



October 10, 2021

Abortion continues to be in the forefront in the news. It is speculated that the Supreme Court will be taking up arguments to overturn *Roe v. Wade* this year.

There is also a movement in congress to push abortion to be enshrined in the Constitution as a right. There have been a number of marches happening in major cities last weekend in support of what they call "reproductive rights" which is code for abortion rights. It is a mess, especially when considering the work of "wordsmiths", people who substitute or use vague words and language to hide the raw truth of abortion. The intention of confusing the language is an attempt to distort, deny and dismissed the real issue: abortion is the killing of the unborn human life.

In the face of all this we need to continually remind ourselves of the truth of abortion and our Pro-Life stance as Catholic Christians. Yes, we are familiar with the Church's teaching on the life issues. However, it is important that we reaffirm the teachings of the Church because; 1) we are constantly bombarded by opposing messages on a daily basis and 2) the teachings of the Church can easily fade into the background of our thoughts. The social messages are constant and often unopposed. An old spiritual saying is true... "The wheels of evil grind slowly, fine and constant." Like all sin and sinful temptations, evil has a way of slowly wearing out our resistance.

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional taking of an innocent life is gravely wrong. This is true of abortion as well as for euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, etc. These are offenses against that which God loves and cherishes most: our life. In regard to abortion, Pope Francis once wrote, "*Our defense of the innocent unborn... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development.*" The Holy Father has spoken firmly as he noted that... "*Having an abortion is like hiring a hit man.*" Now that was strong language!

Specifically, in regard to abortion, the Church does not approach difficult pregnancy decisions with a false "either/or" mentality, pitting mother against child. For example, a baby conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. The unborn child is innocent, like the mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence. This violence touches both the unborn and the mother because abortion is a violent act. Abortion does not bring about healing and peace because violence does not bring healing and peace. Healing and peace can be found in the truly courageous decision to give birth to the baby.

A sad reality that we face today, because of medical technology, is that many babies are diagnosed prenatally with a disability. Abortion is often placed on the table as an option. Frightened parents, unsure of their ability to care for a special needs child, are called, because of their vocation as parents, to trust that God gave them *this* child for a reason. Parents raising children with disabilities often speak about the unexpected joys and transformative effect on them and their families that outweighs their initial fears and anxieties. The road to such a transformation is not easy. Then again nothing that has great value, like growing in virtue (faith and love), is ever easy. The Christian life is not easy. But we rely on the Grace of God because God has a plan for all involved.

Even when there is disability so severe that the baby is likely to die before or soon after birth, many parents who carried their child to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing. I have been present to many parents during such difficulties when I was chaplain at Children's Hospital. I remember one particular couple who went through this difficult experience, which was compounded by the fact that this was their first child. They said that their baby gave them a great gift. They were no longer just a married couple; they were now a family. They were a mother and a father now. They are now parents of a child, or rather a saint in heaven.

I have often remarked in my homilies and talks... "Sin leaves a mark". That mark that sin leaves behind is always something negative. The evil of abortion leaves its mark; a mark on all involved. For the mother this mark is on her soul, in her mind, on her heart. This unfortunately has a negative effect on her relationships. For the father this mark is a little more hidden, but it is there in his soul, his mind, his heart and taints all his relationships. All we need to do is to verify what we see around our world in regard to the mark that sin leaves behind. We can see this negative effect on our society. There is a hardness of heart that exists in our society noticeable in the growing crude, crass, and rude way in which people treat others. At times we see outright indifference and even viciousness in human relationships. We see a hardness of heart, which we heard about in last Sunday's gospel. We live in a society that has become hardened and less respectful toward others and to life in general.

We know that we have laws, some of which are firm and absolute. A good example of this is "*Thou shall not kill.*" This is a firm and absolute law. It is the law of God. It is firm and absolute because of God's great love for life. Life is precious. It is of greatest value. Thus, it has a law that protects it. Laws protect that which we love and cherish. Life must be protected by all people because it is the greatest gift of God. The killing of an innocent life is grievously wrong. It is in the category of mortal sin: deadly. This is no trivial matter.

The good news is that the Church holds and proclaims the remedy for sin. Jesus Christ is the remedy for all sin. Jesus Christ gave the Church as a gift to the world. The Church is the enduring presence of Jesus and the mediator of his merciful love for our salvation. In the Church we have the Sacraments, which are our personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us the Church and her Sacraments for our sanctification and salvation.

Just the same we need reminders along the way to the Kingdom. We need to remind ourselves of the Church's teachings on all the life issues. We do this intentionally as we observe Respect Life Month. The beauty of this happens as we contemplate the life issues with the benefit of greater insights, wisdom and spiritual growth.

In our contemplation we pray over these issues. If we don't, who will? If we don't recall and renew our respect for life it will slowly fade from our consciousness. Again, the wheels of sin and evil grind slowly, fine and constant.

Pray for a greater respect for life.  
Father Ralko

**Diocese of Columbus News.** This morning (Wednesday) it was announced that Bishop Robert J. Brennan was appointed the new bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. Bishop Brennan will continue to administer our diocese until his installation in Brooklyn on November 30. We thank him for his energetic leadership in our diocese and wish him the best with our prayers.

