



September 19, 2021

As you may know from the last few Sundays that we have received a request from the Diocese of Columbus to take up a Special collection for Haiti. Haiti has endured an earthquake and further damage from hurricane Ida. The people of Haiti have been devastated. We can add the destruction in the South that occurred with Hurricane Ida and Nicholas on her heels. To add to the misery attempts are ongoing to stop the wildfires out west. If these things were not enough, as a country we are faced with the crisis and dreadful situation in Afghanistan following the US pullout. Afghanistan, according to more recent updates, will be facing a serious food shortage and draught. We are living in overwhelming times. This is also a time for faith.

As a reminder about the collection for Haiti, I am requesting that over the next couple of weeks, you make out a second envelope with the word "Haiti" or "Hurricane Relief" on the cover with your donation to help Catholic Charities USA in their mission to bring relief to those who are suffering from the Natural Disasters in Haiti. You may place your gift in the regular Sunday collection over the next couple weekends. When times are difficult the good people of St. Nicholas do respond with their sincere prayers and generosity.

Apart from the crisis in Afghanistan, which is the result of human agency; political decisions, of which I do not want to get involved here, the other disastrous events are things that we refer to as "natural evils". We refer to these powerful forces of nature in the category of "evil" because they negatively impact human beings. Hurricanes, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, tornados, earthquakes etc. are natural occurrences. They are not due to human agency. (Unless the cause for a forest fire was by someone starting the fire.) Nevertheless, we refer to them as evils because they adversely affect human beings and cause suffering, pain and are life-threatening. In reality these events are morally neutral since they are the result of the laws of nature at work. Moral decision making was not involved. Some would speculate that they are punishments from God to a sinful humanity as a reason for their occurrence. But these comments only reveal a guilty conscience. Natural disasters are the results of the laws of nature.

The evils that we need to be concerned with are those caused by human agency: the decisions that people make. A sign of a moral evil is a moral evil is *contrary* to life. The path of moral evil leads to destruction and ultimately death. Moral evil deadens the mind, heart, body and the soul. People suffer from moral evils: the negative effects. Moral evils lead people down the slow process of death in the mind, heart, body and soul. This is particularly manifested as the innocent, the weak, and vulnerable suffer in the face of moral evil.

Next month, October, is Right to Life Month. It is approaching soon and at this time it is good for us to start to contemplate the Life-Issues. We are always called to Respect Life. To respect life is to respect the Author of all life: God. To live a virtuous life, moral goodness, is a way of showing respect for life. The most important issue for us is the abortion issue. If we do not get this issue right, everything else falls apart. It is that central. Life precedes all other rights. No life, no need for other rights and no need for morality. Life is the starting point. We have to respect that starting point. Abortion is the serious moral evil that must be faced today.

Again, the innocent one, the unborn person, always suffers the results of this evil: death. The innocent always suffer in a sinful world. The vulnerable and weak get in the way of the selfish. We are reminded that all sin finds its roots in selfishness. We have slowly slipped into a world of selfishness. It is a world that celebrates the self. The self is the center: to be the fittest, healthiest, most intelligent and accomplished; living it the perfect human world created by our design. In this environment abortion makes sense since children can get in the way. Children demand a great deal of selflessness and self-sacrificing love.

Over the last week or so we have heard of the Texas law that banned abortion when a heartbeat is detected. A heartbeat usually appears around six weeks. This is a solid step in the right direction in the acknowledgement of the individual life of the unborn and the respect due to this new human life. This law acknowledges the reality and truth concerning this individual human life. The pro-abortion crowd denies the humanity of the unborn. They use such words or phrases like "clump of cells", or "product of conception", to cloud and confuse the reality of the humanity of the unborn. The terms are true, but only a half truth. All half-truths intend to deceive: they are lies. Denying the humanity of the unborn makes it easy to kill this new human life. The Texas Bill acknowledges the reality and humanity of this new human life.

When this decision was handed down there was a great uproar from the pro-abortion crowd and the political party that has abortion as a centerpiece in its platform. At the signing into law, there was obviously going to be some strong and vicious push back. The most discouraging and scandalous knee-jerk reaction came from the White House. Sadly, our president, who claims to be Catholic, said that he would use the *full force of the government to fight this law*. Seriously, the Full Force of the Government? This is scandalous! The president and his party advocate for the right to abortion on demand. Their stance, abortion-on-demand is a right at any stage of pregnancy, even the most gruesome late-stage partial-birth abortion. This position is also affirmed and supported by the Speaker of the House who also claims to be a Catholic. Again, this is a scandal. It is embarrassing for all Catholics. As difficult as it is, these people need our prayers. They are wrong about abortion. Then the audacity to declare they would call down the Full Force of the Government to secure abortion on demand is an unashamed and in-your-face participation in moral evil. God have mercy on our country.

Our country is in moral jeopardy: morally weakened. We need to pray over this. We need guidance and courage in these morally difficult times.

