



September 5, 2021

Labor Day is already upon us. As we celebrate Labor Day, we acknowledge the importance of work in our lives. It is obvious that as Catholic Christians we look at labor in a different light: the light of

faith. We see our work as a participation in the ongoing creative activity of God in the world. In the beginning work was and remains an invitation to share in God's creative goodness. Every human being has to work. It is planted in our very being. We know and believe that we are created in the *Image and Likeness of God*. God is the creator and all creation is the work of His hands. Since we are created in His *image and likeness*, we also have the urge to be creative as part of our make-up. We want to be creative; we necessarily need to work. It is in and through our work that we are expressive of ourselves: children of God. It is interesting that in a sinful world the Divine is resisted. If then, work is an invitation in the activity of the Divine, work becomes a target for the Evil One.

We are living in a very strange time in history. On this Labor Day we are aware that many do not work. Our government has even made it easier not to seek work. We know of many businesspeople who have jobs to offer but cannot find anyone to work. This is strange and most especially contrary to our dignity as human beings. Nothing good comes from idleness. It is concerning that there are many who choose idleness over creativity.

In the Second Story of creation found in Genesis chapter 2, God created the man from the clay and breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life. The man has the Spirit of God within him. The account then tells us that God placed the man in the garden "*to till it and keep it*". This takes place before the Original Sin. As such this is an invitation and not a command. The invitation is for the man to share in God's creation: to share in His goodness. It is not a burden.

As we are familiar with this passage, God then creates the woman from the rib taken from the side of the man. Before this God declares that "*it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make him a helper as his partner.*" God creates a partner for the man as a helper, who along with the man, they now share in God's ongoing work of creation, sharing in His goodness.

At this point we can recall the words of God to the man and woman from the First Story of creation. After God created the man and woman together as His "*Image and Likeness*", he said "*be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion...*" Together, the man and the woman share in God's ongoing work of creation. The ultimate work of God is the creation of life. The human beings share in the ongoing work of creation and the ultimate work of participation with God; the creation of new life (procreation).

Unfortunately, because of Original Sin, this invitation has been distorted and tainted. The invitation is now hidden behind the veil of sin. The invitation is now interpreted through sinful humanity and is now seen as a command. Work becomes difficult and burdensome.

Nevertheless, we cannot live without work. Work is essential for life. If we want to live, we have to work. If we want to live well, we must work all the harder. We are all called to do something to contribute to life and not to inhibit human flourishing.

It is difficult to say, but I think this is the very reason why the majority of people are offended by those who refuse to work and at the same time think nothing of living off the labor of others. This violates our basic sense of fairness: justice. We are all invited to share in the ongoing work of creation. We are equally invited.

We are blessed to live in a country that upholds this equality. However, there are some who believe that this means equal outcomes. This is equity. We find such things as equity (equal outcomes) offensive. This is especially true and distasteful when it is promoted by those who refuse to work in the first place.

We are sympathetic for those who are legitimately unable to work. Part of our sympathy is rooted in their inability to share in God's ongoing creation, whether they know it or not. They are deprived of the joy and satisfaction that comes with this sharing in God's work. They are not able to share in this great good offered to all humanity. However, in our sharing from the fruits of our labors for those who are in need, it is a double joy and satisfaction. We benefit and the benefit we enjoy is then offered to others. We do this not out of personal pride and aggrandizement, but that those who receive may know of the goodness of God.

However, without a belief in God and His goodness, this makes no sense. There is a certain heaviness and dread when it comes to work for atheist. In a faithless world there is nothing but struggle for the things of this world. This carries a sense of burden and ultimate dissatisfaction. This world never satisfies. When it becomes pointless it leads to despair.

Karl Marx wrote about the struggle of the masses. The only hope he proposed was economic with the rise of the proletariat overcoming the bourgeoisie. (The Working class versus the ruling class) In reality this struggle never changes nor does it ever succeed. It turns out to be an endless cycle that never achieves anything but more strife and despair. In the same vein, the saying over the gates of concentration camps during WW II, "*work will make you free*", is a lie. Work for work's sake and work used as a means for oppression intended to break a person is the ultimate lie: a slavery. It is the taking of something good, work, to be used for selfish or evil intentions.

The Judeo - Christian understanding of work transforms and elevates work for a higher purpose. The highest good is participation in the work of God. This higher purpose makes us free. Sharing in God's work is a manifestation of the God's goodness; a goodness offered to all. This goodness is liberating. This is true freedom: liberation from the distortion of sin.

