

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Over the last couple days, we have celebrated the Feast Days of All Saints and All Souls'. We have given prayerful respect and reverence for all those official saints of the church as well as for the many unnamed holy persons who have manifested in their life's Christian discipleship. We have a huge catalogue of Saints in the Church. The Church has been and continues to be blessed with faithful Christian witnesses. These are our practical models of holiness and tell us it is possible to join them in holiness. The Saints, our brothers and sisters in Christ, hold a special place in our church and in our hearts. Thanks be to God.

During these days we also pray for the deceased members of our families and friends. We are particularly aware of those parishioners who have died this past year. We have all been touched by death at some time in our lives. We all have family and friends who have passed away. Yet there is a greater sense of grief is the remembrance of those who have died within the past year. With Christian charity we pause and pray for the repose of their souls. This is a good and charitable use of our time especially during this season at the end of another year. We pray for the deceased and in Christian charity we especially pray for those who have the greatest need of God's mercy. No one in this world is perfect in holiness. We are all in need of continuous conversion. We have our faults and we know our beloved deceased, who also had their strengths and weaknesses, are all in need God's love and mercy. Thus, we are moved to prayer.

We don't need to be reminded that death is a reality. This is part of our human lot in life. We just would rather not think about it. Yet there is much to ponder about the mystery of death. At some time, it is necessary to consider death and the meaning of our lives. This can be a healthy thing for us in putting our lives in order.

No one who has ever lived is sinless except for Jesus and the Blessed Mother: Mary. Apart from that we have all sinned to one degree or another. No matter how hard we try we cannot undo or remove sin and its effects from our lives. This simple truth tells us that we cannot save ourselves from the reality of sin and death. We need a Savior. So, in our consideration of sin and death we must speak of Jesus Christ as our Savior. It is only the Love of God through which we are saved. Jesus Christ is the Love of God Incarnate.

Love conquers sin. We know that in our personal relationships. It is only with love that we can reconcile offenses that arise in personal relationships. It is love in the form of forgiveness, patience, sacrifices etc. that makes a personal relationship grow. However, it is the Love of God that empowers one to reach beyond the limitations of human love. It is only the Love of God (Grace) that makes it possible for human love to go beyond its limits. It is the Love of God alone that is salvific. This is Jesus Christ.

We have the promise of salvation because we have Jesus Christ. However, we must make a proper and grateful response for this incredible gift. We must live a life worthy of the gift we have received. We have been blessed by God in so many ways and we must live a life worthy of all those gifts: the greatest gift being Jesus Christ.

When someone in our family or circle of friends dies, we want to hope for the best and believe that they are in heaven with God. Hope, not wishful thinking, is a good and natural desire. However, if we are really honest, we know the deceased not only

as a good person, but we are also aware of their shortcomings... their sins. We cannot close our eyes to this fact. Thus, we must pray for them and for God's mercy and forgiveness. This is intercessory prayer. Our hope is based on the faithful love of Christ. We pray that all may be worthy of Jesus Christ.

In our Catholic Christian tradition as we speak of death we also speak of *purgatory*: a "place" or a "time" of purification. Some consider it a place of punishment for our sins that fall short of mortal sin. In our sense of justice, we may think of purgatory in this manner, however, I think we can look at Purgatory in another way. Purgatory should be considered as a "place" of truth and merciful love. Purgatory exists because God loves us and wants us to experience his love perfectly. We can only experience the fullness of God's love with a pure heart. "*Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God.*" (Matthew) Truth be told, we are not ready to see God face to face. We need to be prepared for perfect communion of love with God.

I often contemplate Purgatory as looking into the "eye of love." If we have ever offended or hurt someone who loves us dearly, we find it difficult, maybe even impossible, to look them in the eye. In a sense the experience is "painful". It is painful because it is purifying. The discomfort comes with speaking the truth about our life and our sins. Looking into the "Eyes of Love" is a matter of admitting the truth of one's offenses against the beloved and expressing sorrow. This is purgation: it is purgatory. At one point we will all have to look God in the eye. If we have grown in our loving relationship with God in this world, we will find this time of purgation to be pure joy. If, however, we have not grown in our loving relationship with God we will find it most difficult and resist it. Pride makes such a gaze very difficult.

