

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the National Holiday, Mother's Day. We wish all our mothers a blessed and joyful day. Every one of us is blessed with a mother. Many of our mothers have gone before us from this life. Nevertheless, we all have a mother and we offer our prayers of thanksgiving to God for the personal gift of our mother. We ask God's continued blessings upon them, as we should do every day, yet today we honor them in a special way as we celebrate Mother's Day.

This weekend, specifically Saturday Morning, our second-grade students received their First Holy Communion. For them their First Holy Communion is the second of the Sacraments of Initiation. In this Sacrament there is a profound and deeper relationship with the Lord. All Sacraments, as we know, are intimate encounters with Christ. We encounter the Love of God that makes us more fully alive in the Lord. The Sacraments shape our lives to become more like Christ. In their not too distant future, they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be especially emphasized as they live their life in Christ. We need nourishment in the Eucharist and we need the Spirit for our spiritual growth as we live our life in Christ. Our children are growing up. The sacraments reflect their growth as human beings and their growth as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

If you think about it the present order of the Sacraments of Initiation, we do see a pattern that reflects their growth as persons. As all children are born into this world they are welcomed and named: they are members of a particular family: their identity. From the first day forward, they are nourished with food that will help them grow to be healthy and strong. Then with their growing minds they will gain information, they will begin to think and eventually they will wisely apply what they have learned in order to gain insight and live a full and meaningful life. To put it in simple terms the sacraments of initiation follow this natural pattern. Our children are welcomed into the Church and named as they are reborn into the new life they receive in the Sacrament of Baptism: their Christian identity. They are fed and nourished at the Table of the Lord in the Eucharist. And as they continue to learn they will be inspired with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, so that they will be well equipped and empowered to live their Christian life in the Church and the world. The Grace of God continues to work in them. Grace transforms and builds on our nature.

We pray for our children who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. Our hope is that they will continue to grow strong as faithful followers of the Lord. May they experience Jesus' presence in a special way as they receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. May they come to an awareness of God's loving presence in their lives. As they grow in faith may their desire to come to know, love and serve Him in this world.

When speaking of the Eucharist I am constantly reminded and encouraged by this great gift of God's love. The words of St. Augustine in his instructions to those coming into the Church and receiving the Eucharist for the first time are simple and profound. He tells them... "*Become that which you receive.*" It is in this intimate encounter with the Lord that we come to know Him in ways words alone cannot express. The Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, constantly reshape our lives to be more like Jesus Christ. Quite literally, we become more like Christ when we receive the Eucharist. However, we must desire for it to be so. We always have free will.

God is always revealing himself to us because God wants us to know and love Him. We have the Scriptures as God's self-revelation. God reveals himself to us in the Scriptures. Pressing a

little further, God perfectly reveals Himself to us in and through the person of Jesus Christ who is the *Word made Flesh*. Jesus Christ is God's perfect self-revelation to the world.

This perfect self-revelation of God, Jesus Christ, has in turn given us a gift for all times: The Church and her Sacraments. The greatest of these is the Eucharist. "*This is my Body.*" "*This is my Blood.*" God not only reveals Himself in His Word and in His Son, but God also gives us a gift that speaks to us in a way that words cannot express: His presence. God loves us so much that He has gone to great lengths to make himself known to us. God wants us to know Him and His great love for us. In His great love for us God invites us to be in greater communion with Him. Perfect communion with God is the ultimate goal: Heaven. The Sacraments prepare us for that communion. This is awesome! God speaks to us in so many ways but most especially in His Word and Sacrament. God speaks to our minds and to our hearts. In this life we are blessed with a foretaste of heaven in Word and Sacrament.

It is our joy to be able to encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. It is our hope that our young people will cherish this awesome Sacrament of the Church. Thus, I come to this very important point. Parents, it is vitally important for you and your children to make it a foundational Catholic family practice by coming to Sunday Mass every week. In their innocence your children want to be close to Jesus. Believe it or not, your children have a spiritual hunger. They may not be able to articulate and express this to you, but it is there. They need and also learn from your faithful example. Remember that your Children are God's blessing to you. Your children will make you practice your faith to your benefit. This blessing is God's way of bringing you to Christ as you bring your children to the Sacraments. We live in a difficult world and we need all the help we can get. The greatest help is always available to us and it is always right here in the Church and her Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Please take advantage of the abundant Grace of God. It would be a shame if our children were deprived of this profound encounter with the Lord because of our lack of responsibility in these important matters.

As you may tell by the envelopes at the ends of the pews that it is the Bishop's Annual Appeal time in the Diocese of Columbus. As you have probably observed over the years, I had not been one to preach on the Bishop's Annual Appeal from the pulpit, let alone to preach about money. I do remember that when I did appeal to the parish about the funds, we needed for our window project, you all responded generously. The windows look great. But back to the BAA; this year's appeal has now begun. I have announced the appeal today but have not preached a homily about it. This does not diminish the importance of this appeal for the Diocese of Columbus. The work of the diocese is important and it is part of our responsibility to assist the bishop in this work. One way is with our financial support. I wish there were some magical way to inspire the parish to greater participation in this appeal. I do not want to pester anyone. Personally, I look at this as part of our responsibility. We have a personal responsibility to provide the financial support of our parish as well as our diocese. I accept my responsibility for both and have made my pledge. I hope that you will do the same. The envelopes are available at the ends of the pews. I ask you to please pick one up and make your pledge today. I will say more on this next week. Thank You.

