

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



October 17, 2021

In today's Gospel we hear the words of Jesus... "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt." These are

words that address worldly leaders of the Gentiles: nonbelievers in the God of Israel. These words point to the foundation of relativism: the primacy of self. The one who is the authority is the one who makes the rules. There is no one higher to whom one may make and appeal. The declared authority is at the top; therefore, the subjects must conform to the will of the authority. The subjects are required to obey and conform. Disobedience is not an option. Thus, they *make their authority over them felt* when there is disobedience; usually by means of force or fear. In a godless world, or even in a pagan world with many so-called gods, when a human being assumes the position of ruler, the ruler expects absolute obedience. The ruler is the highest authority and the highest court of appeal. In bringing this up to his disciples, Jesus has something else in mind when it comes to leadership and authority.

One thing that history tells us about worldly leaders is that many of those who have taken the position of ruler have become dictators or tyrants. This points to the negative and dangerous result of dictatorships. We have seen this in the negative results of socialist, Marxist, fascist and all forms of government oppression. The individual, assuming the highest rank of authority is a flawed imperfect human being. Every human being is imperfect and flawed. Theologically we refer to this as being tainted by sin: a manifestation of self-centeredness, the flaw. Sadly, God is not part of the picture.

Without God, who is the source and foundation of all truth, truth becomes relative in these forms of governance. The basis for right and wrong, good and evil depends on what the ruler declares. The ruler in this case is exercising his personal authority. So, what is authority? How are we to understand authority?

"Authority" does not mean "power". Authority means "right", the *"author's right."* The author of the law has the right to interpret the meaning of the law because he is the author. The dictator for instance is the author of his laws or his will. He declares his will and also determines the means and consequences for enforcing his will.

Jesus warned his disciples that this cannot be that way for them. His disciples are not called to be worldly rulers. They are called to be servants of the Word of God: Jesus Christ. It is for this purpose that Jesus calls and sends them into the world. They have authority because they are under the author: Jesus Christ the Word Incarnate. This is where they will find their authority. They are under and serve the author.

I recall a reflection on this from a few years back. I believe it was the author, teacher and philosopher Dr. Peter Kreeft. He proposed this scenario: suppose Jesus had not establish a single, visible church with authority to teach in his name. Suppose, also, that he left it up to us to figure out our mission, scriptures, teachings and doctrines. Suppose he also left it up to us to figure out our understanding of God and our way of life (morals). The result would be thousands of different authors and churches, each teaching its own opinion.

Instead, we have one Church with divine authority. The Father sent his Son into the world. The Son in turn sent his disciples into the world. We read at the end of the gospel of St. Matthew (28:18ff) "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to*

me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age." The disciples are under the authority of Jesus Christ who is under the authority of the Father. God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is the author: the Highest Authority: the source of truth and justice.

For this reason, the Church is not a democracy. The Church is the Body of Christ, the presence of Christ in the world today. The Church is under the authority of Christ. The authority of the Church is necessary for us to know the truth of revelation. Without the teaching authority of the Church, we would not know of the inner life of God: The Holy Trinity. We would be clueless about the two natures of the Son of God, (human and divine) the Incarnation, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Ascension, and the Holy Spirit. We would not be familiar with the doctrines and dogmas of the Church all of which slowly developed over time and proclaimed by the Church. It can honestly be said that No Christian has ever learned of Christ except through some ministry of the Church. We know Christ only because the Church has witnessed to us about him throughout the centuries all the way to the present day.

The Authority of Jesus, passed on to the disciples, was for them to give witness to him: to proclaim the Good News. Jesus Christ is the Word Incarnate. The Disciples have authority to proclaim the Word of God: Jesus Christ. The authority of the disciples was not intended for them to lord it over the people in order to make their importance felt. It's not about them: it about Jesus Christ. They were given authority to proclaim the Word of God and to validate the Word by their selfless service to all people. In the name of Jesus, they were given power over unclean spirits: all those forces that oppress, burden and prevent people from coming to know the salvation offered to them in Jesus Christ. The most oppressive force is that of sin. Thus, we recall in the Gospel of St. John, on the night of the resurrection, Jesus gave the disciples authority to forgive sin. Sin is the worst and most powerful oppressive force. With the authority given by Jesus Christ, sin is powerless.

Coming back to the original thought, those who claim authority for themselves always claim this as a power for themselves. When they lord it over others, they expect their subjects to serve them. This is precisely the opposite of what Jesus calls authority. Those who are called to lead do so by service to others. In this way all people, great and small, will have the gospel proclaimed to them. Their authority will be validated as they imitate Christ in selfless service.

That which is proclaimed is the Word of God. It is Christ himself who is proclaimed. The Word is the good news of God's faithful love. This love is readily available to all people. This love gives life and liberates. Jesus Christ is the Word that sets us free. The Word of God is not forced upon us. God respects our free will.

Nevertheless, a response is required. The authentic response must be given out of freedom. A response that is free is a response that is true. It is not a response motivated out of force or fear. It is a response to the truth of the word and the loving service validating the Word. It is a response to an authoritative witness in word supported by action.

We are living in very difficult times. We must develop a discerning mind. We can sense those who desire to "lord" it over others. Therefore, these are days of faith. Our ability to discern grows with our familiarity serious reflection on the Word of God: Jesus Christ. We are rooted and reassured of His love for us proclaimed in the Word and made real in the Sacrament: the gift of

himself in the Eucharist. This is the authority we can trust because God always has our greatest good at heart. It is selfless.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have
died recently:
Marilyn Swackhammer*

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our annual Cemetery Visit and Bonfire will be held on Sunday, October 31st at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to join us at the Mt. Olive Cemetery as we remember those who have died. Our time together will include an opportunity for private grave visitation and prayer. We will then gather around the bonfire for the recitation of the names of the parishioners who have died within the past year followed by the Rosary for the Repose of Souls. Even if you do not have anyone buried in the Cemetery, it is good to come and pray for the repose of souls as some have no one to pray for them. The evening will end with refreshments. Please bring your rosary (if you don't have one, no worries we will have extra) and lawn chairs. (Please check back for more details coming soon!)