Tomorrow, Labor Day the morning mass will be at 8:00 am. You are most welcome to join us for the celebration of the Eucharist as we observe our National Holiday.

Looking forward: in a couple of weeks, we will be starting this year's RCIA classes for those interested in joining the Catholic Church. These classes are also available for those who are already Catholic and desire to renew and deepen their knowledge and faith. You are welcome to join us as well. Classes will begin Wednesday Evening September 15th in the *parish office* building at 7:00 pm. More details will follow in next Sunday's Bulletin.

Lastly, we have heard much in the category of sad news. We are still dealing with the painful fallout from the mess in Afghanistan. This is a national heartache. Many are suffering over this situation. We are also aware of the wildfires throughout the west. There is massive destruction to forests, homes and business. News about the current hurricane season is not good. Presently, the destruction in the wake of Ida has been extremely depressing. So many people are suffering at this time. Again, there is need for our prayerful support.

On this point, there is particular suffering taking place in Haiti. Haiti has experienced an earthquake followed by a hurricane and tropical storms. There is a great deal of destruction, flooding and the loss of lives. The last report I am aware indicates that over 2,200 lives have been lost from the earthquake and flooding. It is a particularly painful situation. They need our prayers and now our

financial help.

The US bishops have urged us to take up a special collection to help the Haitian people. My proposal is that we all participate in this collection throughout the month of September. Please make out an extra envelope with the words "Haiti Relief" on the front. You can drop this envelope in the collection basket on any Sunday throughout September. At the end of September, we will forward our parish offering to Catholic Relief Services. Thank you.

Have a blessed week.
Father Ralko

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

*We welcome into the Church the recently baptized:
Ellianna and Averiegh Harvey
daughters of Wesley & Ashleigh Harvey*

Church Support

August 29, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$6,714.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,825.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
	\$(4,035.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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 call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 to pre-register or for more information.

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!

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.

August Booster Mania Winners

\$50- Dan Backus

\$25- John Biedenbach, Karen Borowitz, Payton Paul, Sophia Paul



Real Presence, Real Future
reflection: **Openness to New Ideas**
Deacon Tim Birie, Knox County
Consortium of Catholic Churches

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to the deaf man with the speech impediment, "Ephphatha," which means "be opened." The man could now hear and spoke plainly. What a change for him. He now had access to a whole new world. He could hear Jesus' teaching and could share them with others. Many people in our world need to hear the words of Jesus. We are all being called to proclaim the Gospel, which could be a change for many of us. Real Presence Real Future is asking us to open to new ideas and accept some changes. In the words of Jesus "Ephphatha" be opened.

For more about growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit <http://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.

BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS will be having their Booster Mania on **September 15** at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 6:30 p.m. You may purchase your numbers for the next year and enjoy food and drink compliments of the boosters. Contact Marvin Paul at 819-3429 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 at St. Nicholas Church on the Fridays of September at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to join us.**

Adult Children of Alcoholics

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.

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" James 2:5

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

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

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, September 6

Parish Office Closed

8:00 a.m., Mass: L/D Members of the Nader Family, Church

TUESDAY, September 7

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

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

WEDNESDAY, September 8, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Howard & Florence Miller, Rita Greiner, Church

THURSDAY, September 9, St. Peter Claver

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

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

FRIDAY, September, 10

8:00 a.m., Mass: The Lang Family, Church

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, September 11, Patriot Day

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: William E. Moyer, birthday, Church

SUNDAY, September 12

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: Anna Mary Glaub, birthday, Church

Readings for Week of September 6

Monday	Col 1:24-2:3	Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday	Col 2:6-15	Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday	Mi 5:1-4a	Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Thursday	Col 3:12-17	Lk 6:27-38
Friday	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14	Lk 6:39-42
Saturday	1 Tm 1:15-17	Lk 6:43-49
Sunday	Is 50:4c-9a	Mk 8:27-35

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – September 11 & 12, 2021 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, September 11 5:15 p.m.	Laura DeCoy	Keena Hansel	Coord: Karen Robinson Margaret Kronenbitter, Josh Wright
Sunday, September 12 8:15 a.m.	Sandy Black	Bill Sullivan	Coord: Phil Kocoloski Cheryl Sylvester, Dan Sylvester
Sunday, September 12 10:45 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Bernie Budde	Coord: Tim Hoffer Karen Hardman, Diana Dunn
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			