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

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Dwight &  
Karen Robinson.  
They were married on  
October 9, 1971 at St. Nicholas.



*The altar flowers this weekend are in memory  
of the wedding anniversary of  
Gene & Marilou (Tice) Ehleiter*

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

**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.

**CATALYST NIGHT** All students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on Sunday, October 10th at 6:00 p.m. The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries. The night includes dinner, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. The event is free. This is a joint event for all the Catholic Churches in Muskingum County.



**Daughters of Isabella Invites the Parish to Join Us on a Pilgrimage.** Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors** should provide their Mass preferences to the parish office by October 15th. This will include November through December 19th. A separate schedule for Christmas and New Year will be prepared at a later date. Thank you for your service!

**SEPTEMBER BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS**

\$100- Cheryl Pottmeyer, \$50- Dan Durant and Steve Dickerson  
\$25- Ronald Paul, Marianne Michel, Bobbie Saunders, Marvin Paul, Sherry Dinan, Eric Schmieder, Fr. Ralko, Pamela Schoeppner, Bruce Kolopajlo and Joe Nash

**ROSARY RALLY 2020**

Come and join us for the celebration of "Our Lady of Fatima's Apparitions" to be held **Sunday Oct. 17** from 1:30p.m.-3:30 p.m. in front of the Muskingum County Courthouse esplanade. Please be there between 1:00-1:30. Bring your rosaries and a chair. For further information, please contact: Patty Schmutz at 452-3369, Carol Fluharty at 704-6477 or Margaret Kronenbitter at 221-0813.



Friday, October 22 from 4:00p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 128 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for children 3-10  
Donations include a sample of each chili and a bowl of your favorite including all the fixings, dessert and beverages.  
Attendees will vote for their favorite chili. Proceeds will be divided equally to each church to benefit their chosen charity.  
**Please come support the entry for St. Nicholas!**



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
October 10th, 2021  
*Real Presence, Real  
Future reflections: He Loves Us!*

**Stephanie Rapp, St. Paul Parish & RPRF Commission Member:**

The young man in today's Gospel appears to approach Jesus with good intentions, yet also brings his brokenness, wounds, and pride. Jesus knew him and his heart, and he looked at Him *with love* while calling him deeper. Jesus does the same for us today, perfectly loving us wherever we are, yet inviting us into a deeper relationship with Him and asking us to cast aside anything that's in our way. This is impossible for us, but not for Him. Everything is possible with our Lord, whose Real Presence is always with us, looking at us lovingly and leading us into the Real Future to which He invites us.

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit [www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org](http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org).

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors." ~Pope Pius XI  
**In honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, we will pray the Rosary in the church during the month of October before the weekend Masses. Rosaries can be found in the pews and are free to take.**



**25<sup>th</sup> Annual SOUPer BOWL Benefit Luncheon**

This year, due to COVID-19, we will NOT be holding the SOUPer Bowl Benefit Luncheon.

**The event is cancelled...BUT THE NEED IS STILL HERE!**

**How can you help?**

Drive up & donate non-perishable food on Sunday, October 17 from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. at Secret Auditorium, 334 Shinnick Street.

Purchase a "NO SHOW"  
SOUPer Bowl Ticket for \$5.00 and  
be entered into  
a DOOR PRIZE drawing!



**All proceeds benefit & tickets may be purchased at: Eastside Community Ministry, Fellowship of Christ's Community, Christ's Table, Salvation Army and Muskingum County Center for Seniors**

# 28th 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](http://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, October 11, St. John XXIII, Pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: Rita Greiner, Church

2:00 p.m., Rosary, Parish Office Chapel

### TUESDAY, October 12

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

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

### WEDNESDAY, October 13

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Ann Bronkar, Church

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

### THURSDAY, October 14, St. Callistus I

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

7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics Support Meeting, NO MEETING THIS WEEK

### FRIDAY, October 15, St. Teresa of Jesus

8:00 a.m., Mass: Wesley L. Wilson, birthday, Church

## 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SATURDAY, October 16, St. Hedwig

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Mary Lou Wagner, Church

### SUNDAY, October 17

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

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: Michael L. Wilson, birthday, Church

## Readings for Week of October 11

Monday	Rom 1:1-7	Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday	Rom 1:16-25	Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday	Rom 2:1-11	Lk 11:42-46
Thursday	Rom 3:21-30	Lk 11:47-54
Friday	Rom 4:1-8	Lk 12:1-7
Saturday	Rom 4:13, 16-18	Lk 12:8-12
Sunday	Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22	Mk 10:35-45

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – October 16 & 17, 2021 – 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
<b>Saturday, October 16</b> 5:15 p.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Keena Hansel	Coord: Margaret Kronenbitter Josh Wright, Karen Robinson
<b>Sunday, October 17</b> 8:15 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Patti Logan	Coord: Scott Peterson Sue Hillis, Jim Hillis
<b>Sunday, October 17</b> 10:45 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Sam Palleschi	Coord: Gerald Tiberio Claire Tiberio, Diana Dunn
<b>(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)</b>			