



September 12, 2021

This week we will be starting our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes for those interested in joining the Catholic Church. These classes may also be a great opportunity for

those who are 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 p.m. Parking is available on Main Street and in the lot between the Rectory and Parish Office Building. Enter the Parish Office Building from the Main Street entrance. There will be a welcome sign indicating the meeting room door at the back of the courtyard.

As we begin our classes, our first reflections have to do with faith. A curious thing about ourselves as human beings is that faith is necessary for our healthy existence. It is essential for us as human beings. We will become neurotic without faith. It is necessary for us to trust our environment. We need to be surrounded with things that we know and can trust. It is particularly necessary for us to have people around us whom we can trust: most especially our family members. It would be a nightmare if we could not trust the people around us, especially our family members. Children would have emotional/intellectual problems if they could not trust their parents or environment. For ourselves every day starts with an act of faith: we trust that our alarm clock is correct. We depend on the accuracy of our clocks and the accuracy of time itself. We trust them. We cannot perform our daily routines without those things we depend on daily. If we are aware of it or not, we make acts of faith as a matter of routine. We need to trust our environment for our emotional health and survival.

Although we trust many things in this world, this world will eventually fail. We know that when the worldly things that we depend on fail, our life is turned upside down. We lose our sense of orientation. Our alarm clock failed and now our day starts in chaos.

The natural instinct we have for trust (faith) points to something deeper: the ultimate source that sets our lives on solid ground. Our natural need to have faith points to a greater reality that gives us solid ground as a basis for our purpose and meaning in life. Something that is absolute and will never fail. It points in the direction to God.

Unfortunately, this world resists faith in God. We live in a secular world that tends toward materialism. All the manifestations of materialism place more emphasis and trust in the material world and science. As our world becomes more and more secular, we witness a decrease in faith in God and religious faith. We see it in the general decline in church memberships in general. We hear of individuals who say that they believe in God but they do not want to talk about it. They claim it to be a personal matter. They say they are spiritual persons and don't see the necessity to be a part of an organized religion. There is also a bias against religion which portrays people of faith to be a little unbalanced or ignorant. Faith is depicted as contrary to reason, abandoning reason for myths. Progressive intellectuals of our day insist that any intelligent person would not be a person of faith. There is an irony here.

G. K. Chesterton made an interesting observation about faith. He commented on the Atheist saying that "*a person who does not believe in God does not stop believing. Rather this person starts to believe in many things; the first of which is their intellectual superiority. The person who believes in many things is what we call a pantheist: many gods or objects of belief.*" In short

Chesterton says there is not such person as an Atheist. Human beings all believe in some sort of god or gods, even the progressive intellectuals. Sometimes their god is their ideals or philosophy. Humans never stop believing.

Our story of faith began over four thousand years ago as recorded in the Old Testament: the story of Abraham. We call it the beginning of Salvation History. Abraham is referred to as our "Father in Faith". In the pagan world of Abraham there were countless gods. All were projections of the human mind and manifestations of the material world. They reflected some aspect of humanity that gave an identity or meaning to life. These false gods demanded worship. Nevertheless, in reading the story of Abraham, God revealed himself and called Abraham to trust Him. God invited Abraham to enter into a relationship with Him: a covenant relationship. What is important here is to understand that God had to reveal Himself to Abraham. Thus, from that time on we find a God who continually reveals himself, first to an individual, then to a family, to a community and to a nation. Out of His goodness and love for us, God desires for us to know Him and enter into a relationship with Him. As such the transcendent God had to initiate this relationship by revealing Himself to us, finite beings, in order for us to come to know Him. This is exactly what God does throughout the Scriptures.

Since it is God's desire to reveal Himself to us, we discover a very important thing: God is a *Personal* God. Our God is Personal. Throughout the Scriptures we discover that the gods of the pagans were not personal. There was nothing personal about them. There was no invitation to enter into a personal relationship: to know and love. There was no invitation to enter into communion with their worshipers. The revelation of a personal God, who desires communion, was something that started with Abraham and continued to develop with further revelation throughout Salvation History, Sacred Scripture, and culminates in the Incarnation: Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the perfect communion of the Divine and Human: revealing God.

Jesus Christ is the perfect revelation of the Father. He reveals the Father to the world. Jesus Christ reveals the Father's divine plan to us. We can say that Jesus Christ is also the response to the Father's plan. Jesus Christ reveals our response to the Father. If we desire to know this revelation and how to respond to this revelation, we need Jesus Christ; we need the Church. The Church is our Lord's gift to the world. The Church is the enduring presence of Jesus Christ in the world. We need the Church for our genuine response to the Father.

