

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



From the Pastor's Desk

This week the new academic school year officially begins. This is great news for many parents and secretly for many of our students as well. Summer was fun but it is time to get back to the business of

education. As with most summer months, we have given our school buildings a good cleaning and have made some repairs and upgrades. The classrooms at Bishop Rosecrans have received a fresh coat of paint. We have new smart boards in Bishop Fenwick. In a word we can say that we are more than ready to get started with a new school year. We are excited about all the good work that has taken place in remodeling and refurbishing our buildings.

Today we celebrate the 21st Sunday in ordinary time. We are returning to the Gospel of St. John for one last Sunday. As you know we celebrated the Assumption of the Blessed Mother last Sunday and missed an important part of the Eucharistic Discourse from the gospel of John. Comment on those passages was made in last Sunday's column. Nevertheless, there is a progression that takes place in this chapter on Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist which concludes today.

In summary you may recall that Chapter 6 opened with Jesus feeding the 5000 with five barley loaves and two fish. Afterwards they collected twelve baskets of fragments left from the five loaves. The people are fired up since they ate their fill and wanted to make Jesus their king. To make Jesus a king according to their image. They were overwhelmed with the abundance. Thus, they figured that if they make him king, they will always be fed with bread eliminating their physical hunger. Jesus proceeded to dismiss the crowd and went off alone to pray. He rejoined his disciples in Capernaum (after walking on the turbulent waters) and the crowd discovered his whereabouts and also arrived. Now he gets into the discourse.

Long story short, Jesus teaches them A) "*Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.*" B) "*My father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*" C) Jesus then reveals "*I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*" D) "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.*" E) "*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.*" Jesus progressively builds his discourse that boldly becomes clearer and direct. He is not speaking figuratively. He is speaking literally! He does not back off.

The people at first were murmuring amongst themselves first challenging where he is from. They claimed that they know his parents and they know exactly where he is from: but from God? As he proceeds in his discourse, we read today that the crowds are now *quarrelling* amongst themselves about Jesus being the "*Bread come down from heaven*". The people were getting more and more disturbed by the words of Jesus: "*How can this man give us his flesh to eat?*" At their protest Jesus does not back down. In fact, Jesus presses his teaching further: "*My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.*"

This is a difficult teaching by Jesus. As noted in last week's column, it is one of many difficult teachings of Jesus. As in the days of Jesus, many people today have great difficulty with these words. Many Christians and even some Catholics do not believe that the Eucharist is the "Body and Blood of Christ." The difficulty arises when people want to understand first and then only when

they understand will they believe. Our Catholic sense approaches this from the opposite direction. First, we believe the revealed word and then we begin to understand. In this matter the words of St. Thomas Aquinas remind us that "*Faith seeks reason.*" We believe in order to understand.

Once we put our faith in Jesus and his teachings, everything begins to make abundant sense. We can approach this with primarily believing that Jesus Christ is our savior. "*God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son.*" God sent his only begotten Son for our salvation. Everything in our relationship with God is about our salvation. Jesus has come to restore our relationship with his Heavenly Father. This is a relationship of love; it is heaven. Jesus not only teaches us to know, love and serve God; he also gives us everything we need in order to bring his teachings to fulfillment in our lives. Jesus, the Word made flesh, nourishes our mind and heart as his Word takes root in our lives. Jesus revealed his Word in the Flesh as faithful love fully revealed on the cross for our salvation. His self-sacrifice on the cross is the concrete proof of God's Love. God's love is not a theory. It is real: it is in the flesh.

The night before Jesus suffered and died, he gave his disciples (the Church) a gift. He gave them himself in the form of bread and wine: the Eucharist. As he spoke the words over the bread and the wine; "*This is my Body*", "*This is my Blood*", they were transformed by the power of his Word. We can also say that on the cross the Word became Flesh: The Words of self-sacrifice became physically real. The Cross and the Eucharist are one perfect loving gift of Jesus Christ for our salvation. He did not symbolically give himself to us in the Eucharist. Jesus totally gave himself for our salvation on the Cross and in the Eucharist. Jesus did not hold anything back. If the Eucharist is only a symbolic gesture it is empty and does not have the power to save. The Eucharist is truly the "Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Christ". We are saved by the power of the cross which is made present to us in the Eucharist.

We can murmur, grumble and even quarrel amongst ourselves but that gets us nowhere. Instead, we must do what Jesus says for us to accomplish the works of God... "*This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.*" We are to believe in Jesus first and foremost. Even when things do not make sense to us, we are to believe in the Word of God: Jesus Christ. Trust him in all things. The act of faith is to receive him in the Eucharist and ask him to transform our lives and to lead us into a deeper relationship with him.

