

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Now that we are past all the post-Easter Solemnities we are now back into the Sunday celebrations of the Ordinary Time of the year; today being the 13th Sunday. We have returned to the Gospel of St. Luke as the primary source for our Sunday readings from now until the Advent Season. From this point the gospel brings us to a critical point as St. Luke tells us that Jesus has turned his face toward Jerusalem. Up to this point everything Jesus said or did took place in the northern region of Galilee. Now everything that will take place happens as Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem. In scriptural terms this part is called the "Journey Narrative". When Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem, he knew what was in store for him. Just the same he started his journey with courage and determination. He warned those who were following him that it will require courage and sacrifice. This was true for the disciples; it is also true for all of us who follow the Lord: it will require courage and sacrifice. In a few weeks we will hear the words about taking up our cross each day and following the Lord as a stark reminder. There is a serious tone about his journey to Jerusalem and there is no time for second thoughts at this point.

So, as we return to the Ordinary time of the year for our gospel readings for Sunday, we continue to forge ahead and accept the challenge that Jesus places before us. Also, we remember that when the Lord calls, he will always provide the necessary graces to bring that call to its completion. In a roundabout way today's first reading refers to the Prophets Elijah and Elisha. God called them. They had courage and sacrificed much for their work. God provided the necessary grace for them to fulfill their prophetic mission to the People of God.

This Thursday we celebrate the Fourth of July. I usually do not have a morning mass on Thursday mornings since it is my "day off"; however, since Thursday is the Fourth of July I think it would be appropriate to start the National Holiday with our most important prayer of Thanksgiving... the Eucharist. You are more than welcome to join us on our Nation's Birthday... and to thank God for the blessing of a wonderful country. Mass is at 8:00 a.m.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July we express our thanksgiving for the freedoms we enjoy in our country. Independence Day; the day we recall our independence from British governance over our country. The United States declared her independence from the British Crown in order to set the course for self-governance. As the United States declared her independence she has also accepted responsibility for herself as a country. Independence and responsibility go hand in hand. Always.

The independence/freedom we enjoy as a nation is rooted in the human person. What is found in our nation is found in the human person. Let's look at the opening paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church titled "Man's Freedom. (CCC: 1730 – 1732)

"God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions. 'God willed that man should be 'left in the hand of his own counsel,' so that he might of his own accord seek his Creator and freely attain his full and blessed perfection by cleaving to him." (St. Irenaeus)

"Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility. By free will one shapes one's own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude."

I truly appreciate these two paragraphs from the Catechism. These passages affirm that... we are rational beings; we have free will to do or not to do; and this is all in our control. We have free will to discern and to choose to seek our *full and blessed perfection*. As people of faith the goal of *full and blessed perfection* is in God. By free will we shape, not define, our lives. We attain our perfection when we freely direct our lives toward God: The one true god.

What the Catechism affirms for us as human beings is also true on the larger scale for all human beings and the societies within which they live. More to the point, I would say that this insight about human beings is also the reason why the United States is attractive. This insight from the Catechism echoes in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Why? Because our country is comprised of human beings. There is "written" in every human soul a desire for freedom. This is the connecting thread throughout all humanity in every time and place. (I would suggest that countries become "inhumane" when they fail to respect and protect the personal liberty and independence of their people.)

Our country places a high value on independence: as a country and for all our citizens. "Give me liberty or give me death!" Our forefathers in fashioning our country worked, contemplated, debated and ultimately fought for our independence. It is within this context that our country and each person can use their liberty to seek our *full and blessed perfection*. When our citizens live this personally the country will follow in seeking the full and blessed perfection for all: a good and well governed country. Our country will never be perfect in this life, but it is the best form of governance for this imperfect world.

In our country we enjoy the freedom to make choices to shape our lives that we may seek *our full and blessed perfection*. However, things do go wrong. It is true that some do not seek this for their personal lives. Because of Original Sin many make choices that are purely selfish. Selfish, self-serving choices are followed by a lack of personal responsibility. People who do selfish things always have an excuse why and it usually involves issuing blame on situations or others. Refusal of responsibility denigrates true freedom/liberty. We often forget that liberty is limited by responsibility which authenticates its rightful exercise. Without responsibility, liberty becomes licentiousness. This is not seeking our *full and blessed perfection*.

What is so great about our country is that it is centered on human persons who seek their full and blessed perfection as human persons. This is a great good. The downside, since our country is centered on human persons who are flawed, we tend toward self-interest and selfishness when seeking our happiness. Such pursuits tend to be fleeting and have nothing to do with *full and blessed perfection*; much less personal goodness and virtue.