In my current reading, I have found myself reading from Dr. Peter Kreeft's new book "How to Destroy Western Civilization". I could not get past the first chapter. I have read it over and over because it is so powerful, especially on this very point of abortion. He opens the chapter with words that reveal how to destroy any civilization; good or bad. The way to effectively destroy any civilization is to do this simple thing... do not have children! The most effective way to end a civilization, to destroy a country or a people is to stop having children. The thought seems so obvious. But we ignore this simple truth: no children, no future. When we do not have children all we have left are aging and dying people. What then?

This is happening and no one is paying attention. We just need to look to Europe. A number of countries have already hit zero or negative population growth. We have known this for years. Look at Italy, France, Germany, Spain to name a few. They have hit negative growth and at some time in the future some actuarial

statistics say these nationalities will soon disappear. The population numbers may appear to be stable, but that is due to immigration.

We are facing a decline in our Catholic population and with it a crisis. Throughout the country we have fewer and smaller parish, fewer schools and students. We have fewer marriages and fewer children. We have fewer priests and religious who come from Catholic families. No children no parishioners, no priests or religious. These are the signs.

Children make us look to the future. Without children we tend to focus only on the present. Children make us grow as human beings. They make us sacrifice for their greater good. Children move us away from self-centeredness. Children are a gift, for the family, our church, our communities and to our country. Yet a selfish environment resists this simple fact.

It is our duty to pray for our country. We must pray for a greater respect for the gift of human life at all stages of development. We must pray for those who govern our country. May God bless them and guide them to genuine moral goodness and the courage to lead our country to greater moral integrity.

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:
Mark Dosch*

Beginning October 3, the Parish Offering will be published the first Sunday of the month.

The Parish Dinner Returns! Saturday, September 25th 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.

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.

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) meets Wednesdays 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.

All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, Friday, October 1st immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m.

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 would like to be a Guardian Adorer, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org. *Please note that Eucharistic Adoration will be cancelled in the event there is a funeral in the church on that day.

Daughters of Isabella Invites the Parish to Join Us on a Pilgrimage. Tuesday October 12th join us as we travel to The Basilica of St. Mary of The Assumption located in Marietta Ohio. The pilgrimage includes a guided tour of the Basilica, access to the gift shop and Mass. Lunch on your own. Transportation is provided by Pioneer Trails. The bus leaves the St. Nicholas Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and returns by 4:00 p.m. The bus cost is \$20.00 per person. Please contact the parish office to reserve your seat.

The Daughters of Isabella thanks the parish for its support of the binder project. Because of your gifts of calendars local nursing homes will receive beautiful picture books to be used as visual aids.

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: The Greatness of Faithful Detachment, Dcn. Tom Berg, Jr., St. Andrew Parish

Today we see Jesus' disciples arguing among themselves about who is the greatest of them. Jesus patiently sits them down and teaches, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." The beauty of what Jesus taught reminds us not to be too attached to physical things, ambitions, and worldly desires. One of the hallmarks of the saints is a wonderful detachment from such things, which served them very well as they lived their faith in the Real Presence of the Lord and embraced the Real Future, He called them into. Today, let us be inspired to do the same!

Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary –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.**

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 Mass are asked to call the parish office.

Urban Comforts Eatery has a Sunday Brunch with 10% of the proceeds going to St. Nicholas Church thanks to parishioners Eric & Julie Fete. So, after Sunday Mass enjoy a delicious breakfast at Urban Comforts Eatery at 32N South 3rd Street.

We Need Your Help!

- What: A National Prayer Chain to raise public awareness and to lift our concerns to God about abortion.
- When: Sunday, October 3rd, 2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Where: We will line the streets of Maple Ave. Parking and sign pickup at Dr. Kevin Colopy's parking lot (across from Taco Bell).
- Who: This event is sponsored by Muskingum Valley Right to Life

For more information call: 740-221-9997
"Could you not pray with us for one hour?"

**Please come line the streets and pray with us,
publicly for life -while we still have
the freedom to do so.**

*If we say we are Pro-life and if we are not actively doing something then we are part of the problem.
This is our 19th Life Chain*

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Cemetery Groundskeeper

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

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 20, St. Andrew Kim Taegon

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clara Shumate, Church

TUESDAY, September 21 St. Matthew the Apostle

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

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

WEDNESDAY, September 22

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Langdon Thomas, Church

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

THURSDAY, September 23, St. Pius of Pietrecina

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

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

FRIDAY, September 24

8:00 a.m., Mass: Nancy Davis, birthday, Church

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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, September 25

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Robert Havens, birthday, Church

6:15 p.m., Parish Dinner, Church Basement

SUNDAY, September 26

8:15 a.m., Mass: Knights of Columbus, Msgr Dury Council 505, Church

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of September 20

Monday	Ezr 1:1-6	Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	Mt 9:9-13
Wednesday	Ezr 9:5-9	Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	Hg 1:1-8	Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Hg 2:1-9	Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a	Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday	Nm 11:25-29	Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – September 25 & 26, 2021 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, September 25 5:15 p.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Nichole Hannahs	Coord: Daniel Snider Charlotte Snider, Margaret Kronenbitter
Sunday, September 26 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Peggy Hill	Coord: Tammy Dovenbarger Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester
Sunday, September 26 10:45 a.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Sam Palleschi	Coord: Gerald Tiberio Claire Tiberio, Diana Dunn
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			