



August 29, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

The school year is off and running. There will be a slight adjustment to our weekday mass schedule for Wednesday. We will be returning to Mass being at 8:10 am. Last year

Wednesday morning mass was at 9:00 to accommodate the arrival procedures at Bishop Fenwick and Bishop Rosecrans. Those procedures have been lifted and the students will be coming down the hill for Mass at 8:10 (give or take a minute or two). **Starting Wednesday September 1, morning Mass will be at 8:10.**

Today as we celebrate the 22nd Sunday in ordinary time, the second reading for the next four weeks will be from the "Letter of James". It is not that often that we read from the Letter of James. This letter is referred to as one of the "Catholic Letters". Other letters in this grouping are the two Letters of Peter, the three Letters of John and Jude. These letters are not written to a particular church (e.g., Corinthians) or a particular person (Timothy). These letters are intended to be circulated among the various Christian Communities throughout the area. In the case of James, he is writing to the Church in the "dispersion". This is a reference to the "dispersion" of the Jewish people at the Babylonian Exile where the Jews who were not taken to Babylon but were dispersed or scattered thought the Middle East. A large part of them went to Alexandria, Egypt. Nevertheless, the Church in the Dispersion is not a bad thing here. This is a great way for the Gospel to spread throughout the world. So, the Catholic Letters are inspirational writings to encourage the Church to remain strong and grow.

If there is one thing, we can say about James is that he is committed to make us aware of the advantage we have on our journey of faith. He wants the Christian to be successful. His desire is that we all share in eternal life. That advantage for all Christians is that we can always turn to God and request Divine Wisdom. God's Wisdom abundantly available to us. We just need to ask! However, there is a caution. We must be sincere in our request. James tells us (in verses preceding today's passage) in these words..." *But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, but not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*" (1:6-8). James is blunt and direct because he is serious about our salvation.

For James God's wisdom is manifested in four ways. Firstly, wisdom empowers us to put faith into action. Wisdom tells us that our faith in God has to be revealed in our actions. Secondly, wisdom from above makes good use of the power of speech. Our words can be constructive or destructive. James knows how destructive speech can be in these words: "*also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire.*" (3:5-6). That alone should cause us to pause.

Thirdly, wisdom from the heavens inspires detachment from the things of this world. The desire to possess worldly things leads to animosity, hostility and in the extreme to war. We need wisdom to keep the things of this world in perspective and to humbly accept worldly goods as primarily a gift from God. Lastly, we need heavenly wisdom to grow in patience with our brothers and sisters in this world.

Thinking about wisdom as presented by James a thought comes to mind about the Book of Job. Looking back on Job it becomes apparent that Job was an incredibly wise man. When you become aware that something is there you begin to see it clearly. Job lived with absolute trust in God even though he did not understand,

especially with all the tragedies that happened in his life. He trusted God, he was detached from all the things he was blessed with in this life, especially as they were all taken away. He was wise in the that he never cursed God. Even when he was completely frustrated, he never gave up on God. He was patient with his friends who tried to convince him that he was being punished by God for something he had done or one of his ancestors. Job knew that was not true. Job was a patient man in the ways described by the Letter of James.

Just the same, James was not writing to any particular church or individual. He was speaking to the whole church at that time. His words are also important for all of us. Pray for wisdom. Divine Wisdom is a basic principle for good virtuous Christian living.

Urged on by the Letter of James to seek wisdom from above, it is important for us as we put into practice the theological virtues of faith, hope and love. We need wisdom from above to help us to search the incredible depths of these virtues. In fact, we need Divine wisdom for the practice all the virtues. The way we go about this is through sincere prayer. We must turn to God in prayer seeking His wisdom as we put our Christian Faith into action.

Last Sunday I was making a point about the necessity for us to come and worship God. The motive for our worship of God is primarily to give praise and thanksgiving. We give praise and thanksgiving to God for his love and faithfulness. God loves us dearly and for that we are grateful. God is always faithful and for that we are thankful. As Christians we know this is perfectly revealed to us in Jesus Christ. As long as we worship God the more, we are thankful. If we worship less, we become less mindful and thankful of God's blessings. When this happens, we can spiral downwards to the point where we are rarely mindful of God and tragically indifferent to God. This condition for the Christian is spiritual death. In other words, we need to worship God. Our worship may not always be perfect, but we have gathered as a community at the appointed place and time to worship. The good news about this is we are nourished and sustained whether we are aware of it or not; something spiritually good in happening in our lives.

