

THE MOST HOLY HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi: *The Body and Blood of Christ*. The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ has always been central in the life of the Church as well as the object of veneration. This veneration takes place *especially* at the moment of reception of Holy Communion. From the very first days of the Christian Community, they gathered to share the word then they celebrated the "Breaking of the Bread".

Eventually it became important for them to build central, discrete gathering places to worship. Once this was done they found it necessary to provide a special place to reserve the Sacred Species so that after the celebration of the Eucharist the Blessed Sacrament could be taken to the sick. Eventually this special place of reservation became a place for prayerful worship of the Blessed Sacrament outside the Eucharistic Celebration.

The development and practice of worship of the Eucharistic Presence slowly developed over the centuries. It is interesting to note that there appeared in the early church a desire within the hearts of the faithful, to pray in front of the Altar of Sacrifice and even before the Blessed Sacrament: the Eucharistic Presence of the Lord. I am reminded of monks and nun who lived in the cloister or monasteries who had their cells, or even their huts, built around the walls of the church. They would then make a hole in the wall so that they could see the altar from their cell. They would spend hours kneeling, praying, and gazing through this porthole in their cell wall at the Altar of Sacrifice. Deep down there was this sense that there was something very important about being in the "Presence of the Lord" in prayer and meditation. It only made sense to be physically facing the altar of sacrifice with the reserved Blessed Sacrament in prayerful meditation. To this day we agree.

One of the practices of the Catholic Faithful over the years is to "make a visit" to the Blessed Sacrament in Church. This little saying suggests that one would go to Church, stop in for a few minutes in *prayerful adoration* before the Eucharistic Presence of the Lord in the Tabernacle. The central belief of Catholics is that Our Lord is truly present in the Eucharistic sign of bread and that Christ is truly the center of our lives. Our Lord is truly present; therefore, it only makes sense that one would want to pray and meditate in his Sacramental Presence.

It is not often that we are encouraged to spend time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. However, it is something that we need to give some thought. There are a couple of images that would be good for our reflection in this matter of Adoration. We have a couple of examples from the Gospels: in the infancy narratives from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Here we have Angels, heavenly hosts in adoration filling the sky with their songs of "Gloria" before the newborn Christ child. We have Shepherds who come and worship at the prompting of the Angels. We also have the Three Wise Men come and offer their gifts and to worship the Newborn King of the Jews. What did they say? We do not know, but they came and paid homage, they were in *awe* before the baby in the manger. They were in the presence of a great mystery of which they could not possibly comprehend but they worshipped as they gazed in *awe*. This baby is the "Son of God"; he could not speak words to them, but they were filled with his divine blessings as they adored him.

I have said it before and I say it again because I always found it important to my spiritual life; in my travels I have often found myself stopping in churches along the way. In major cities that are the center of a diocese, they have a Cathedral Church that is usually open during the day and is easy to make such a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. There are many Catholic Shrines and

small-town churches that welcome visitors and encourage prayer in their churches. There is always something consoling and inspiring as one stops and prays before the Lord while traveling or vacationing. It gives a sense of the incredible span of the Catholic Church and at the same time gives a sense of being at home with the Lord. This is because the Catholic Church has a powerful center, Jesus Christ. His presence in the Eucharist is a constant reminder that "I am with you always until the end of time."

The Lord's presence is in our church. However, the attentiveness and reverence that we show the Eucharist *is not* what it should be. The environment of our church building does not lend itself to this sense of awareness and reverence. The sad reality is that the tabernacle is in the heaviest traveled area of the Church. It is most difficult to have a sense of awareness and reverence for the Eucharistic Presence of the Lord when the tabernacle is located at the door of the church that gets the most traffic. It is all too easy to be caught up in conversations, visiting with friends and forget that the Blessed Sacrament is only ten feet away. Also, from its present place in the north sanctuary niche, the tabernacle is not easily seen from various parts of the church which also contributes to the difficulty for awareness and reverence in general. We are all guilty of not keeping the proper posture and prayerful etiquette that has long been a characteristic of Catholic Churches. It seems that we keep greater silence in libraries and bookstores than in our churches. Nevertheless, I know it is difficult to keep the noise and distractions to a minimum, but we do need to try to observe a sense of reverence for the Eucharistic Presence as well as for those who are trying to be in prayerful reflection. Even when it is difficult to do this after our masses, I strongly encourage a *prayerful silence before* mass. This time is essential for personal preparation for the Eucharistic Celebration.

