



September 26, 2021

Our ongoing collection for the people of Haiti will be ending this weekend. Thus far the people of St. Nicholas have been generous in offering assistance. Thank you. If, however in the future you would

like to make an offering you can do so by making an extra envelope and putting it in the regular collection. We will make sure it goes to the right place. And again, thank you for your prayers and generous offerings.

As you are aware, the Diocese of Columbus is engaged in a massive program in planning for the future of the Diocese: "Real Presence, Real Future." You have filled out questionnaires that sought your thoughts about faith and your parish. This data was gathered and the parish was given a "snapshot" of our current profile. By and large, we pretty much match up with the rest of the diocese, and I would suspect with parishes across the country. In a way, I don't think that the survey told us anything that we didn't already know. No big insights here.

Your willingness to participate in the survey indicates that you have an interest in the parish and our future. I think that we also have a vested interest in the Catholic Community of Zanesville. We have to start broadening our vision. We need to give some serious thought about the Catholic Community at large: Muskingum County. As the Catholic Community, we need to give some thought about the care of the Catholics and the parishes in our area.

At this point the diocese studied the results. They have made some observations. However, I think their observations were at 32,000 feet. They had to look at the larger picture and make their observations. They have proposed some options for future planning for the diocese. However, those are at 32,000 feet. We are at ground level as it were. We will be able to see their proposed preliminary insights and options etc. What is important for us to keep in mind is that we are in the position to see these observations and recommendations from up close: from ground level. We know our community and we may very well have good insights and ideas about our future. So, to serve this purpose we will be having a conversation about these things in the near future, more exactly at the beginning of November.

What is important to keep in mind going into these conversations is the Human Element. The diocese has a lens in which they see the diocese and the various parishes that we do not have. On the other hand, we have a lens through which we see our community that the diocese does not have. An example of these two points of view has to do with looking at the reality of the Diocese of Columbus. Consider this: by 2030, which is only eight and a half years away, the diocese has to consider the staffing of 104 parishes. One thing that we are not aware of directly, by that time, the diocese predicts that we will only have 70 priests, 60 of which will be the pastors. Ouch! These are statistics that we may not be privy to. Just knowing these two facts, we must consider what are we able to do to support and minister to our Catholic Community.

We will be sharing more information with you about our upcoming parish meeting. As far as I know, these meetings are intended to be virtual: live and online. There will be a chance to register online for one of those sessions. The information for registering will be forthcoming. I am also reminded and believe; your input is important for this process. This is only the beginning, we have more to do. Again, this is only the beginning.

Last week I did mention that October is Right to Life Month. In this context I also mentioned the Texas Law that banned abortion after the detection of a heartbeat. This occurs around the sixth week of pregnancy. In response to this Texas Law, the President stated that he would use *the full force of the government to fight this law*. I can't imagine using the full force of the government to fight a law that protects the life of an innocent unborn baby. I still can't get over these words coming out of the mouth of a Catholic! Again, this is a scandal.

Consistent and emboldened by this statement the Leader of the House, an individual who parades being a Catholic, planned to introduce a bill this week (last week) for a vote and passage of a bill to greatly expand access to abortion. According to the United States Conference Catholic Bishops this is the most radical abortion bill of all time.

After the Supreme Court rejected a challenge to the Texas law on September 1, the Speaker of the House vowed to bring up the Woman's Health Protection Act and "enshrine into law reproductive health care for all women across America."

Archbishop Joseph Naumann who is the chair of the USCCB's Pro-life committee, outlined how the bill would expand abortion. "This deceptively-named, extreme bill would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute." This legislation would also override state and local pro-life laws such as parental notification and informed consent requirements.

"It would force all Americans to support abortions here and abroad with their tax dollars and would also likely force health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in, and/or refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as force employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortions."

This bill will also likely require health care workers to perform abortions, overriding possible conscience exemptions under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

On Monday, the White House stated its support for this proposed legislation. "In the wake of Texas' unprecedented attack, it has never been more important to codify this *constitutional right* and to strengthen health care access for all women, regardless of where they live." The sense I get from the White House and the Speaker of the House, along with their political party, they want abortion declared a *constitutional right*. They will play with words and call it Reproductive Rights, or some form of Women's Health Care Rights. But make no mistake, they will not speak the truth about abortion as well as write it into the constitution; enshrining in law the legal right to kill the unborn child in the womb as a right. Not Good.

I am reminded of a couple sayings from St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) on this matter. "*The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion, which is war against the child. The mother doesn't learn to love but kills to solve her own problems. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.*" "*And if we can accept that a mother can kill her own child, how can we tell people not to kill one another?*"

In addition to the wisdom of Mother Teresa, I reflected last Sunday on the welcoming the child in regard to our country our civilization. One sure way to destroy a civilization is to stop having children. Children are our future: no children, no future. The tragedy of abortion is that it closes the door to a future: in more ways than one. In so doing it accommodates the wants of adults today. Enshrining the absolute right to abortion into law will be a decisive step in the destruction of our beloved United States. It is self-destructive. Then again, that is the very nature of evil and sin:

it is irrational and self-destruction.

I think this also gives an insight into the future of the Catholic Community in this country. The Church is a target for the pro-abortion crowd. With influential leaders, who claim to be Catholic, that self-destructive force has found a home in the Church. It is our strong belief that children are a gift of God. They are given as a blessing and a promise: a future. Recall the promise God made to Abraham. First, God blessed him with a son. In this son, there was also the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise that Abraham would be the father of descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky or the grains of sand on the seashore. Abraham became the father of a great nation: the chosen People of God. This is brought to fulfillment, through Jesus, in the building up of the Kingdom of God. It's about the future: No children, no future.

