

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we observe the national holiday Father's Day. To all the fathers in the parish we extend to you a Happy Father's Day. God bless our fathers. Fatherhood is an important calling, or as we say in our tradition, the important vocation within the Sacrament of Marriage. The vocation of Marriage and family life is challenging because it is all about covenant love. Love is the hardest work we will ever do in this world. For the Christian this can only be done in cooperation with the One who calls you to this great vocation. The grace of God is essential. "God is Love." This is the grace of God; trust the grace of God.

As we recognize the fathers of our parish, we also take a moment to think about our own fathers; living and deceased. Every one of us has one father as well as one mother. This can be physically proven. We are thankful for our parents and the gift of life we have received through them in cooperation with the grace of God. We are thankful and we pray for them and God's continued blessing upon them. For our fathers, we bless you and thank you for your "yes" to your vocation to marriage and fatherhood. We turn to God in prayerful thanksgiving for your vocation and the gift of life we have received through you and our mother. Have a great day!

This is not to deny that there are many men who have been good father figures. There are men who have been instrumental by their positive influence in the lives of young people. This is something that has been the experience in the lives of so many. These individual cases also need to be acknowledged in their individual cases. I was blessed with a good father. I was also blessed with many men in my life who have been good *father figures*. I am sure that this is the case for many. We pray a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for them as well. This goes for all those women who have also good been mother figures for so many young people.

The above thoughts come from a well-intended and grateful heart. However, it could also be interpreted as offensive to some individuals. There is a great deal of confusion in our so-called intellectual and sophisticated society when it comes to the roles of mothers and fathers, males and females. In trying to say something good and gracious about mothers and fathers someone will find some kind of fault with it. There is the thought that since this is not the experience of everyone it is not allowed to be acknowledged or said. If it is said it could be offensive. There appears to be a new moral code based upon the norm that no one is to be offended. Therefore, thankfulness for the blessings in your life is not publicly allowed because it could be offensive to those who do not share such blessings. We live in contentious times.

News flash: no one who ever lived, or ever will live, will be exempt from something offensive. Everyone at one time or another will be offended by something. It could happen once in a lifetime (like that could happen) or it could be a daily event (more likely). It is a fact of life: Every human being will at one time or another will be offended. This is not a sufficient reason for us not to acknowledge and express our thankfulness for the good things we have in this life; especially for our parents: a father and mother.

Ironically, for all who are so blessed with good parents and good adult role models, the possibly of being offended by those who protest is low. There is a reason for those who are so blessed are not offended. Those who are aware of their blessings in life have grateful hearts and minds. Grateful people tend to see the good and positive things in life and not the negatives. Conversely, it seems that those who stand for total neutrality so that no one will be offended tend to see only the negatives. They need see and identify negative things in order to have something to protest. They

believe that their protest puts them in a positive light: also known as virtue signaling. They are the enlightened who champion the cause for equality in all things so that no one will be offended. Again, sorry no one escapes the experience of being offended in this life. Remember, it's an imperfect world.

We recently became aware of such ideology emerging this past Mother's Day. This year we heard how the acknowledgement and celebration of Mother's Day was offensive to some people. So, something had to be changed so that no one would be offended. The first attack was on language. Thus, we were introduced to the new terminology where "Mother's Day" was to be replaced with "Birthing Person's Day". This change would be more inclusive for everyone: not limiting this to women. In fact, such terminology, "birthing person", has also been written into some Executive Orders from the White House for legislation. Such terminology would have been unthinkable twenty years ago. We should rejoice since we live in an enlightened society.

One thing that is lacking in our society today is wisdom. There is so much work going into trying to cover every unique situation when it comes to male and female or gender preference, that so much silliness is surfacing. To even challenge this is considered offensive and needs to be stopped.

Nevertheless, there is something that promotes equality. Human lives matter! This is very simple. It is objective, absolute and true. It is the great equalizer. Secondly, the categories of male and female are objective, absolute and true. Trying to accommodate all the variations on these only causes confusion, disorder. The so-called 56 gender preferences are subjective, relative and chaotic. In such a situation, as we find ourselves in today, we do not know what is what. No one knows anything for sure. This chaos is disordered and ultimately unknowable or unreasonable. Notice well; with pronouns no one really knows how to address another person or even to relate to one another. To enter into this discussion is to find oneself in a minefield.

Personally, this is a manifestation of a godless society. When human ideologies are the measure of what is good and evil, it is founded on shifting sands. I had previously mentioned this and I think it is good to mention it again. One of my favored authors is Anthony Esolen. In a recent article he talks about a statement made by a young person. "*If I have to choose between my feelings or experiences and the Bible, it's impossible for me to choose the Bible.*" Such a statement is shocking. Discounting the possible idea that it was intended to shock, if sincere it puts a finger of where people are today. People prefer to trust their own feelings and ideas over the Word of God. In other words, and I often repeat this as well, it is "*my will over God's will.*" I know what's best for me. Even better than God knows.

We all know that people do not want to be told what to think or do. We all have an ego. We do not want to risk being subservient or vulnerable to anyone. This tends to be true of our relationship with others, unless however, the other is someone who is beloved and trusted. Then we might be a little relenting. Here we see the key. It is a matter of love and trust. We live in a world that strongly leans toward selfishness and is less trusting and friendly. This taints all our relationships. Unfortunately, this also taints our relationship with God and his Holy Word. We find it difficult to trust God and His will for our lives since we gage this relationship according to our experience and relationships with others. We find reasons not to trust God and His Word with the same caution we have with others. We find it difficult to trust God and His Word as coming to us from his loving heart with our best interest at heart.

