

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



February 13, 2022

Looking forward to our Liturgical Calendar the one thing that stands out is Easter being rather late this year. This year Easter will be celebrated on

April 17<sup>th</sup>. We have another two and a half weeks until we begin Lent, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the positive side, we have a greater chance for a warm and sunny Easter. But then again, we have Murphy's Law and April showers. We will worry about that later, not now.

Today, the Catholic Church observes World Marriage Day. This is a day that we are encouraged to be mindful of and pray for all married couples and for those who are preparing to enter into marriage. Good marriages and families are the foundation for a good society. Catholic Sacramental marriages and families are the solid foundation for the Church. Sacramental Marriage is a counter-cultural witness to the world which is flawed and weak when it comes to love and faithfulness. The world needs the witness of Sacramental Marriage: whether the world knows it or not. It is very important that marriage be respected, cherished and protected in society.

In my files I came across an article that I saved from the Catholic News Agency concerning Marriage. It was written about a Bishop from: Spain: Bishop Demetrio Fernández González. The article was titled..." *Is the love fading from your marriage?*" I am aware of many couples that are struggling at this time and I thought that the Bishop offers some timely reflections and advice that I could share with you.

*"The love in a marriage is like 'the wine at the wedding feast of Cana,' the Spanish Bishop said in a recent pastoral letter, in which he encouraged spouses to turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary for help when their relationship is troubled.*

*"The Bishop of Cordoba encouraged the faithful to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary so that love is never lacking in their union. 'May the good wine of a renewed love never be lacking in each and every one of your homes'.*

*"And when your love is gone? It seems that everything is over and the only solution is to go your separate ways. Not so. Have recourse to Mary, who said to Jesus: 'They have no wine'. If Jesus is present, he can make wine in any circumstances, just as he did at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee.*

*"If that first love has grown cold, it can be rekindled with a humble request to Jesus, who came to fill the human heart in every way, including the marital dimensions.*

*"Taking up the Gospel of the wedding at Cana where Christ worked his first miracle, the Bishop recalled the importance of marriage as 'the foundation of the family according to God's plan,' a union between one man and one woman 'united in the love blessed by God, generously open to life, until death do, they part'.*

*"Jesus instituted the sacrament of marriage through which the spouses are consecrated by the Holy Spirit to give themselves completely throughout their lives to one another, in a self-giving of love, the Bishop explained, and pointed out that on that journey 'every day, true love has to be shown anew.'*

*"Bishop Fernandez therefore highlighted the importance of the humble petitions of the spouses so that 'there is no lack of the wine of joy in the home, the wine of love that Jesus Christ gave to each of the spouses on their wedding day.'*

*"Lifelong fidelity is possible, a love that never ends is possible, happiness is possible in marriage, which God himself created and Christ has sanctified. The Bishop continued 'you've got to humbly ask for it with faith every day'.*

*"This is the miracle that Jesus is ready to multiply in our times, so that there is no lack of the good wine renewed in each and every home."*

As you recall we had this reading from the Gospel of St. John on the Second of Ordinary Time (January 16th). In John's Gospel this is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, the wedding at Cana in Galilee. It is also the first "sign" or miracle performed by Jesus. There is a connection between this first "sign" and with Adam and Eve. Since the original sin occurred in the context of a "marriage" it only seemed right that the restoration and renewal of creation begins in the context of a marriage. It is also true that the relationship between God and his people has always been described as a marriage (covenant) relationship. In both cases; husband and wife, God and His people, the faithful relationship is one of love and life. The *broken* covenant relationship; husband and wife, God and His people, is now a relationship that has become loveless and lifeless: hopeless. That is on the part of humanity only, because God is always and infinitely loving and faithful. Go figure: humanity has the problem. This is where the redemptive work of salvation begins: in the beginning at the first covenant relationship of man and woman, marriage.

