

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



August 8, 2021

This weekend we continue our reading from the Gospel of St. John chapter 6. The final verse from last Sunday we hear the words of Jesus “*I AM the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever*

believes in me will never thirst.” This is the first of seven “I AM” statements made by Jesus. In so doing Jesus is revealing a particular aspect of himself and his saving work. As the bread of life, Jesus is the Father’s gift to the world who gives sustenance and eternal life.

The following verses, 36 – 40, are not included in our continuous Sunday readings. Today we resume our reading starting with verse 41. Nevertheless, it would be good to recall and read those verses omitted from the continuous reading of chapter 6.

“But I told you that although you have seen me, you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

Jesus is disappointed that people do not believe in him. Through the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish and his teaching, the people are coming around to the point that Christ is someone more than Moses. But they do not accept Jesus for who he is. Jesus must now press deeper into this discourse. The issue is about coming to believe in Jesus.

As you recall, the people wanted to know “*What can we do to accomplish the works of God?*” Jesus responded, “*This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.*” This is the work of God, believing in the one he sent. It is all God’s doing. Yet for some reason God does not seem to be working through them. What is the problem?

They have only eaten and had their fill of worldly bread: similar to the Israelites in the desert. They were satisfied with worldly bread. They need to work for bread that leads to eternal life. They needed to believe in the one sent by God: Jesus. The words about food enduring for eternal life run throughout the discourse and are also part of a biblical tradition.

God’s wisdom and word refer to the Torah or the Mosaic Law which are likened to food and drink. The psalms refer to how sweet to the tongue are your words, sweeter than honey. (ref: Psalms 119, 103). The Book of Proverbs we read the depiction of God’s wisdom is inviting her children to come and eat of my food and drink the wine I have mixed. (ref: Proverbs 9). We read in the wisdom book of Sirach that eating and drinking are used to describe learning from God’s wisdom and law.

In mentioning these passages, God’s people have already received the Word of God. The Word of God has been at work in them and should be drawing them to the Word of God in the flesh, the Christ. No one comes to Jesus unless he is drawn by the Father. However, there is the element of freely allowing the Word of God to nourish those who have received the Word. However, the people grieve Jesus because they do not believe. They should believe because the Word of God has been at work within them. This is the work of God.

Jesus says in the above noted passage, all that the Father gives to him will come to him. The Father works on people’s hearts and draws them to Jesus and in this way the Father gives people to

Jesus. The Word of God draws people to the Word of God. In this way He will not reject anyone who comes to Him. Jesus will never reject those given him by the Father: fulfilling the Father’s will.

There are two aspects of the Father’s will. Firstly, “*I should not lose anything of what he gave me.*” Secondly, “*that I should raise it on the last day*”: eternal life. From the very beginning, God’s desire was for humanity to share in His life. This is God’s Will that all should be saved *and* come to eternal life. The path to eternal life is to believe in God’s Word. Adam and Eve failed in trusting God’s Word. It all fell apart from there. Ever since, God has revealed his desire for all to come to Him through Divine Revelation: Sacred Scripture. This is the Word of God. To believe in the one he sent, Jesus Christ, is to believe in the Word of God in the flesh.

In a roundabout way the Eucharistic Discourse is a wonderful insight into the tangible way God shows his desire for humanity. God draws us to Himself in Jesus who feeds us with Himself as Word and Sacrament. It all comes to one focus: Jesus Christ is the gift of God come down from heaven for our salvation.

This theme is a further development from the beginning of the Gospel of St. John. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. This is the Eucharist. The source and summit of Christian life. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ fully present to us in the Church.

The Catholic Church is clear about her teaching on the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This teaching cannot and will not change. It would be good for all Catholics to be familiar with these teachings and take personal responsibility for their Catholic Faith. These teachings are doctrinal teachings and not opinions. The essence of these teachings is not subject to change because of personal opinions or understanding. The doctrinal teachings on the Eucharist are true and good. The only kind of change that can happen is a deepening of our understanding. We call this growth and development in our faith life.

The most important thing that is at stake here is our salvation. The Sacraments are necessary for our salvation. The Sacraments are gifts from God to lead us to Himself and to eternal life. The mission of the Church is salvation because it is the mission of Jesus Christ. The sacraments are encounters with Christ. We receive sacramental grace, the love of God, and as such they are a foretaste of heaven of which we realistically hope to experience it in its fullness at the end of time. Thus, we are motivated to rely on the grace of the sacraments we have received, and in particular to frequent those sacraments that strengthen us along the way: i.e., Confession and Eucharist.

In a sinful world this is not easy; in fact, it is downright difficult. We do not like to stand out in the face of a sinful world. Our sinful world sees this life as normal and holiness appears to be abnormal and out of place. Sometimes we try to tamp down our Christian faith so as to blend in with this world. The secular world thinks the Eucharist/Communion is just a sharing which is nice and inclusive. For us the Eucharist is Body and Blood of Christ and is necessary for the transformation of our lives to be more like Christ. In a sinful world to be more like Christ may even lead us to loving sacrifices; just look to the crucifix!