May the faithful departed, by the mercy of God, rest in peace!

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB –
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2021.

Father Michael Hartge will address Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, November 5, 2021. Please join us Friday, November 5 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for lunch and to hear Father Michael Hartge, Moderator of the Curia, speak about the Columbus Diocese' Real Presence Real Future initiative. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 am followed by lunch at 12:10 pm and Father Hartge's remarks. Free parking available in the Columbus State Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S) across the street from St. Patrick. No reservations are necessary. \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!

For information on Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc. Our December luncheon will feature newly ordained Fr. Stephen Ondrey.

"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.



Friday, October 22 from 4:00p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, 128 S. 7th Street
Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3-10 and are **available at the parish office and at the door.** 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!



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 17th, 2021

**Real Presence, Real
Future reflections: Serving by
Letting Go**
**Deacon Jeff Carpenter,
St. Bernadette, Lancaster**

The apostles today are thinking about heaven but misapplying earthly logic. Like the Apostles, we too can crave places of honor and earthly things. But with God, we need to let go of these, especially as we plan for the future of our diocese. God, infinite source of love and dignity, is fully present to those who turn to him so to be His servants in this life. Serving God offers far more dignity than efforts to be earthly kings. We experience this dignity with the Real Presence in the Eucharist, through which, even with the tiniest fragments, we receive the full body, blood soul and divinity of Christ.

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

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.



25th 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

29th 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, October 18, St. Luke

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Margaret Denbow, Church*

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

TUESDAY, October 19, Sts. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues

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

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

WEDNESDAY, October 20, St. Paul of the Cross

8:10 a.m., School Mass: *Margaret Paul, Church*

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

THURSDAY, October 21

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

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

FRIDAY, October 22, St. John Paul II

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Florence Miller, Church*

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, October 23, St. John of Capistrano

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Donna Michel, Church*

SUNDAY, October 24

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Chuck Durant, Sr., Church*

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

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

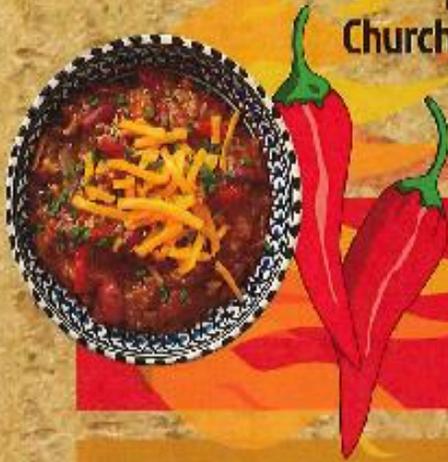
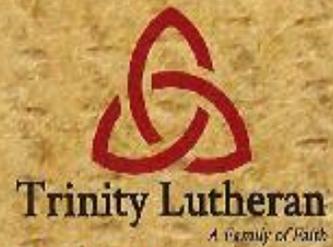
Readings for Week of October 18

Monday	2 Tm 4:10-17b	Lk 10:1-9
Tuesday	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21	Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday	Rom 6:12-18	Lk 12:39-48
Thursday	Rom 6:19-23	Lk 12:49-53
Friday	Rom 7:18-25a	Lk 12:54-59
Saturday	Rom 8:1-11	Lk 13:1-9
Sunday	Jer 31:7-9	Mk 10:46-52

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – October 23 & 24, 2021 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, October 23 5:15 p.m.	Laura DeCoy	Nicole Hannahs	Coord: Laurie Harmon Daniel Snider, Charlotte Snider
Sunday, October 24 8:15 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Peggy Hill	Coord: Dan Sylvester Cheryl Sylvester, Tammy Dovenbarger
Sunday, October 24 10:45 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Sam Palleschi	Coord: Gerald Tiberio Claire Tiberio, Diana Dunn
(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			

Hosted By:
Trinity Lutheran
Church and Pre-School



1st ANNUAL

CHILI

Friday

October 22, 2021
4 - 7 p.m.

COOK

Trinity Lutheran Church
128 S 7th St., Zanesville
740-453-0744

OFF

INCLUDES:

Chili samples from each competing church and a bowl of your favorite chili with fixins

Adults, \$10

Children Ages 3-10, \$5

SUGGESTED DONATION

Participating Churches

Immanuel Downtown Church
Pentecostals of Zanesville

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
Trinity Lutheran Church & Pre-School

CELEBRATING OUR **10TH** ANNIVERSARY

SACRED HEART CONGRESS

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH
313 NORTH STATE ST | WESTERVILLE, OH

9:30am - 12:00pm

9:00am REGISTRATION

\$10 for INDIVIDUALS

\$20 for FAMILIES

Online Streaming Available: www.WelcomeHisHeart.com

FEATURING FABULOUS PRESENTERS AND HOLY MASS WITH BISHOP BRENNAN



**Bishop
Robert Brennan**



**Emcee
Bill Messerly**



**Fr. Joseph
Laramie, SJ**



**Fr. Peter John
Cameron, OP**



**Emily
Jaminet**

REGISTRATION REQUESTED AND APPRECIATED

REGISTER AT: www.WelcomeHisHeart.com



SACRED HEART ENTHRONEMENT

Listen to the Sacred Heart Hour First Fridays on AM 820
Hosted by Father Stash Dailey and Jo Ann and Chuck Wilson

The Sacred Heart Enthronement Network | www.entronements.com | www.WelcomeHisHeart.com