This is the conclusion of St. John chapter 6 expressed by St. Peter. "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.*" Jesus is and has the Words of Eternal and we believe. This is the work of God in us: that *we believe in the One He has sent.*

We believe what Jesus taught in the Eucharistic Discourse. We also believe the words he spoke at the Last Supper which are recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke as well as the words recorded by St. Paul in his First letter to the Corinthians chapter 11. We repeat these words of Jesus at every Eucharistic Celebration. These words and this core belief are central to our Catholic Christian faith, cherished and repeated from the early days in the life of the Christian Community: The Church. We have a very long tradition that goes back to the Apostles. We believe Jesus' words and his Eucharistic presence in the Church which sustains and leads us to the Kingdom of Heaven: our salvation.

Have a blessed week.
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have died recently:
Harold Longstreth*

Church Support

August 15, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$11,873.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,984.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
	\$1,124.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!



Next weekend, August 28 & 29, St. Vincent de Paul will be “Holding the Hat” during all Masses as a 2nd collection.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) begins September 15th at 7:00 p.m. and is open to anyone who desires to learn more about the Catholic faith. All are welcome to attend the Sessions, including current Catholics seeking to deepen their faith. Please contact Patty at pboggs@st.nickparish.org or call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 to pre-register or for more information.

Cemetery Groundskeeper

Full Job Description

Description: We are looking for an individual that understands the importance of a strong work ethic and is willing to work with a small team to accomplish the day-to-day operations at the cemetery.

Job duties include but are not limited to helping with funeral services and all phases of care for the cemetery grounds. This will include lawn care, snow removal, marker installation, and building maintenance. This is a part-time opening where work is performed year-round in all weather conditions. If you are looking to find a stable career that is year-round and has room for growth this is the job for you.

Requirements:

- Cemetery experience preferred, but not required
- Zero-turn mowers and lawn care equipment. Backhoe experience a plus.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Clean drug screening, driving record, and background check.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Some Saturday work at times will be required

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The D of I are making binders to use as visual aids for area nursing homes using pictures from calendars. Examples would be, flowers, animals, trees, nature scenes, etc. Please drop off any that you may have in the basket at church or the parish office. Thank you!



Prayer to Begin a School Year

*God of wisdom and might,
we praise You for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Real Presence, Real Future reflections: We will serve the Lord! Deacon Joe Knapke, Ss. Simon & Jude Parish, West Jefferson, OH

Today we hear Joshua ask the tribes of Israel which god they will serve. They had other options, for their neighbors worshipped other gods. We have other options as well. We could choose to serve wealth or status or power or pleasure. But we come here today, along with our families, our friends, our neighbors, as a sign of our commitment to serve the Lord, in his Real Presence. Let's recommit ourselves to serve God, to follow Christ on our journey through this life to the life promised to us in baptism, our Real Future. 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.

Online and In-Person Event!



**Real Presence
Real Future
Gathering**

Mass | Praise & Worship | Liturgical Music | Exposition

August 27-28, 2021
realpresencerealfuture.org

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Men of the East Traveling Holy Hour

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 303 E High St., Mt. Vernon will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, September 9** 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.

All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, September 3. 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 or the day. If you are able to commit to an hour, please contact the parish office at 740-453-0597 ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org.

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 23, St. Rose of Lima

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Judy King, Church*

TUESDAY, August 24, St. Bartholomew

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

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

WEDNESDAY, August 25, SS Louis & Joseph Calasanz

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Tam Nguyen, birthday, Church*

THURSDAY, August 26

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

7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics Support Meeting, Church basement

FRIDAY, August 27, St. Monica

8:00 a.m., Mass: *John & Dorothy Walker, Church*

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, August 28, St. Augustine

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *William C. Kohler, Church*

SUNDAY, August 29

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Ann Arnold, Church*

Readings for Week of August 23

Monday	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10	Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday	Rv 21:9b-14	Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	1 Thes 3:7-13	Mt 24:42-51
Friday	1 Thes 4:1-8	Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	1 Thes 4:9-11	Mt 25:14-30
Sunday	St 4:1-2, 6-8	Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – August 28 & 29, 2021 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, August 28 5:15 p.m.	Kerby Staker	Nicole Hannahs	Coord: Karen Robinson Daniel Snider, Charlotte Snider
Sunday, August 29 8:15 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Susan Thompson	Coord: Jim Hillis Sue Hillis, Tammy Dovenbarger
Sunday, August 29 10:45 a.m.	Lucille Morosco	Wendy Hart	Coord: Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Jim McKee
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			