Have a great week.

Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Carolyn Elaine Stigler
and Rita Schindler*

*We welcome into the church the recently baptized:
Madyson Marie Denny daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Russell Denny, Axel James Ellis, son of Jacob and Patricia Ellis and Isabelle Ann Cerovski, daughter of Michael Cerovski and Marissa Kinnan*

Church Support

May 2, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$14,734.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$10,845.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	\$3,985.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

MEN OF THE EAST

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 58 Granville St, Newark, OH 43055 will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. All men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once a month Holy Hours.

Pre-Jordan Class

Pre-Jordan class for May is **Tuesday, May 25 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.

APRIL 2021 BOOSTER MANIA WINNERS

\$50- Bobbie Saunders, \$25- Sophia Paul, Ron Davis, Jerry Burnett, Tom Pitcock, Mary Ann Nash, Bree Michel, Paul Hoffman, Linda Beader, Karen Millward, Annette King, Karen Borowitz and Gwenth Paul



The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not.

She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

—Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

Last Sunday at Mass with Bishop Robert Brennan, children from both St. Nicholas and St. Thomas parishes celebrated Confirmation into the Catholic Church. Congratulations to all!

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| Evan Bauer | Riley McNeil |
| Brendan Bernath | Brenna Milner |
| Maddie Bennett | Jocilyn Paige Mohler |
| Devin Crane | Leah Patrick |
| Adam Crawford | Anna Pitcock |
| Abby Crum | Madelyn Pugh |
| Michael Dady | Timothy Richardson |
| Lillian Dosch | Leeann Robinson |
| Gaige Durant | Caleb Scott |
| Gianna Ewert | Abigail Searls |
| Mackenzie Goldsmith | Lilly Sharrer |
| Landon Hartman | Alexander Smith |
| Ty Heil | Kaden Stallard |
| Addison Hlad | Evan Tolliver |
| Hunter Hlad | Kendall Wagner |
| Caiden Hogue | Emily Ward |
| Laney Johnson | Libby Wear |
| Jordan Joseph | Alexander Wells |
| Norah Kline | Conner Wells |
| Kaleb Kosco | Jared Wilson |
| Hailey Lepi | Ethan Wolfel |
| Miah Lepi | Caden Wright |
| Avery Maxwell | Drew Wright |
| Camden McGovern | Rock Zemba |



“Living the Joy of the Gospel” This weekend is the start of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. The theme of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, “Living the Joy of the Gospel,” inspires us, as people of faith, to share joyfully the Good News of Christ to those who most need to feel His love as we continue His work on earth as faithful disciples. The Appeal makes possible the many good works facilitated by the Office of Social Concerns and the Office of Marriage and Family Life, contributes to the education of our future priests and deacons, and supports the education of our young people in their faith. These are just a few examples of the many ministries and programs supported by your gift to the Appeal. Together we can bring hope that can change lives.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRAY THE ROSARY!

“The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin... If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors.” ~Pope Pius XI
During the month of May, the Rosary will be prayed as a community before the Saturday 5:15 p.m. Mass and the Sunday 8:15 a.m. Mass and the 10:45 a.m. Please join us! **Volunteers are needed to lead the Rosary. Please call the parish office to sign up to lead the Rosary.**

All are welcome to pray the Rosary on Monday's in the Chapel in the Parish Office at 2:00 p.m.

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.

INCOME TAX

If you would like to have a record of your donations to the Church for tax purposes, please fill in your envelope number, name and address or email and place it in the collection basket. A statement will be sent to you.

Envelope No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, May 10, St. Damien de Veuster

8:00 a.m., Mass: Allison Moore, Church

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

7:00 p.m., Mercy Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, May 11

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

WEDNESDAY, May 12, Ss. Nereus and Achilleus

9:00 a.m., School Mass: The Littick Family, Church

THURSDAY, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

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

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

FRIDAY, May 14, St. Matthias

8:00 a.m., Mass: Bill Fleer, Church

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, May 15, St. Isidore

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

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

SUNDAY, May 16

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: Robert Cherrington, anniversary, Church

Readings for Week of May 10

Mon.	Acts 16:11-15	Jn 15:26-4a
Tues.	Acts 16:22-34	Jn 16:5-11
Wed.	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1	Jn 16:12-15
Thurs.	Acts 18:1-8	Jn 16:16-20
Fri.	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26	Jn 15:9-17
Sat.	Acts 18:23-28	Jn 16:23b-28
Sun.	Acts 1:1-11	Mk 16:15-20

Cantor Schedule

The Ascension of The Lord
May 15 5:15 p.m. Sr. Bernadette
May 16 8:15 a.m. Janet Moses
10:45 a.m. Kerby Staker