

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



February 20, 2022

Today we are celebrating the Seventh Sunday of ordinary time. Usually about this time we find ourselves starting the season of Lent. Well, not yet.

We still have a week and a half before Ash Wednesday. Just looking forward to the Lenten Season we should start to give some thought to what we should do during Lent as a penitential. Our thoughts should be directed in an area of our faith life that needs our attention. We should consider things like an expanded prayer life, more spiritual reading, maybe reading something on the lives of the saint, attending a weekday mass, abstaining from something that we enjoy like eating between meals, unnecessary television shows or movies. There are so many things that we can do that will sharpen our focus on our spiritual/faith life. It is especially in abstaining from something that we are reminded of our Lenten desire and intention to grow in our spiritual/faith life. Nevertheless, we have some time beforehand to give it a thought instead of making a quick decision at the last minute.

Our second reading for this Sunday from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians has something that we rarely give some thought. Paul makes a somewhat interesting distinction between the first man, Adam and the second (or last) Adam, Jesus in other words, he is trying to make a point about Adam, the first human being, and Jesus as being the second Adam. This is found in the 15th chapter of St. Paul's letter. In this chapter Paul reflects on life and death with a stress on the resurrection. Paul starts this section with his handing on what he has received that "*Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures...*" then he appeared to several people who were his witnesses. The center piece of this section is the Resurrected Lord. If Christ was not raised from the dead then all that Paul himself believed and taught was in vain. All those who believed and have died in the faith are lost.

Returning to the point about the two Adams, Paul reflects on what we have inherited from each. In the order of creation, it is only logical that there has to be a first. The word *Adam* means *man* or *mankind* which includes both male and female. It can also be a proper name. Some man must have been the first man ever to existed. This is in the order of creation or evolution. In both cases it is God who is the Creator.

There is something interesting about this species. Unlike the other creatures, the *man* has a rational soul. This is the foundation of the *free will*. Science can tell us about bodies; even from the discovery of fossils. But science cannot tell us about souls and free will. However, Adam had a soul with a conscience and a free will, unlike the other animals in creation, he was able to know God and to choose to obey or disobey him. We know that he did not listen and obey God. Apart from all the details of the story, the essential point is that God made the Human Being and said this creature was very good. Everything God created was good because God is all good. Thus, God does not create or tempt anyone to sin or evil. That is on the human being.

In the Fall, the human being, Adam and Eve, freely detached themselves from God. The natural flow of divine life was cut off. Without divine life suffering and death entered the picture. This is the human nature we all have inherited: a condition without the life of God in the soul. The Original sin is more than

the act of taking and eating the forbidden fruit, it is the condition we have inherited from the first *man*: a soul without divine life. Thus, we speak of the stain of Original Sin: that which is inherited in our human nature. A newborn baby has no control over who are his or her mother and father. Adam and Eve are our worldly parents, in other words the *First Adam* is responsible for our inherited fallen human nature.

God has a solution for this condition. God prepared a second Adam, another man who would be the new *Adam*. We have all inherited our fallen human nature from the first Adam, it is in Christ, the *last Adam or new Adam*, that we also inherit something: the supernatural immortal life lost by the *first Adam*. This new life we inherit not by biology but by faith and baptism. Jesus Christ is the new Adam and it is from him that we become a new creation; sons and daughters and co-heirs with Jesus Christ.

We inherit fallen human nature and original sin from Adam by heredity. We inherit a new nature from Christ by free choice. In a manner of speaking, we have no choice about being born into the human family, but we do have a choice to be reborn in Christ. This is the proper use of our free will, unlike that of Adam and Eve.

The new Adam, Jesus Christ, has revealed this new life in his Resurrection from the dead. He is the Resurrection and the life. The Resurrection is the new life he gives to all who believe in him and are baptized. This returns us to the main focus of Paul's letter; the Death and Resurrection of Christ. If Christ has not been raised from the dead this is all for naught and we are fools to believe. Christ is the first to rise from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Then after Christ, all those who believe in him. Death no longer has any power over us. This is the good news.

A look back to last Sunday's second reading we recall the words of St. Paul as we read..." *If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.*" I find these words challenging. Many people have the idea that our faith in Christ means that life should be easier, leading to Utopia. The reality is that we will not have Utopia in this world and in fact life usually becomes more challenging for the Christian. Life will continue with its disappointments and challenges. But we live for the Kingdom of God not the kingdom of this world. Our faith in Christ is about our salvation. We have received new life in him in baptism. With confidence in Him and the gift of new life we can face the challenges of this life.

St. Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians because he founded the church in Corinth. He loved them as a friend, a pastor and an Apostle. They needed encouragement in many ways. Corinth was a port city and was a hubbub of activity. You could say it was like Manhattan. There were all kinds of influences from all over the world. Many of those influences were not good for the Christian community. They needed to be addressed.