God desires our purity of heart. Forgiveness is available for the asking. On our part we should be eager to have pure hearts in order to fully embrace the love of God. Just as God has this desire for us, we should also have this very same desire for ourselves. In a sense purgatory is a gift that purifies. It is not the punishment we are quick to believe.

"God is love" as St John tells us in his first epistle. This is a very important starting point for our understanding of our eventual encounter with God. God is also truth. When all is said and done in this world and it is time for us to encounter God, we must speak the truth of our lives. We cannot fake our faith and love for God. We can fool others, but we can never fool God. To think that we can fake our faithfulness and love for God would be a lie and we cannot lie to God and still look God in the eye. Reconciliation; purification is necessary. If we cannot live in truth, we will find ourselves living in chaos. We know this is true in our loving relationships in this world. This is also a glimpse into heaven.

Out of love we pray for our beloved dead that they may enjoy the *full embrace* of God's love. We pray that they may now be in full communion with God. Purification is a necessary part for perfect communion in love.

We also pray for all the poor souls in Purgatory. A sad reality is that there are many poor souls who do not have prayers being offered for them. This may be due to an idea that does not consider that prayers for the dead are necessary. It may also be due to a presumption that all souls go directly to heaven upon death. This is a presumption and this presumption is seriously wrong. It negates our need for a savior. It renders the cross of Christ to be powerless to save. The loving sacrifice of Jesus Christ was not necessary. We can save ourselves. It considers that by living a good and virtuous life we can earn heaven. In

reality a good and virtuous life is a response to the grace of God. So again, in Christian charity we pray for those who are in the greatest need of God's mercy here and in purgatory; known and unknown. We pray that all may be open; ready to receive and respond to the merciful and life-giving love of God.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. And may their souls, and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.

Have a great week.
Fr. Ralko

Clergy of the Diocese who have died in 2019: Msgr. Romano Ciotola, February 17; Father Richard Snoke, April 15; Father Joseph Ehwald, April 19, Msgr. James Geiger, May 8 and Father Ronnie Boccali PIME, October 28.

Note Well. Tuesday November 5th is an election day. As responsible citizens we acknowledge that we have a duty to cast our vote. I was disappointed in hearing that there is the expectation for lower voter turnout at the polling stations. This would be very disappointing if it were to happen. The suggestion of low voter turnout reflects an indifferent voting population. Instead of indifference we need to take all elections seriously. We must be committed to fulfilling our civic duty in voting in every election: especially in all mid-term elections. This mid-term election is of great importance since we are electing those who will be serving locally and importantly in our city government. This is no trifle matter. Please fulfill your civic duty and cast your vote on Tuesday.

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Denis M. Schwab, Sr. and John Mazair*

Join us for breakfast! Zanesville Catholic Teens hosts breakfast, **Sunday, November 10th** following all the Masses. All are invited.

Cemetery Visit and Bonfire at Mt. Olive Cemetery

All are invited to join us on **Sunday, November 3rd at 5:00 p.m.** 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 fire for the recitation of the names of the parishioners who have died within the past year followed by the Rosary. The evening will end with a wiener roast. The parish will provide hotdogs and buns, condiments, hot chocolate, apple cider and water. Please bring your rosary (if you don't have one, no worries we will have extra) lawn chairs, roasting sticks, flashlights, and whatever additional snacks you would like i.e. chips, marshmallows, smores supplies, etc.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH BAZAAR

Come to our bazaar next **Saturday, November 9** from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We will also be open to parishioners after ALL masses next weekend. Thank you to all who donated in any way. Questions? Call Mary at 740-607-6386. God bless.

A Letter to A Suffering Church – Bishop Barron's second video is now available on the St. Nicholas webpage. The web page can be found at www.stnickparish.org.