The bishop from Cordoba brought in another dynamic that is particularly poignant. Yes, marriage relationships do begin with love. This is a love that seeks being exclusive and faithful. It is a relationship that desires to be life-giving: for both the couple and in their children. However, a love that is not rooted in God will eventually be a love that is not fully alive. His reflection on the wedding feast at Cana is a reflection on a love that is fading. It is a love that is symbolized by the wine that is almost depleted. A love that is merely human in origin is a love that fades. It is like a common wine of a lesser vintage.

The Bishop has a wonderful insight about taking this problem to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is right on the mark. At the wedding feast at Cana, Mary was aware of the depleted wine. She took this concern to Jesus with the comment *"they have no wine"*. Bishop Fernandez wisely instructed couples who find that the "wine" of their marital love is running out to turn to Mary. The Blessed Mother who is wise in the virtue of love receives this prayer. The Blessed Mother, as in the Gospel, will take it to her beloved Son. It is Jesus who miraculously gives the "new wine", the choicest of wines. Jesus alone gives us access to the greatest love. However, couples must do what the Blessed Mother told the stewards..." *Do whatever he tells you.*"

This is particularly important for marriage. The Blessed Mother and Jesus Christ must be very much a part of every Christian Marriage. We do not often hear this nor do we consider it. However, it is vital for a healthy Christian Marriage.

As it is said that the marriage relationship is also a model of our covenant relationship with God, this advice for married couples is also advice given to all of us in our relationship with God. When we find that the "wine" or our faithful love for God is running out... especially during times of difficulty, doubt, suffering and so forth, we must take our need to Mary who in turn will take it to Jesus. We must also be prepared to receive her recommendation... *"Do whatever he tells you"*. This is a response that we cannot ignore. This is the path to holiness.

We can also rightly say that this is the path of penance: progressing in the way of holiness.

There is much food for thought here. Our lives can easily get mundane. In the biblical imagery our everyday lives can be expressed as common wine that will eventually run out. Eventually it will no longer satisfy. Common wine is good as far as it goes. In the story of the wedding at Cana, water is also good and necessary, and Jesus can miraculously transform the ordinary and necessary into something exceptional. There can be so much more. The “more” can only be found in Christ. Jesus alone can change the good that is “common wine” and “water” into something beyond our imagining. All we need to do is turn to Jesus through Mary and then listen to him. Jesus alone will satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts.

Pray for married couples and have a blessed week.  
Father Ralko

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Dr. Paul R. Brown*



*We welcome into the Church the recently  
baptized: Oscar Jamison Addy  
son of Jamison & Kadi (Lepi) Addy*

**St. Nicholas Parish-** In the event of inclement weather: Level 2 Snow Emergency: The Parish Office will close and all church activities except for Mass will be cancelled. Level 1 Emergency: The parish office remains open; and other scheduled activities will be determined as the day progresses.

**Join us for breakfast this Sunday!** February 13<sup>th</sup> following the 8:15 a.m. AND 10:45 a.m. Masses. Enjoy fancy potato casserole made by Nancy Arnold, amazing French toast made by Kelly Taylor, “Steve Evans” sausage, which in our opinion is way better than “Bob Evans” sausage, and delicious scrambled eggs. The breakfast is served in the Church Social Hall (church basement) and is free; however, we do accept donations for support of future breakfasts.

**It's not too late to join us!** Surviving Divorce meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the St. Nicholas Parish Office. The cost is \$10.00 which includes the Surviving Divorce Personal Guide and all meeting materials. The newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later will find hope and begin authentic healing. Pre-registration is not required.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ or

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**THE CATHOLIC TIMES** The annual collection begins in February, for *The Catholic Times*. Subscribe to the print edition and the paper will be delivered to your home through the mail every other week. This year, you are strongly encouraged to go online to sign up as a new subscriber or to renew your subscription to *The Catholic Times* at [columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times](http://columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times) Access the subscription payments tab in the left-hand menu and then enter your address and payment details. You may also use the envelope marked *The Catholic Times* from the packet of envelopes you received in the mail (or your own envelope with *The Catholic Times* written on the outside) and drop it into the regular collection at Sunday Mass. Payments submitted to us will be forwarded to the Diocese automatically. Another option is to mail your \$17.00 check payable to Diocese of Columbus – Catholic Times to their office at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

**Catalyst Nights** – Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on **Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries. The night includes dinner, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. This is a joint, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas youth event. Parents are welcome!