Jesus Christ is the Lord of Creation. He feeds the multitude with five loaves and two fish. He walks on the waters of the abyss. He is the Word through whom all things come into being. Thus, we listen to his words and welcome the Word to grow in our minds and hearts. At this time the words that we must take seriously are the words of the Eucharistic Discourse. On the surface they are difficult to hear and accept. Thus, it takes a great

deal of faith to hear and accept and believe. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that our faith seeks reason. We understand because we believe; not we believe because we understand. That's the works of God.

Have a great Week.
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have died recently:
Jon Murphy*

Church Support

August 1, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$17,692.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$13,803.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
	\$6,943.00

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 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.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - WILDERNESS ADVENTURE THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS
Students and their families exercised the virtue of gratitude by donating socks to Eastside Community Ministries. Thank you for your generosity!



Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Overcoming Anger
Joseph Zaino, St. Margaret of Cortona Parish & RPRF Commission Member:

“The opposite of love isn’t anger, its apathy.” While this quote rings true, when the result of anger is un-love, we have reached into a sinful area just as we do when we treat our faith with little concern. Thankfully, we have the perfect role model in Christ. Paul speaks of the sinful results of anger in today’s second reading. The reaction of Jesus’ adversaries to Him in today’s gospel preclude the anger that will lead to His crucifixion. While anger is a natural emotion, each of us must work to channel it into greater reflections of Jesus.

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/>

Come join us

ICE CREAM Social

Hosted by:
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sat. August 14th
5:30 to 7:30

St. Mary's Church
6280 St. Mary's Rd, Nashport

“Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!” 1 Kings 19:7

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July Booster Mania Winners

\$25.00- Rusty Michel, Steve Dickerson, John Biedenbach, Cheryl Pottmeyer, Cheryl Pottmeyer, Mary Ann Nash, Aaron Monroe and Charlie White

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 9, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
8:00 a.m., Mass: *Mnih Nguyen, birthday, Church*

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

WEDNESDAY, August 11, St. Clare
9:00 a.m., Mass: *Sandy Young, Church*

THURSDAY, August 12, St. Jane Frances de Chantal
8:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

FRIDAY, August 13, SS Pontian, pope and Hippolytus
8:00 a.m., Mass: *Barbara Miller, Church*

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

SATURDAY, August 14, St. Maximilian Kolbe
4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: *Dan Rapol, birthday, Church*

SUNDAY, August 15
8:15 a.m., Mass: *Mary Lou Staker, birthday, Church*
10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

Readings for Week of August 16

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 14 & 15, 2021 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, August 14 5:15 p.m.	Sandy Black	Keena Hansel	Coord: Laurie Harmon Margaret Kronenbitter, Karen Robinson
Sunday, August 15 8:15 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Peggy Hill	Coord: Tammy Dovenbarger Sue Hillis, Phil Kocoloski
Sunday, August 15 10:45 a.m.	Lucille Morosco	Diane Hoffer	Coord: Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Jim McKee
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			



Feel Good About Yourself!

Become a Red Cross Volunteer Today!

Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. Whether helping one displaced family or thousands, providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran, or teaching others how to respond in emergencies, it's through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things. The Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes, and our vital work is only possible because of people like you.



Volunteers Urgently Needed for OFFICE SUPPORT in MUSKINGUM county

We Need You!!

Helping a needy Family

Office Training

Put your hands to work

Your time is valued...
Your skills are needed...
Your heart helps others...
answer phone calls, Basic computer work, and
General office duties

Provide information to individuals and families who have been impacted by a home fire or local other disaster.

We will train you for your Office Support Position and have several Resources to learn from and Contacts if you need additional assistance.

Volunteers help stuff envelopes, assemble packets, and perform a variety of other necessary tasks

To learn more, visit redcross.org/volunteer or contact:

Peggy.Reed@redcross.org
Michael.Vance@redcross.org

This is your chance to experience
Catholic Youth Summer Camp
- no matter your age!



PILGRIMAGE TO DAMASCUS

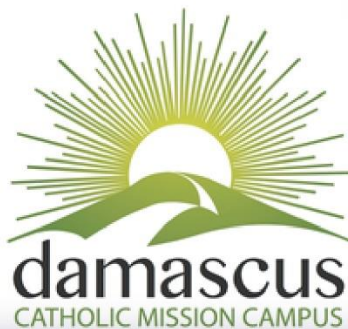
Serra Club of North Columbus is sponsoring a pilgrimage to
Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Centerburg, Ohio

Wednesday, September 8th

Driving directly or ride-sharing from the Josephinum
at 9 AM and returning by 4:30 PM. The cost will be \$20.

Enjoy a full tour of a vocations inspiring
facility! We will celebrate Mass, meet
with the camp co-director, lunch,
rosary, sacred art, and an opportunity
for prayer, confession, reflection, and
camp adventure activities!

Serra Club proudly promotes and
supports vocations to the priesthood,
diaconate, and religious life.



RSVP to annemallampalli@comcast.net by August 23rd