Reflecting on the work of our forefathers we truly have a humane country. We are blessed with civil liberties that clear the way for all to seek their greater goodness and virtue without government interference. This is necessary for a good society and country: good and virtuous citizens. Our government needs to protect and encourage our personal independence and liberty. This is humane. Our government would also do well to hold her citizens to their personal responsibility for the sake of all. This too is humane. It may not be perfect because the people and the world in which we live are not perfect. Nevertheless, it is the best form of governance in this world. It is also in this context that we are most blessed in order to live our faith without government interference. Just the same, no matter the form of any government, there is written in the human person the desire for liberty/freedom. It does not matter the form of government, we can always choose to seek our *full and blessed perfection*. We

can choose to seek God and His Kingdom even under persecution. Yet we are most fortunate to be free from oppression (that others in various countries must endure) and to be living in the United States with her inspirational Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Have a great week and wonderful Independence Day.
Father Ralko

This week we pray Week III of the Liturgy of the hours.

PICNIC

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!

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSSDAY, JULY 4TH.
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY



This 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.

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.

Pilgrimage to EWTN ‘Eternal Word Television Network’ and The Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of the Angels Monastery

St Nicholas is researching a pilgrimage to Alabama to EWTN and the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. If you would like more information or you are interested in making a pilgrimage, please call 740-453-7141. We are looking at a 4 day /3-night pilgrimage. Possibly September 16 –19. If we can fill the 50- passenger bus, the cost would be approximately \$370 per person (4 per room) \$500 per person (2 in room). This price also includes a seat on the bus, breakfast at hotels and lunch each day. EWTN was founded by Mother Angelica in 1981 and today is the largest media network in the world. In 1999 the Shrine and Monastery were dedicated in Hanceville, AL about 60 miles from EWTN.



2019 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



CALLING ALL ST. NICHOLAS PARISHIONERS! FESTIVAL MEETING –All are invited and encouraged to join us at the Parish Office, Wednesday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m. We need **many volunteers** if we want this event to continue and be able to support our parish school and the St. Nicholas community. Please help this tradition carry on for many more years to come!

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!

CAKE STAND: ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need cakes, cookies, pies, candies, breads & more. We will need new items every day of the festival. HUNDREDS of people will take home baked goods made by our wonderful St. Nicholas parishioners. Please drop off items in the St. Nicholas cafeteria before festival hours and at the booth anytime during the festival. If you have any questions, please call Brandie Scott at 740-225-1961. Thanks & Happy Baking!

CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS

It’s that time of the year when the Chinese Auction for the St. Nicholas Parish Festival, asks for donations. 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!



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 age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, July 9th at 6:00 p.m.** at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

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. 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.



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

July 7, 2019 14th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 6 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock
Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Thomas Bernath
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Claire Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Alan Burns, Gerald Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers: Vicki Burns, Molly Ritchey, Paul Ritchey, Don Susa

Sunday, July 7 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lector: Bernard Budde, Patti Logan
Servers: David Eppley, Ajay Paynter
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Mary Mirgon
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester
Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Hoffer, Marvin Paul, Joshua Wright

Sunday, July 7 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable, Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Wendy Hart, Othello Reputan
Servers: Wesley Wilson, J. D. Wilson
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jim Pottmeyer
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Margaret Kronenbitter, Jeff Shawger
Eucharistic Ministers: Diana Dunn, Laurie Harmon, Dodi Sealock, Larry Taylor

Church Support

JUNE 23, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$6,868.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,979.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	\$(3,881.00)

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, July 1, St. Junipero Serra

8:00 a.m., Mass: Carol Pryor, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
6:00 p.m., Summer Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, July 2

8:00 a.m., Mass: Tony Maniaci, Church

WEDNESDAY, July 3, St. Thomas

8:00 a.m., Mass: Clara Shumate, Church

THURSDAY, July 4

8:00 a.m., Mass: Pastor's intention, Church
Parish Office Closed Today

FRIDAY, July 5, St. Anthony Zacaria

8:00 a.m., Mass: Michael Paul, Church
No Eucharistic Adoration this month

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, July 6, St. Maria Goretti

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Paul Cherrington, Church

SUNDAY, June 30

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: Harold Roessler, Church

Readings for Week of July 1, 2019

Mon.	Gn 18:16-33	Ps 103:1b-4, 8-11
Tues.	Gn 19:15-29	Mt 8:23-27
Wed	Eph 2:19-22	Jn 20:24-29
Thurs.	Gn 22:1b-19	Mt 9:1-8
Fri.	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67	Mt 9:9-13
Sat.	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29	Mt 9:14-17
Sun	Is 66:10-14c	Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

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.