Some may say that we should be free to speak to one another while in Church. There is something true about this. People should be kind and greet one another. After all we are a community of faith. But we should also be aware that when we are in Church we are in a place that is like no ordinary place. The Church building is sacred space it is not a clubroom. As such our Catholic Church buildings are primarily a place of prayer and worship. It is a place of encounter with God and all things holy. The Church building is a place of prayer: communal prayer as well as private prayer. This needs to be our priority when we come to Church.

We spend a great deal of time in secular spaces and we tend to act in a manner that is appropriate to the various environments; e.g. ballparks, restaurants, stores... The particular places have a great deal of influence on our appropriate public behaviors. In the world we tend to be about the business of the world. This makes perfect sense since this is where we tend to spend the most time during the day. It should also make sense that when we are in a properly designated sacred space there is an appropriate behavior that attends to the business of the sacred. Realistically we spend less time in our sacred space. It is therefore a struggle not to allow the secular world to dictate our way of acting in our Sacred Space: The Church. It takes a greater effort for us to be focused on this precious time for prayer in the presence of the Lord.

In the Gospel of St. John Jesus prays for his disciples. He asks God's blessing for them since they are *in* the world and *not of* the world. The Christian is one who embodies the presence of Christ in the world. The Christian cannot be of the world: worldly. It is particularly important for us to be aware that we leave the world and worldly influences outside the Church building. We gather to be strengthened in our prayer so that the world does not overcome our lives but that we bring Christ into

the world. Thus, in essence we need to be attentive to the sacred in prayer. We are nourished at the table of the Word and the altar of the Sacrament. We cannot be faithful to Christ without His Word and Sacrament.

One basic reality that should surface in our prayer, but which is often overlooked as well is the awareness of the great love God has for all of us. This love is profoundly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. It is a love that is perfectly manifested in the Holy Eucharist. This we know but we often overlook or take for granted. In our prayer, we renew our focus on this great truth. In a manner of speaking nothing else is as important in this place and at this time.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

Note Well: This morning we welcome Fr. John Stattmiller, who is celebrating the 8:15 mass. I am away this weekend for a family wedding. Note well the mass schedule for the week. I will return Tuesday. This week morning masses will be celebrated Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

God Makes Every Grace Abundant

We would like to thank all the parishioners who have already pledged their gift to the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal. BAA totals: 164 participants. \$52,512.00 pledged. Fantastic: this is an increase over last year. Let's see if we can increase our participants. We can do this. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews. Every gift is important, and no gift is too small. Thank you for your generosity.

**This week we pray Week II of the
Liturgy of the hours.**

Thank you to everyone who made our first Parish Dinner a success! **On July 13, after the 5:15 Mass,** we will have a picnic themed dinner in the church basement. This event is **free**, and all are welcome!

2019 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE – “BLESSED BROKEN GIVEN” The event is to be held November 21-23, 2019 - A three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic Teenagers. Includes 3-night stay at a hotel, coach buses round trip, 7 meals, shirt, water bottle and bag. Call Patty at (740) 453-0597 to register. **TIME IS RUNNING OUT! REGISTER BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH!!!!**

We are excited to partner with the **American Red Cross** to launch the first of what we hope will be many blood drives. Each donation we collect can save up to 3 lives. There are many ways you can help, but most importantly we hope you come out to donate. We need at least 30 people before we can begin. To sign up to give blood or to volunteer, please contact Denis Swierz at (740) 819-5726.

Solemn high mass in the Dominican Rite celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the First Catholic Mass in Zanesville, Ohio on Sunday July 14, 2019 at 11 a.m. Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Reception follows in the Activity Center



Next weekend, June 29 & 30, St. Vincent de Paul will be “Holding the Hat” during all Masses as a 2nd collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



THE FESTIVAL DINNER IS BACK! **Saturday, August 3rd** from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (school gym). \$10.00 for adults. Meal includes Baked chicken quarter, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and butter, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and dessert. \$5.00 for 12 and under – substitutes chicken nuggets or chicken strips for the chicken quarter. **TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE** and include a reserved parking pass next to activity center for easy access and convenience to dinner! Tickets are available after Mass in the Church basement and at the Parish Office. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS

It's that time of the year when the Chinese Auction for the St. Nicholas Parish Festival, asks for donations for the booth. We have placed the tags in the back of the church on a table to help get it started this year. Please purchase your new items and return them to the parish office by Monday, July 22. Call Dee at the parish office with questions, 453-0597. Thank you!

Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you!

Quo Vadis Days is a vocations discernment camp for men entering 9th–12th grades that includes talks by local priests and seminarians on the priesthood, virtue, and fatherhood. Quo Vadis offers the structure of Holy Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, time for personal reflection and interaction with priests and seminarians, as well as the fun of activities, sports and fellowship. Bishop Brennan will provide a closing Mass with the attendees and their families. July 28-31 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. \$40 per person, scholarships available. Registration Deadline: July 16th. Contact Michael Haemmerle at columbusquovadis@gmail.com for more information.

SPIRIT AT WORK RETREAT for ages 18-39. Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center located in Newark, Ohio. Do you ever find yourself asking, “Who is God calling me to be? What is God calling me to do? Am I in the right place today? Pope Francis urges us, “Do not bury your talents, the gifts that GOD has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!” Connect with others experiencing similar big decisions in their life about their vocation, career, marriage, and relationships and grow to a deeper understanding of what your gifts and talents are calling you to do. \$25 for the day. Optional overnight accommodations (includes day retreat cost): \$65 for double accommodation room, \$90 for single accommodation room. Financial assistance is available for this event. For more information, please contact Sean Robinson at srobinson@columbuscatholic.org, or register at <https://columbuscatholic.org/young-adult-retreats>.

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LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**June 30, 2019
13th Sunday In Ordinary Time**

Saturday, June 29 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lectors: Mike LaPlante, Nancy Susa
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Charles Peterson
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Alan Burns
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Karen Robinson, Don Susa
Eucharistic Ministers: Vicki Burns, Charlotte Snider, Dan Snider

Sunday, June 30 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses
Lector: Bill Sullivan, Susan Thompson
Servers: David Eppley, Logan Pratt
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Tim Hoffer
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Jim Hillis, Cheryl Sylvester
Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Hillis, Dodi Sealock, Dan Sylvester, Joshua Wright

Sunday, June 30 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy, Rachel Taylor
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Sam Palleschi
Servers: Justin Ewart, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Erin Roush
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Susie Altier, Mike Musselman
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Hardman, Laurie Harmon, John Haswell, Linda Haswell

Church Support

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| JUNE 16, 2019 | |
| OFFERTORY | \$10,882.00 |
| Diocesan Tax | \$(770.00) |
| Fenwick Subsidy | \$(2,635.00) |
| Rosecrans subsidy | \$(485.00) |
| Available for Parish Operations | \$6,993.00 |
| Parish Operating Expenses | \$(7,825.00) |
| Religious Education Expenses | \$(890.00) |
| Other Income | <u>\$1,855.00</u> |
| Weekly surplus | <u>\$133.00</u> |
| May God bless you for supporting your parish! | |

If you did not have enough to itemize your charitable donations this year, please contact your tax preparer and see if you are eligible to make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 24

NO MASS
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
6:00 p.m., Summer Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, June 25

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, June 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Pastor's Intention*, Church

THURSDAY, June 27

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Cletus Schoeppner*, Church

FRIDAY, June 28

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Deacon Gene Staker*, Church

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, June 29

2:00 p.m., Wedding: *Carrie Parmiter and Jason Harlow*, Church
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: *John Dudas*, Church
Mass: *Bernard Hutchison*, Church

SUNDAY, June 30

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners*, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: *Deacon Gene Staker*, Church

Readings for Week of June 24, 2019

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|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mon. | Is 49:1-6 | Lk 1:57-66, 80 |
| Tues. | Gn 13:2, 5-18 | Mt 7:6, 12-14 |
| Wed | Gn 15:1-12, 17-18 | Mt 7:15-20 |
| Thurs. | Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 | Mt 7:21-29 |
| Fri. | Ez 34:11-16 | Lk 15:3-7 |
| Sat. | Acts 12:1-11 | Mt 16:13-19 |
| Sun | 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21 | Lk 9:51-62 |

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 join us each Monday at The St. Nicholas Chapel in the Parish Office 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.