If we are looking for something objective, absolute and

true, we must look to Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, is “the Way, the Truth and the Life.” No other human being can make this claim. Any human being who tries to make that claim is a dictator. Dictators are oppressors. They impose their ideologies on others. These ideologies are subjective. They all fail sooner or later. When they are imposed, they cause turmoil, conflict and ultimately prove to be destructive. Jesus was not a dictator: he was the humble servant to all. He never imposed Ideologies. Jesus’ life and teachings were an invitation to the fullness of life. As the Incarnate love of God, Jesus did not impose God’s Love; He revealed it. In Jesus the Word of God is proclaimed and his loving friendship is offered. We are free to accept or not. Just the same Jesus stated... “*Blessed is he who takes no offense in me.*” (Matt 11:6)

Circling back, simply put, Happy Father’s Day to all our dads.

Have a Blessed Week
Father Ralko

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

Church Support

June 13, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$12,604.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,715.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Surplus this week	\$1855.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!



*Happy 50th Anniversary
to Mike & Marsha Hutchison,
married at St. Nicholas Church
on June 19, 1971.*

The Catholic Schools of Zanesville

Our School Lunch Summer program is open from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. every Wednesday. This program is Free and open to all students 18 and under. We are serving now! Drive up and go style lunches.

Vacation Bible School—Volunteers, age 12 and up, are needed to help with planning, decorating, and to work at Vacation Bible School. (Behind the scenes, planning and the event itself) Actors and a director are also needed for character acting and skits. For more information please contact Patty Boggs (740) 453-0597 ext 14 or e-mail pboggs@stnickparish.org.

St. Nicholas Church is looking for someone to take over the responsibility of decorating the church. The main times of the year are Easter and Christmas. If interested, please call the parish office, 453-0597.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mt. Olive Cemetery has a part time position available. Duties would include mowing, weed eating, helping to open and close graves, help pouring footers for headstones and snow removal. If interested, please call the Parish Office at 453-0597.

Happy Father’s Day! - The Path, by The Fathers of St. Joseph Rule of Life is a wonderful book for fathers of all ages. A limited number this small and compact book have been donated to the parish for the benefit of fathers this Father’s Day weekend. They can be found near the doors of the church.

St. Nicholas Parish Festival – August 6 & 7 Help St. Nicholas Church continue to be a light in the community. Volunteers are needed. Many hands make light work and there are many small ways you can help. To volunteer contact Kevin Jones (614) 596381 or kevin.jones@jonesschlatterflooring.com

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Begins Tuesday, June 22nd at 10:00a.m. in the Parish Office.

Jubilee of Anniversaries: Bishop Robert Brennan will recognize the gift of Holy Matrimony at the Diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Celebration taking place on **Sunday, June 27**, with 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Powell. Married couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in 2021 – or every five-year anniversary thereafter – are invited to attend, as well as ALL couples celebrating 60 or more years of marriage. The Jubilee Mass will be livestreamed for couples who prefer to attend virtually, and family members. All registered couples, whether attending or not, will receive a personalized certificate. Visit www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment to register and for more information, or contact the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 20, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Jesus’ Real Presence Deacon Jeff Carpenter, St. Bernadette, Lancaster

As the great storm raged, the disciples woke Jesus saying, “Do you not care that we are perishing?” When the storm was approaching, why did the disciples wait so long to appeal to the Lord? Maybe the lack of faith Jesus accuses them of is thinking he would not want to be bothered with their problem. Jesus gives us his real presence in the Eucharist not just for serious emergencies but because he wants to be present in our lives at every moment. He wants to strengthen our faith, to share our joys, and to counsel and console us in every struggle.

To read more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NCYC

St. Nicholas Church is pleased to announce that we will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference to be held November 18-21 in Indianapolis. Students who live in a small town can come to believe that they are the only ones interested in the Catholic faith. Not true. A student only has 2 opportunities to attend because the event is held every 2 years and students must be in high school to attend. (This includes incoming Freshmen) Registration is now open! Registrations are due by June 24, 2021. SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE! Please contact Patty Boggs as soon as possible to reserve your seat as tickets are limited! (740) 453-0597 ext. 14.

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.

Readings for Week of June 21

Mon.	Gn 12:1-9	Mt 7:1-5
Tues.	Gn 13:2, 5-18	Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wed	Gn 15:1-12,	Mt 7:15-20
	17, 18	
Thurs.	Is 49:1-6	Lk 1:57-66,
		80
Fri.	Gn 17:1, 9-10,	Mt 8:1-4
	15-22	
Sat.	Gn 18:1-15	Mt 8:5-17
Sun	Wis 1:13-15; 2	Mk 14:12-16,
		22-26

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 21, St. Aloysius Gonzaga

8:00 a.m., Mass: Michael Paul, Church
2:00 p.m., Rosary, Parish Office Chapel
7:00 p.m., Mercy Bible Study

TUESDAY, June 22, St. Paulinas of Nola

9:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church
10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office Upper Level
7:00 p.m., Vacation Bible School Meeting, Parish Office Meeting Room

WEDNESDAY, June 23

9:00 a.m., Mass: Elizabeth Noll, birthday, Church

THURSDAY, June 24, THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

FRIDAY, June 25

8:00 a.m., Mass: Margaret Paul, Church

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, June 26

1:30 p.m. Zachariah Clapper/Breanna Sullivan, wedding, Church
4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: L/D members of the Hohman & Crum Families, Church

SUNDAY, June 27

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

June 27, 2020

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 26 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lector: Keena Hansel
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Daniel Snider
Eucharistic Ministers: Charlotte Snider, Josh Wright

Sunday, January 27 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy
Lector: Patty Logan
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Laurie Harmon
Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Hillis, Sue Hillis

Sunday, January 27 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Lucille Morosco
Lectors: Sam Palleschi
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Tim Hoffer
Eucharistic Ministers: Gerald Tiberio, Claire Tiberio