

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



November 14, 2021

This Sunday we celebrate the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. This will be the last Sunday that we read from the Gospel of St. Mark. Next Sunday there will be a passage from St. John

for the Feast of Christ the King of the Universe. The Gospel passage for this Sunday contains verses detailing events or signs preceding the end-times. The signs appear to be a little frightful and ominous, but the key words here are "...after the tribulation..." the Son of Man will be coming in the clouds. There will be an ordeal of sorts before the darkening of the heavenly luminaries and the coming of the Son of Man. What we should all be looking for is the coming of the Son of Man. That is the good news here. The interesting thing here for us as we read this passage is what part of the story grabs our attention: the *tribulation* or the *coming of the Son of Man*. As a people of faith, we are to see with the eyes of faith and look beyond the tribulations of this world and eagerly await the coming of the *Son of Man*. This is similar to looking beyond the horror of Mt. Calvary and seeing the faithful love of God.

The thing that unsettles most folks is the part about the "*tribulation*." Jesus indicated that there would be a time of trial and suffering. Yes, that is a concern for all of us. But we should always remember that for the faithful, trials and sufferings are a result of living in a sinful world. We don't especially like the idea of suffering or persecution. Who in their right mind would welcome such things? However, to be honest, we must expect such things to happen because we are a people of faith who live in an imperfect sinful world. This is precisely how we know we are a people of Faith: trials and tribulations. This is how our faith will be tested. Ironically, if we have never experienced a testing of our faith in this world, we have to ask some serious questions about our faith life.

The Theological virtue of faith is very much like the virtue of love. We can learn something about the virtue of faith when we consider the virtue of love. How do we know that we love? It is tested. The test usually comes in difficult times that require selfless sacrifice. What am I willing to sacrifice to show my love? This is not a feeling or mere sentimentality. Love is a commitment. A commitment that is an *act of the will*: a choice. I choose to love. I am also willing to suffer a sacrifice or sacrifices to manifest my commitment to love. The sacrifice is part of the test. Love will grow when it is tested.

Another part of the test is expressed in the perseverance and the unconditional nature of the *act of the will*. Love demands commitment. Love will only grow if there are no conditions or limitations on our time. The sacrifice is lived as an unconditional choice and open-ended perseverance. Love will be tested: by the personal sacrifice (cost); by the unknowns of the future (what ifs) and perseverance for the long haul. These test and authenticate the will to love.

In the same way we can say these are present as the tests and trials for our faith. What am I willing to sacrifice for what I believe? Am I willing to lay down my life for what I believe? Is my belief, my faith in God, unconditional? Is my faith ready to persevere? Like love, this is the heroic expression of the act of faith. Since faith and love are closely related, the Theological Virtues mutually support each other. We trust what we love and love what we trust. The more we trust the more we love and vice-versa.

We must always remember this dynamic about virtues, they grow when they are tested. "*Virtue is its own reward.*" We become what we practice. A person is referred to as a loving person because that person loves. A person is referred to as a faithful person because that person practices faithfulness. (Sadly, the opposite is true when it comes to vice.)

It seems so simple and obvious. However, the practice of virtue is very difficult because all virtues are tested. This gives us a clear indication of the tribulation that precedes the coming of the Son of Man. This tribulation can be an individual experience, a communal experience or a combination of both. Many have the idea that the tribulation will be some huge cataclysmic event that is to come. Yet it may be a little everyday experience in the most common events or choices we make every day.

Some testing is very simple. This may be so since a person may not have a very strong faith and a simple thing may be enough for them to break faith or betray love. Some of the testing of faith or love may be complex and difficult all of which reflects a complexity and strength of an individual's faith or love. No matter the caliber, there is no heroic faith or love when they are not tested. If one is not faithful and loving in small things one should not expect to be faithful and loving in greater or heroic things.

We live in a world tainted by sin. It is a world that does not welcome virtue or holiness. In fact, it is a world that gives lip service to virtue and really does not welcome the practice of virtue. (Have you ever heard of Virtue signaling!) We live in a world that is more tolerant of vice and self-indulgence. This is a telltale sign of a sinful world. If it doesn't directly infringe on us, we usually don't care. Indifference is also dangerous. If we want to be honest here this is a characteristic of personal sinfulness. Having tolerance of vice or indifference for a sinful world would afford us a chance to avoid a life with trials or tribulations.

When people find themselves steeped in vice and self-indulgence there is a lack of awareness of the seriousness of their condition. At a certain time if they become aware of their condition, they seem befuddled as to how they have fallen to such depths. When it comes to vice one just goes with the flow because it is easy. There is no thought required for vice. If you want to do this or that, you just do it. There is no thought for the future or consequences; much less a thought of eternity: the condition of our immortal soul. With vice it is easy to flow in the pattern of least resistance, especially when it appears to be satisfying and fun.

This is not the case for virtue, especially when we consider the virtue of faith. To live a life of faith, like love, is hard work. Part of the hard work comes in the form of reasoning and an act of the will to actually practice the virtues daily. Faith requires thought. God gave us a mind to know Him. Faith is a choice. God gave us a free will. I believe. With all choices there is thought and a decision. God does not expect us to forgo using our mind and free will. Therefore, if we are to be individuals of faith, we must use our mind and free will to choose to believe and love. There is no way to get around this basic work. The practice of the faith will require the real hard work manifested as commitment and perseverance.