**Grief Support** – **Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and again 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office Meeting Room.** 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.

**St. Luke's, 307 N Market St, Danville, OH** will host the **Men of the East** for our monthly Traveling Holy Hour on **Feb 15 starting at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. Men of the East exists to support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of Men of the Catholic Church. For additional information visit us on the web at [www.MenOfTheEast.com](http://www.MenOfTheEast.com)

**SACRAMENTAL PREP MEETINGS!**

**Confirmation Students and their parents** will meet Tuesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Social Hall (church basement).

**First Communion Students and their parents** will meet Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon in the Church Social Hall (church basement)

**The 25th Annual Catholic Men's Conference**, “Called to Be Saints” will be held in person on **Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Kasich Hall, Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. Adoration begins at 6:00 a.m. with registration opening at 7:00. The Conference runs from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Adults \$40, students \$25 and Religious are free. Financial assistance is available. Visit [www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com) to register or for more information.

Register now at [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com) for the **Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Sat., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at the Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH. \$45 per person/students \$35 /Livestream \$15. Invite family and friends to join you for this amazing one-day retreat to reconnect, rekindle and rejoice in the Lord!

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## BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS:

**Booster Mania tickets** are available for the 2022. \$25.00 each or three for \$60.00. Drawings are every day this year. Questions or concerns, please contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to participate in the **Synod on Synodality**. The Synod is an opportunity to think and pray together as we examine the issues close to the entire church. **The Muskingum-Perry Deanery Synod Meeting will be Saturday, March 12, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** at Bishop Rosecrans High School in the Media Room. Go to: <https://columbuscatholic.org/events/synod-listening-meeting-muskingum-perry-deanery> to register for this event.

<b>Church Support</b>	
Sunday, February 6, 2022	
OFFERTORY	\$5,614.00
EFT	\$5,890.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY</b>	<b>\$11,504.00</b>
<b>May God bless you for supporting your parish!</b>	

### 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. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: [stnickparish.org](http://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 for the any needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

## What's Happening in Our Parish

### MONDAY, February 14, St. Cyril

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Bill and Rita Wagner**, Church

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

7:00 p.m., Divorce Recovery, Parish Office

### TUESDAY, February 15

9:00 a.m., Mass: **St. Thomas, L/D members of the Wanda Lynn family**, Church

1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Grief Support, Parish Office

### WEDNESDAY, February 16

8:10 a.m., School Mass: **Mike Andrews**, Church

7:00 p.m., RCIA, Parish Office

7:00 p.m., ACOA, Church

### THURSDAY, February 17, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

8:00 a.m., Mass: **St. Thomas, Regina Ritchey**, Church

### FRIDAY, February 18

8:00 a.m., Mass: **John A. Rock, birthday**, Church

## 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SATURDAY, February 19

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

5:15 p.m. Mass: **Richard W. Brown, anniversary**, Church

### SUNDAY, February 20

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

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

10:45 a.m., Mass: **Langdon Thomas, birthday**, Church

## Readings for Week of February 14

Monday	Jas 1:1-11	Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Jas 1:12-18	Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Jas 1:19-27	Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Jas 2:1-9	Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Jas 2:14-24, 26	Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	Jas 3:1-10	Mk 9:2-13
Sunday	Sm 26:2, 7-9	Lk 6:27-38

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE			
February 19 & 20, 2022- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, February 19 5:15 p.m.	Choir	Rocky Rowe	Daniel Snider Charlotte Snider, Scott Peterson
Sunday, February 20 8:15 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Bill Sullivan	Jim Hillis Sue Hillis, Tammy Dovenbarger
Sunday, February 20 10:45 a.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Diane Hoffer	Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Kevin Jones