

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



November 7, 2021

Today we celebrate the Thirty-Second Sunday in ordinary time. We are quickly approaching the end of the Liturgical Year which concludes with the feast of Christ the King. We look forward to the

fullness of the Kingdom of God in its completeness. We first heard of the Kingdom of God at the beginning of our reading of the Gospel of Mark. *"The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel."* With the upcoming feast of "Christ the King" we look forward to the culmination of all time and the fulfillment of the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The first time we heard this proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel of Mark it also marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Immediately Jesus goes about the business of calling his disciples to *"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."* Jesus needed individuals who would follow him and who would give witness to what they have heard and seen. They were to share in His proclaiming the Gospel to the nations: the Kingdom of God is at hand.

I mention all this to get to a point. Today is also Vocation Awareness Sunday. Our first thought about this intention of the Church is focus on Priestly Vocations. That is only part of Vocation Awareness. As Christians we all have a vocation: following Jesus Christ and to proclaim the Kingdom of God in word and deed. The call of Jesus to *"come follow me"* can be answered in a number of ways. In our Catholic Tradition this calling is understood as Holy Orders, Religious Life and Holy Matrimony. I would also like to add the Single Life of which I will speak of later in this column.

We are all aware that we are experiencing a shortage in the number of priests. This is one of the topics being discussed in the diocesan program Real Presence, Real Future. It is not a big secret that we are at a crisis level with the number of priests serving in the Diocese of Columbus as well as throughout the country. However, if we take a more critical look at this vocation crisis, we can also say that we are experiencing a vocation crisis in Holy Matrimony and the Religious Life. Hence, we are observing Vocation Awareness Sunday.

Looking ahead, next spring we will not have any candidates for Holy Orders. This will mark the first time that the diocese has not celebrate an Ordination. This is not good.

On the parish level, for the last two years we have only celebrated four wedding ceremonies: two a year. When I look back over the sacramental records in the past, there were several weddings each year. In fact, for some years there were so many that on some Saturdays there were two weddings celebrated. Fewer Marriages and fewer Ordinations; I think there is a connection between them. This also has to do with Religious Life.

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life start early. The seed of a vocation starts at a very young age: it usually takes place in the Catholic home. The place where priestly vocations and religious life start is in the Catholic Family. This was the case for me. I was blessed by living in a devout practicing Catholic Family. I am thankful for the Catholic environment my parents provided for my six siblings and myself. To this day I am also thankful that my siblings practice their Catholic Faith with their children.

We live in very challenging times. However, we should not be discouraged by this. As a people of faith, this is a great time to be a Catholic. It is in this environment that we can live our Catholic Faith with conviction. This is our vocation. We are

followers of Jesus Christ. As followers of the Lord, we give witness to the world in the manner of our lives. We become what the Israelites were to be: a light to the nations. When we live as followers of Christ, we are the living presence of Christ in the world; the Church; the Body of Christ. In this way we do what the disciples were first instructed to do, proclaim and help build the Kingdom of God.

Presently it has been discussed throughout the many dioceses in our country about adding a year or two to seminary training. Where vocations usually came from devout practicing Catholic Families, now they are coming from families not having a single religion (mixed religion marriages), religious faith or practices. Many candidates are from families broken by divorce. This being the case, many candidates need more time to develop a spiritual life and faith formation. They need extra time to get into the rhythm of prayer, reflection and the sacramental practices of the Church.

This is also true for Vowed Religious Life. Candidates need some basic formation in the faith and the spiritual life. A mature and consistent prayer life is essential. These things just don't appear the day a candidate passes through the front door. Instead of a seed planted in the heart when they were children, it is like transplanting a grown tree in a new place. It takes a great deal of time and focused effort for this tree to take root and thrive in this new environment.

It takes a great deal of trust in the Lord to respond to a priestly and religious vocation. Especially in the times and environment in which we live. In the same manner it takes a great deal of faith, love and courage to enter into Holy Matrimony in the times and environment in which we live. It takes a tremendous love, faith and courage to marry and to raise a family: especially a family with more than one, two or three children. It is very tempting to play it safe in marriage by deliberately desiring not to have children or limiting the number of children. However, it is the love, faithfulness and courage that is open to life which is at the heart of all future vocations: Priesthood, Religious Life and Marriage. These are the life lessons that cannot be learned in books and classrooms. These are lessons that have to be lived and modeled.