As we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we expect trials and tribulations. Our focus is not on the trials and tribulations. Our focus is on the coming of the Son of Man: Jesus Christ. We will always have trials because we have faith. There may very well be some serious trials concerning our personal faith as well as trials of the Catholic Church in American society. We will feel pressure to abandon or compromise our faith: individually and as a Church. These are the trials that should motivate us to give extra time to prayers and reflections on our Catholic Christian Faith. Greater

attention should be given to the teachings of the Church. Those who know and Love the Faith will live the Faith in Love. The trials will be a means of authenticating and solidifying our trust in Jesus Christ and the Church he gave us to assist us on our way to the Kingdom. Nevertheless, our eyes are always focused on Jesus Christ and not the trials.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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

We welcome into the Church
the recently baptized:
Madison Marie Knox
daughter of

Dr. Kolby & Mrs. Danielle Knox



33rd Sunday in Ordinary
Time, November 14, 2021
*Real Presence, Real
Future reflections: The
Perfection of God's Plans*

Dcn. Tom Berg, Jr., St. Andrew Parish

Today's scriptures assure with spectacular imagery the coming victory of God's plans for humanity, assuring us that Jesus Christ "by one offering... has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated." The Lord promises that His "words will not pass away." As we continue to move forward with our *Real Presence, Real Future* process, let us remain committed to listening to the Lord and one another so that we perceive God's will for our Diocese and for each of us individually. *RPRF* is one way by which we can better live in hope and faith in these words from sacred scripture and be participants in the victory of God salvific plans.

For more on the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit <http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org>.

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!

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 Annual Bishop Rosecrans Holiday Bazaar is back and will be on **December 4, 2021, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at Bishop Rosecrans High School.

The Bazaar has something for all your holiday needs and for everyone on your Christmas list. There will be baked goods, crafts, jewelry, wreaths, soaps, candles, ornaments, t-shirts, clothing and much more.

We will have our concession stand with homemade soups, sandwiches and more. Take a chance on the Chinese Raffle or Gift Card Raffle. There is something for everyone. Start your December off right at the BRHS Holiday Bazaar.

We still have a limited number of spots for vendors. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Marsh at 740-408-2705 or Melissa Wilson 740-260-2519. We look forward to seeing you!

Fulltime 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 fulltime job 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.
- Background check.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Some Saturday work is required

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.

THE GIVING TREE



Every Advent we place a Giving Tree in the Church vestibule. It contains paper ornaments with gift items to be purchased for needy families. This year we will be giving the gifts to the Muskingum Valley Clinic for children, Heartbeats, Transitions, and our own

homebound St. Nicholas Parishioners. Please pick an ornament, buy the requested item, wrap and securely fasten the ornament tag to the package. All packages must be returned to the church by **December 12th**. You are always so generous, and we thank you for helping others this holiday.

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CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB. Newly ordained Father Stephen Ondrey will address Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, December 3, 2021. Traditionally, one of the newly ordained priests in the diocese speaks at the December luncheon and shares his vocation story. Please join us at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for lunch and to hear newly ordained Father Stephen Ondrey, Parochial Vicar at Seton Parish. The December luncheon is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Columbus that promote and support vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. More information about Serra Clubs of Columbus is available at www.serracolumbus.org Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Father Ondrey'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.

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 for the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, November 15, St. Albert the Great

8:00 a.m., Mass: Pat Tanner, Church

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

TUESDAY, November 16, St. Margaret of Scotland

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

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

WEDNESDAY, November 17, St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Jerry Davis, birthday, Church

THURSDAY, November 18, The dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul

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

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

FRIDAY, November 19

8:00 a.m., Mass: Sandy Young, anniversary, Church

OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

SATURDAY, November 20

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Dan Rapol, Church

SUNDAY, November 21

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

8:15 a.m., Sunday School, Bishop Fenwick School

10:45 a.m., Mass: Charles & Agnes Jalbrzikowski, Church

Readings for Week of November 15

Monday	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63	Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday	2 Mc 6:18-31	Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31	Lk 19:11-28
Thursday	Mc 2:15-29	Lk 19:41-44
Friday	Mc 4:36-37, 52-59	Lk 19:45-48
Saturday	1 Mc 6:1-13	Lk 20:27-40
Sunday	Dn 7:13-14	Jn 18:33b-37

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – November 20 & 21, 2021 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, November 20 5:15 p.m.	Laura DeCoy	Tom Pitcock	Coord: Josh Wright Laurie Harmon
Sunday, November 21 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Patti Logan	Coord: Jim Hillis Sue Hillis, Scott Peterson
Sunday, November 21 10:45 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Diane Hoffer	Coord: Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Kevin Jones
Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)			

Don't miss out on this sweet opportunity for Thanksgiving

Pumpkin Cookies!

Courtesy of Dooley's Diner



ONLY \$7 PER DOZEN!

All proceeds will benefit Catholic Social Services'
Payee Services Program.

Orders Due by November 19th

Contact Dave Desender at 1-800-536-5057 (ext.102)
or ddesender@colscss.org.

*Orders will be available November 19th, 22nd-24th
for pick up at the Diner or delivery arrangements can be made*

**Bishop Rosecrans and Bishop Fenwick Schools
Present**



Thursday, November 18th
Friday, November 19th
Saturday, November 20th

All performances start at 7:00 p.m.

\$5 in advance \$10 at the door

Tickets are available to purchase at Bishop Rosecrans or Bishop Fenwick

ELF-THE MUSICAL JR.

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre
International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI

www.MTIShows.com