I am reminded of the episode of Jesus asking his disciples about his identity among the people. The episode begins in Matthew 16:13. Jesus asks, "*Who do men say that the Son of man is?*" The disciples offer answers like one of the prophets etc. Then Simon Peter says, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" This is true and Jesus acknowledges it. Then shortly after this proclamation of faith, Jesus reveals what will happen to him in Jerusalem; how he will be handed over, tortured, crucified and resurrected. Peter's response was to rebuke Jesus saying "*God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you!*" Jesus then says to Peter: "*Get behind me, Satan! You are a hinderance to me, for you are not on the side of God but of men.*"

Peter got it right, but he also got it wrong. Peter did not understand. He was thinking in human terms. He was not able to see things in Divine terms: God's side. Peter needs further revelation from Jesus. He needed to travel along and learn more from Jesus. Peter had the faith, but he was lacking in understanding that faith: if that makes sense. He needed the community of disciples with Jesus at the center. The disciples had to experience

and struggle through the crucifixion, resurrection and the Holy Spirit to have what they needed to understand their faith in Jesus Christ. Fast forward, in the same way we need the community of the Church, with Christ at the center and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, to help us learn from Jesus, the one who reveals both the Father and our response to the Father. We need the Church to help us get it right.

Have a great week
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have died recently:
Heather Robinson*

Church Support

September 5, 2021

OFFERTORY	\$14,160.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$10,271.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
	\$3,411.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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

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 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, September 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

Pre-Jordan Class

Pre-Jordan class for September is Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office building. The Class is for parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized. Please call 453-0597 to register for the class.

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!

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) begins Wednesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office located at 955 E. Main Street. The meetings are open to anyone who desires to learn more about the Catholic faith. Join us as we study the Catechism of the Catholic Church and how living a life of faith can help us find our way in today's world. Please call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 to pre-register or for more information.



Real Presence, Real Future
reflections: Openness to God's Ways
Deacon Steve Petrill,
St. Joan of Arc Parish

Today we witness the great confession of Peter, who tells Jesus: "You are the Christ." What an extraordinary and beautiful expression of faith. Peter has come far, but he remains a work in progress. We can empathize because, like Peter, it is often easier to defend our preconceived notions than to be truly open to God's transformative love and the sacrifices that love requires. As we go forward with *Real Presence, Real Future*, we turn to St. Peter with hope. Through his intercession, may we grow in our ability to listen to God, to His Church, and to one another so that we may increase His Presence in our diocese.

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

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.

The Parish Dinner Returns! Saturday, September 25 following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. Join us for a traditional spaghetti dinner. The dinner is free. Donations are accepted in support of future dinners.

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.**

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 St Nicholas 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.

The Month of October in honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, we will pray the Rosary before the weekend Masses. Those interested in leading the Rosary before the 5:15 p.m. Saturday Mass or the 8:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses are asked to call the parish office.

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 13, St. John Chrysostom

8:00 a.m., Mass: Albert Crock, birthday, Church

TUESDAY, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

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

6:00 p.m., Daughter's of Isabella, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

8:10 a.m., School Mass: John Rock, anniversary Church

7:00 p.m., RCIA, Parrish Office meeting room, upper level

THURSDAY, September 16, Sts. Cornelius, pope and Cyprian

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

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

FRIDAY, September 17, St. Robert Bellarmine

8:00 a.m., Mass: Gene Ehleiter, birthday, Church

7:00 p.m., Chaplet of The Seven Sorrows of Mary, Church

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, September 18

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Mary & Jeff Hall, wedding anniversary, Church

SUNDAY, September 19

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

9:15 a.m., Sunday School, Bishop Fenwick School

10:45 a.m., Mass: June Shawger, Church

Readings for Week of September 13

Monday	1 Tm 2:1-8	Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday	Nm 21:4b-9	Jn 3:13-17
Wednesday	1 Tm 3:14-16	Jn 19:25-27
Thursday	1 Tm 4:12-16	Lk 7:36-50
Friday	1 Tm 6:2c-12	Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	1 Tm 6:13-16	Lk 8:4-15
Sunday	Wis 2:12, 17-20	Mk 9:30-37

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – September 18 & 19, 2021 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, September 18 5:15 p.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Tom Pitcock	Coord: Josh Wright Karen Robinson, Margaret Kronenbitter, Laurie Harmon
Sunday, September 19 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Patti Logan	Coord: Jim Hillis Sue Hillis, Scott Peterson
Sunday, September 19 10:45 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Diane Hoffer	Coord: Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Jeff Shawger
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			