"...But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I extorted anything from anyone, I shall repay it four times over.' "LUKE 19:8



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, November 12** at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

GRIEF MINISTRY

Grief by definition is deep sorrow caused by loss. Grief can appear as sadness, pain, it can even make us physically ill. Grief can be indescribable. The St. Nicholas Grief Support Program provides monthly meetings which are offered twice in one day to afford the maximum number of participants. Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Meeting Room. **The first meeting is Thursday, November 14th.** The topic will be "Who are You Grieving For?" Perhaps you have lost someone or know someone who is grieving and would like to learn how to help them. Please join us. The program is free and open to all.

The 2019 Bishop Rosecrans Holiday Bazaar will be held **Saturday, December 7** from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the high school We are still accepting vendors for this event. To be a vendor please contact Holly Marsh 740-408-2705, Melissa Wilson 740-260-2519 or email holidaybazaarbrhs@gmail.com

Bishop Rosecrans Athletic Boosters

It's time again to purchase your Booster Mania tickets for the upcoming year. \$25 each or three tickets for \$60, **January 1** is the first drawing. Tickets make a good gift. Questions contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.

Men of The East - Traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection

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 with Reflection on **Thursday, November 14th** at 7:00 p.m. All men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once a month Holy Hour's. For more information about Men Of The East contact Mike Musselman at 453-9806 or to sign up for our Quarterly Newsletter visit www.MenOfTheEast.com

ALL FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO ATTEND THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH** AT 12:00 p.m. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT.

BOYS BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER

For the past 28 years, the Bishops Rosecrans boys' basketball team, along with the cheerleaders and girls' basketball team have provided Christmas for children in need. This program is called "Christmas on the Hill." How can you help? On **November 30th** the basketball team will have a drive-up in front of Rosecrans High School where you can pick up TATS pizza and salads between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. This is a great way to have all the food you need for the OSU vs MICHIGAN game which starts at noon! Order forms are available at RHS, Bishop Fenwick and the parish office. If you have any questions call Todd Rock at (740) 408-1475.

31th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PICK UP THEIR COPY OF THE 2020 WORKBOOK WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL BEGINNING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

November 10, 2019

32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 9 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable

Lectors: Sylvia Norris, Nancy Susa

Servers: Scott Peterson, Charles Peterson

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Don Susa

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Vicki Burns,

Mary Calendine

Eucharistic Ministers: Al Burns, Jon Calendine, Paula Peterson,

Karen Robinson

Sunday, November 10 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses

Lector: Bill Sullivan, Maggie Wright

Servers: Nathan Hustey, J. D. Wilson

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Cheryl Sylvester

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Ashley Jones,

Joshua Wright

Eucharistic Ministers: John Haswell, Angie Hustey, Jeff Hustey,

Dan Sylvester

Sunday, November 10 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy

Lectors: Keena Hansel, Patti Logan

Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Thomas Bernath

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Tim Hoffer

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Gerald Tiberio,

Claire Tiberio

Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Bennett Diana Dunn,

Karen Hardman, Larry Taylor

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 4, St. Charles Borromeo

8:00 a.m., Mass: Michael Wilson, Church

2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

TUESDAY, November 5

8:00 a.m., Mass: Leona Hohman, birthday, Church

9:30 p.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, November 6

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Nancy Davis, anniversary, Church

7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., Parish Office

THURSDAY, November 7

NO MASS

FRIDAY, November 8

8:10 a.m., Mass: Debra Starcevic, Church

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, November 9

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan, Church

Mass: Frank & Ada Durant and family, Church

SUNDAY, November 10

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

9:15 a.m., Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick School

10:45 a.m., Mass: Mary E. Pfeifer, Church

Readings for Week of November 4

Mon.	Rom 11:29-36	Ps 69:30-31
Tues.	Rom 12:5-16b	Lk 14:15-24
Wed	Rom 13:8-10	Lk 14:25-33
Thurs.	Rom 14:7-12	Lk 15:1-10
Fri.	Rom 15:14-21	Lk 16:1-8
Sat.	Ez 47:1-2,	Jn 2:13-22
	8-9, 12	
Sun	2 Mc 7:1-2,	Lk 20:27,
	9-14	34-38

Church Support

OCTOBER 27, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$6,413.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,524.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(4,336.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!