificent church, we need to work with passion and zeal to renew and refresh our parish and our community. Remembering the past, we must work diligently for the future. Please pray for our parish and diocese, and please plan to participate in this RPRF process. Progress is up to all of us. Feel free to reach out to any team member with questions.

In honor of the Year of St. Joseph and the work that must be done to secure the future of our church, and in honor of our children, who will be the stewards of the faith in the years to come:

St. Joseph the Worker

Glorious St. Joseph, patron of all who are devoted to toil, obtain for me the grace to toil in the spirit of penance, in order thereby to atone for my many sins; to toil conscientiously, putting devotion to duty before my own inclinations; to labor with thankfulness and joy, deeming it an honor to employ and to develop, by my labor, the gifts I have received from Almighty God; to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, without ever shrinking from weariness and difficulties; to work above all with a pure intention and with detachment from self, having always before my eyes the hour of death and the accounting which I must then render of time ill-spent, of talents unemployed, of good undone, and of my empty pride in success, which is so fatal to the work of God. *All for Jesus, all through Mary, all in imitation of Thee, O patriarch Joseph!* This shall be my motto in life and in death. Amen.

St. Nicholas – A Prayer for Children

God, our Father, we pray that through the intercession of St. Nicholas You will protect our children. Keep them safe from harm and help them grow and become worthy of Your sight. Give them strength to keep their faith in You, and to keep alive their joy in Your creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sincerely,

Your St. Nicholas Parish RPRF Team:

Fr. Martin J. Ralko

Ryan Staker

Kevin Jones

Mary Calendine

Rocky Rowe

Patty Boggs



Real Presence
Real Future