As I mentioned above, the single life is also essential in the Church. The world needs single people. We know the military depends on single people in order to accomplish its mission. People who are not "tied down" as it were, but free to mobilize on short notice. Single people have fewer attachments which can enable them to pursue occupations unincumbered with natural attachments others experience. I know many singles who are employed in various occupations. The ones who give the clearest example are those who are doctors, nurses, police officers etc. In their dedicated services they often volunteer to work on holidays when many families gather together where their married coworkers appreciate the time to be with their families. The Christian single person, out of dedication and love for others, accept many of these occasions to help others. This makes a great difference in the workplace and in their relationships with others. It has a gracious transforming affect. Single people have certain freedoms that others do not. Seeing their life as a calling they have freedoms in which they can bring Christian witness into places that others are not able. This is the work of saints.

This past week we celebrated the feast of All Saints. Saints who have given witness to Christ in the way they lived their lives. There are so many things that we can say about the Saints, however, there is one thing we can say for certain: they loved God in and through Christ. In their love they lived heroic faith. This is

a great witness for us: inspiring us to live by their real-life examples. Sainthood is real and possible for all of us. Our vocations are a means to live in holiness in Marriage, Religious Life, Priesthood and the Single life.

It is my thought that we have a vocation crisis across the boards. It is a crisis because we have lost our sense about taking and living our Catholic Faith seriously. Then again, this is a great time to be a practicing Catholic. There is no time like the present to live our Catholic Faith boldly and courageously. This is a great time for all of us to strive to be saints. We live in a world that is unknowingly begging for people who are serious examples of Catholic Christian living. Our world, whether it knows it or not, needs saints. This can be done well if we take our calling in life, our vocations, seriously in the light of Christ. *There is only one sadness in life and that is not to be a Saint.*

Pray for all vocations!
Fr. Ralko

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



We pray for those who have died recently:
Sally A. Durant

*We welcome into the Church the
recently baptized:*
Emily Pearl Knox
*daughter of Dr. Steve &
Dr. Sarah Knox*



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Time, November 7, 2021
Real Presence,
Real Future reflections:

Obedience and Listening Set Us Free Lori Dulin, Office of Catholic Schools

In preparation for facilitating *Real Presence, Real Future* parish consultation sessions, I found these words by Pope Francis: "Obeying God is listening to God, having an open heart to follow the path that God points out to us. Obedience to God is listening to God, and it sets us free." *RPRF* is just that – listening to God's plans for our diocese, for us. I am merely facilitating collaboration and dialogue. Everybody in every parish who, by listening to God, will think of or support new ideas, be open to change for the future, and, ultimately, obey God's plan for the Diocese. In that, we find our own path to the salvation that sets us free. For more on the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit <http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org>.

Parish Consultation Sessions for Real Presence, Real Future. We will gather in the Media Center at Bishop Rosecrans High School. The sessions will be virtual (online). We will meet online with our parish facilitator and be able to participate as a group. Or you can join us as a group at BRHS. You may choose between one of the two sessions offered on Monday, November 8th and Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. You only need to attend one session. To register at home please go to the parish website at: www.stnickparish.org and find the link to register. Or you may register directly at: <https://realpresencerealfuture.org/parish-sessions-register/>.



The Parish Office will be closed Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.



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 aged 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is

Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

BRHS GOLF FUNDRAISER: BRHS Golf team is having a fundraiser during Ohio State men's basketball season. Square board based on the score at halftime and final score. \$25.00 per square. Payout is \$20.00 halftime and \$30.00 final. First 20 games of season starting November 9. Names will be placed on the board when purchased. Winners will be announced each week. If you would like a square, contact Ed Johnston at enjedj@yahoo.com. Send checks made to: BRHS Golf, 1040 East Main Street, Zanesville, Ohio. Thank you for your support! Golf team was MSL Champion this year! Ed Johnston, BRHS

Men of the East Traveling Holy Hour

Church of the Ascension, 555 S Main St, Johnstown, OH 43031 will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, November 11** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. All Men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once-monthly Holy Hours.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST! Sunday, November 14th following the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Masses. If you haven't tried our breakfast, you should! We have fancy potato casserole made by Nancy Arnold, amazing French toast made by Kelly Taylor, "Steve Evans" sausage, which in our opinion is way better than "Bob Evans" sausage, and delicious scrambled eggs. The breakfast is served in the Church Social Hall (church basement) and is free; however, we do accept donations for support of future breakfasts. **Please join us!**

Youth Ministry News! Catalyst Night will be during the day for November only! Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on **Sunday, November 14th at 1:00 p.m.** The event is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries and includes lunch, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. This is a joint, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas youth event and all teens grades 7-12 regardless of church affiliation or no affiliation are invited. Parents are welcome!