Just a few things to think about as we approach Pro-Life Month and the future planning for the Catholic Community of Zanesville, our parish and diocese.

God Bless you and have a great week
Father Ralko

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



*We pray for those who have
died recently:
Carol Stotts*

Beginning October 3, the Parish Offering will be published the first Sunday of the month.



The Parish Dinner Returns! Saturday, September 25th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. Join us for a traditional spaghetti dinner. The dinner is free. Donations are accepted in support of future dinners.

Pre-Jordan Class

Pre-Jordan class for September is Tuesday, September 28 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.

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office located at 955 E. Main Street. The meetings are open to anyone who desires to learn more about the Catholic faith. Join us as we study the Catechism of the Catholic Church and how living a life of faith can help us find our way in today's world. Please call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 to pre-register or for more information.

All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, Friday, October 1st immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m. While drop-ins are welcome and there is no limit on the number of participants at any given time, there is a need for a minimum of two people per hour or the day. If you would like to be a Guardian Adorer, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org. *Please note that Eucharistic Adoration will be cancelled in the event there is a funeral in the church on that day.

"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Mark 9:41



Daughters of Isabella Invites the Parish to Join Us on a Pilgrimage. Tuesday October 12th join us as we travel to The Basilica of St. Mary of The Assumption located in Marietta Ohio. The pilgrimage includes a guided tour of the Basilica, access to the gift shop and Mass. Lunch on your

own. Transportation is provided by Pioneer Trails. The bus leaves the St. Nicholas Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and returns by 4:00 p.m. The bus cost is \$20.00 per person. Please contact the parish office to reserve your seat.



Real Presence, Real Future reflections: The Joy of God's Wisdom, Lori Dulin, Office of Catholic Schools

Today's psalm, "The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart," is an incredible reminder of how true joy lives deep within our heart. Christ's precept to reveal Him to others is work that brings great joy. As each of us becomes fully formed, we are implored to share the Gospel message as missionary disciples. In that, we are faithful. In that, we impart His truth and wisdom. The message and the work are enduring and sanctify us as we love God with our whole heart and our neighbors as ourselves. The result: true, lasting joy and the great reward of heaven and eternal life!

For more about growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

The Month of October is in honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. We will pray the Rosary before the weekend Masses. Those interested in leading the Rosary before the 5:15 p.m. Saturday Mass or the 8:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Sunday Mass are asked to call the parish office.



Urban Comforts Eatery has a Sunday Brunch from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. with 10% of the proceeds going to St. Nicholas Church thanks to parishioners Eric & Julie Fete. So, after Sunday Mass enjoy a delicious breakfast at Urban Comforts Eatery at 32N South 3rd Street.

We Need Your Help!

What: A National Prayer Chain to raise public awareness and to lift our concerns to God about abortion.
When: Sunday, October 3rd, 2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Where: We will line the streets of Maple Ave. Parking and sign pickup at Dr. Kevin Colopy's parking lot (across from Taco Bell).
Who: This event is sponsored by Muskingum Valley Right to Life

For more information call: 740-221-9997
**"Could you not pray with us for one hour?"
Please come line the streets and pray with us,
publicly for life -while we still have
the freedom to do so.**

*If we say we are Pro-life and if we are not actively doing something then we are part of the problem.
This is our 19th Life Chain*

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Cemetery Groundskeeper

Description: We are looking for an individual that understands the importance of a strong work ethic and is willing to work with a small team to accomplish the day-to-day operations at the cemetery.

Job duties include but are not limited to helping with funeral services and all phases of care for the cemetery grounds. This will include lawn care, snow removal, marker installation, and building maintenance. This is a part-time opening where work is performed year-round in all weather conditions. If you are looking to find a stable career that is year-round and has room for growth this is the job for you.

Requirements:

- Cemetery experience preferred, but not required
- Zero-turn mowers and lawn care equipment. Backhoe experience a plus.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Clean drug screening, driving record, and background check.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Some Saturday work at times will be required

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul

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

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

TUESDAY, September 28, St. Wenceslaus

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

10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office Upper Level

WEDNESDAY, September 29, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

8:10 a.m., School Mass: William Noll, Church

7:00 p.m., RCIA, Parrish Office meeting room, upper level

THURSDAY, September 30, St. Jerome

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

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

FRIDAY, October 1, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

8:00 a.m., Mass: Sandy Young, Church

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Adoration of the Holy Eucharistic, Church

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, October 2

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Cletus Schoeppner, Church

SUNDAY, October 3

8:15 a.m., Mass: William C. Kohler, Church

9:15 a.m., Sunday School, Bishop Fenwick School

10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of September 27

Monday	Zec 8:2-8	Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday	Zec 8:20-23	Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14	Jn 1:47-51
Thursday	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12	Lk 10:1-12
Friday	Bar 1:15-22	Lk 10:13-16
Saturday	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29	Mt 18:1-5, 10
Sunday	Gn 2:18-24	Mk 10:2-16

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – October 2 & 3, 2021 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, October 2 5:15 p.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Robert Rowe	Coord: Josh Wright Karen Robinson, Laurie Harmon
Sunday, October 3 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Sue Hillis	Coord: Jim Hillis Phil Kocoloski, Scott Peterson
Sunday, October 3 10:45 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Keena Hansel	Coord: Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Jeff Shawger

(Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)



Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 2

beginning after the 4:30 pm Mass and continuing until 9 pm

BEER, BRATS, BURGERS!

Enjoy the Authentic German *Upp! Pöh! Pöh!* Music of the
Germania Hauskappel Band
from the Germania Club in Columbus

A Parish Family Celebration as We Enter Fall!