What is interesting here, considering the Letter of James, if we do not worship God, we are not open to the gift of wisdom from above. If this happens our Christian way of life will become worldly and foolish. Just look around. We can see the predominately secular way of life of many who call themselves Christians, much less Catholic. We see many inconsistencies between Christian teachings and the behaviors of some Christians. We are not judging people, we are merely judging behaviors that are inconsistent, worldly and foolish. Christian worship and wisdom keep us on the right track. To this, James encourages us to be sincere in our prayer as we seek the wisdom God who graciously desires to bestow this gift on us.

At the end of the Letter of James he encourages all readers to pray for each other. He knows our struggles and we need support. That support comes from God through each other. We pray for one another and seek their prayers as well.

I guess there is an interesting aspect about this. We are responsible to each other. We are responsible to pray for each other and hope those for whom we pray respond and rise up to the grace of God. In the same way, we are responsible to those who pray for us; we must rise to the occasion and grow in the grace of God. This is spiritual friendship. We desire the other to grow in goodness but we must also desire to grow in goodness for others. To put it in first person singular; you make me want to be a better person.

The Letter of James makes for good spiritual reading.

Have a great week
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have died recently:
Elsie Derry*

Church Support

August 22, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$5432.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$1,543.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
	\$(5,317.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!



This weekend, August 28 & 29, St. Vincent de Paul will be "Passing 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



Real Presence, Real Future reflection: Active Listening
Mary Thompson, St. Matthew Gahanna Parishioner & RPRF Commission Member

In today's readings, Moses exhorts the Israelites to "hear the statutes and decrees of the Lord," and St. James challenges us to be doers of the word as well as hearers. To hear well means to listen well. How well do we listen to God? How well do we listen to our family, friends, and others? Do we listen before forming a response? Active listening can help us be more attentive to God's will in our lives and be empowered to follow the Lord's command to love him with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

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

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.

Religious Education begins **Sunday, September 12, 2021** at 9:15 a.m. This year we will be back at the Bishop Fenwick building at the "top of the hill". Registration forms are in the mail. Please call the Dooleys 74319-2170 with questions.

Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary – Also called the Rosary of The Seven Sorrows of Mary is promoted by the Order of the Servants of Mary and dates back to the Middle Ages. At the Kibeho, Rwanda apparitions in the 1980's, Mary requested that the prayer be recited. The prayer is a meditation on Mary's pain and suffering that tested her faith. Through this prayer we open our hearts to the power of God so to allow His Word to enter and change our lives. **The Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary will be prayed in the Church on the Fridays of September at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to join us.**

Parish Breakfast – Breakfast returns Sunday, September 12th following the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Mass. The breakfast is free. Donations are accepted.

The Parish Dinner Returns Saturday, September 25th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. If you would like to help with the dinner, please call the parish office. The dinner is free but donations are appreciated

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.

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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!

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program for men and women who experienced the trauma of being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home. It is a safe place to learn how alcoholism and other family dysfunction affected the past, how it influences the present, and how to heal the wounds for a better future. Meetings are held in the Saint Nicholas Church Social Hall (Church Basement) **THURSDAYS at 7:00 p.m.** Please use the Silliman Street door. Meetings are expected to last no more than one hour. Contact James Sullivan for more Information at (740) 670-2959.

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 30

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Linda Dosch, Church*

TUESDAY, August 31

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

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

WEDNESDAY, September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

8:10 a.m., School Mass: *Clarence & Mary Hupp, wedding anniversary, Church*

THURSDAY, September 2

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

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

FRIDAY, September 3, St. Gregory the Great, pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Mary Hall, anniversary Church*

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Adoration of the Holy Eucharist, Church

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, September 4

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Camillus Sullivan, anniversary, Church*

SUNDAY, August 29

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Mary Lou and Ellen Roessler, Church*

Readings for Week of August 30

Monday	1 Thes 4:13-18	Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11	Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	Col 1:1-8	Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	Col 1:9-14	Lk 5:1-11
Friday	Col 1:15-20	Lk 5:33-39
Saturday	Col 1:21-23	Lk 6:1-5
Sunday	Is 35:4-7a	Mk 7:31-37

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – September 4 & 5, 2021 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, September 4 5:15 p.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Rocky Rowe	Coord: Laurie Harmon Margaret Kronenbitter, Josh Wright
Sunday, September 5 8:15 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Sue Hillis	Coord: Tammy Dovenbarger Jim Hillis, Scott Peterson
Sunday, September 5 10:45 a.m.	Lucille Morosco	Wendy Hart	Coord: Clair Tiberio Gerald Tiberio, Diana Dunn
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			