Monday, December 6th is the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas. He was the bishop of Myra in Turkey in the 4th Century. He is remembered for being kind and generous to the poor, to children and to those unjustly imprisoned. Legend tells that St. Nicholas gave anonymously; he did not seek praise but wanted good things to be done and the hearts of children to be delighted. **Please join us for dinner on Saturday, December 4th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass as we celebrate our Patron Saint Nicholas featuring traditional German foods. All are invited!**

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OCTOBER BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$100 Paul Young, \$25 Ronald Paul, Chad Greene, Greg Dodson, Linda Grieves, Steve Moyer, Jay Vinsel, Terry Paul and John Biedenbach

BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS: Booster Mania tickets are available for the upcoming year. \$25.00 each or three tickets for \$60.00, drawings for tickets are for every day for this next year. Questions or concerns, please contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.

Pre-Jordan class for November is **Tuesday, November 30th** 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.

The **St. Nicholas Parish Christmas Bazaar** has been cancelled for this year.

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, November 8

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Jim Greulich**, Church

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

6:30 p.m., Real Presence, Real Future Meeting (Zoom or Bishop Rosecrans Media Room)

TUESDAY, November 9, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

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

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

WEDNESDAY, November 10, St. Leo the Great, pope

8:10 a.m., School Mass: **Bill Fleer**, Church

6:30 p.m., Real Presence, Real Future Meeting (Zoom or Bishop Rosecrans Media Room)

THURSDAY, November 11, St. Martin of Tours

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

FRIDAY, November 12, St. Josaphat

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Kay DeWitt, birthday** Church

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SATURDAY, November 13, St. Frances Xavier

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: **Pauline Davis, wedding anniversary**, Church

SUNDAY, November 14

8:15 a.m., Mass: **Shirley Knox, anniversary & Irene Dillon**, Church

8:15 a.m., Sunday School will attend Mass with meeting afterward

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

Readings for Week of November 8

Monday	Wis 1:1-7	Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12	Jn 2:13-22
Wednesday	Wis 6:1-11	Lk 17:11-19
Thursday	Wis 7:22b-8:1	Lk 17:20-25
Friday	Wis 13:1-9	Lk 17:26-37
Saturday	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9	Lk 18:1-8
Sunday	Dn 12:1-3	Mk 13:24-32

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – November 13 & 14, 2021 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, November 13 5:15 p.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Keena Hansel	Coord: Karen Robinson Josh Wright
Sunday, November 14 8:15 a.m.	Sandy Black	Sue Hillis	Coord: Cheryl Sylvester Jim Hillis, Tammy Dovenbarger
Sunday, November 14 10:45 a.m.	Jackie Connell	Bernie Budde	Coord: Tim Hoffer Karen Hardman, Diana Dunn
Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			



Bishop Rosecrans High School

1040 East Main Street

Zanesville, OH 43701

Phone: 740-452-7504

Fax: 740-455-5080

www.rosecrans.cdeducation.org

For the past thirty years the boys basketball team along with the cheerleaders, and girls basketball team has provided Christmas for needy children. This program is now called "Christmas on the Hill".

How can you help?

On November 27, 2021, the basketball team will have a drive-up in front of Rosecrans High School set up where you can pick up TATS Pizza and salads between 8:00am and 11:00am. This is a great way to have the food you need for the game between OHIO STATE and MICHIGAN that starts at noon!

A TATS Pizza form is included with this letter. All you need to do is fill out the form and cut the top portion off and send to Bishop Fenwick with a check or cash. You will keep the bottom portion to bring with you the day of pick-up. Please send all orders by November 22, 2021. If you have any questions, please call Todd Rock 740-408-1475.

Thank You,

Todd Rock



ROSECRANS BOYS BASKETBALL TAT'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Order:

Pizza Cheese only # _____ \$12.00 each

Pizza Pepperoni # _____ \$12.00 each

Salad Cheese Italian # _____ \$4.00 each

Salad Cheese French # _____ \$4.00 each

Salad Cheese Ranch # _____ \$4.00 each

Total \$ _____

Return top portion and money to Rosecrans High School. Checks should be payable to Bishop Rosecrans High School.

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Order:

Pizza Cheese only # _____ \$12.00 each _____

Pizza Pepperoni # _____ \$12.00 each _____

Salad Cheese Italian # _____ \$4.00 each _____

Salad Cheese French # _____ \$4.00 each _____

Salad Cheese Ranch # _____ \$4.00 each _____

Total \$ _____

Keep bottom portion of order form for your record and bring with you on the day of the delivery.

Pick-up date: Saturday, November 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

at Rosecrans High School parking lot.