Paul taught them about their unity in Christ; we are one body with many members. They were blessed with spiritual gifts and they needed to nourish them; especially the virtues. The most famous passage that we are familiar with is St. Paul's litany on the virtue of Christian love. Paul named and confronted many sins; a whole list of them. He did so because he knew that many had fallen into these activities and they were destructive of the Christian community. There were many issues that needed to be addressed and St. Paul's letter was

necessary. He draws it to a close with his discussion about the Resurrection of Christ.

All that Paul wrote about and the corrosive effects of the sins that he confronted would not make any sense whatsoever had Jesus Christ not suffered, died and was raised from the dead. St. Paul was well aware that many people thought the Resurrection was a hoax or a myth. He wrote about the Resurrection with this in mind. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, there would be no reason for Paul to write this letter in the first place. The whole thing is centered on the Resurrection. It is all about salvation in Christ.

Simply put, if Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead we would not be here. The Church would not exist. There would be no Christian Community. There would be no reason to live a virtuous life; especially the virtue of love. There would be no reason to be a Christian.

Have a great week
Father Ralko

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

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.

Surviving Divorce will not meet this week, Monday, February 21st, due to the holiday. 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.

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 27th at 12:00 noon in the Church Social Hall (church basement)

Protecting God's Children for Adults will be offered at St. Nicholas on **Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m.** This class is estimated to last 3 hours and is required for all adults wishing to volunteer in the church or school in any capacity. Register at <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg>

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 _____

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON
PRESIDENTS DAY**



The 25th Annual Catholic Men's Conference, "Called to Be Saints" will be held in person on **Saturday, February 26th** at the Kasich Hall, Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. Adoration begins at 6:00 a.m. with Registration opening at 7:00 a.m. Participants will enjoy dynamic speakers Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Matthew Leonard and Chris Martin. The Conference runs from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And includes Adoration, Reconciliation, Holy Mass, breakfast and lunch as well as vendors. Adults \$40, Students \$25 and Religious are free. Financial assistance is available. Visit www.CatholicMensMinistry.com to register or for more information.

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, 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.

Eucharistic Adoration: All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, March 4th (First Friday)**. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m. Adorers are essential and needed as Christ exposed in the Monstrance must never be left alone. While drop-ins are welcome and encouraged, 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, for the day. Please prayerfully consider saying YES to spending just one hour with Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. If you can commit to an offering an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Monstrance during Eucharistic Adoration, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597, ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org

For the health and safety of our community, the auction will be held online again this year.
St. Benedict School Auction & Raffle- *Online*
<https://edandbenschafer.com/>
"Intense LOVE does not MEASURE, it just GIVES."
Mother Teresa
The auction will kick off on Saturday, March 5th, at 8:00 a.m. and will end on Thursday, March 10th, at 7:00 p.m. Please visit us on **Facebook** to preview all the fabulous items we have for bid at **St. Benedict School Annual Auction & Raffle** or by calling 740.432.6751 for an appointment. *Please Like and Share our page!*
Pick up date will be March 12th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in St. Benedict Gym
Contact Liz Hayes, St. Benedict Raffle Chair, at 740.591.2810 if you would like to purchase auction raffle tickets Or Casey McVicker at 740.891.1325 for any questions.
All proceeds benefit St. Benedict Catholic School.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

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.

Church Support		
Sunday, February 13, 2022		
OFFERTORY		\$10,448.00
EFT		
TOTAL OFFERTORY		\$10,448.00
May God bless you for supporting your parish		

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 21, St. Peter Damian

Office Closed

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Madison Paul, Church*

TUESDAY, February 22, The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

9:00 a.m., Mass: *Dr. Paul Brown, Church*

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

7:00 p.m., Confirmation Meeting, Church Social Hall

WEDNESDAY, February 23, St. Polycarp

8:10 a.m., School Mass: *Rosemary Sherfy, Church*

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

7:00 p.m., ACOA, Church

THURSDAY, February 24

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Barbara & Robert Miller, Church*

FRIDAY, February 25

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Rita Petho, Church*

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, February 26

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

5:15p.m. Mass: *Donald Thompson, Church*

SUNDAY, February 27

8:15 a.m., Mass: *David and Mary Lou Wagner, Church*

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

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

12:00 p.m., First Communion Meeting, Church Social Hall

Readings for Week of February 21

Monday	Jas 3:13-18	Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday	1 Pt 5:1-4	Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday	Jas 4:13-17	Mk 9:38-40
Thursday	Jas 5:1-6	Mk 9:41-50
Friday	Jas 5:9-12	Mk 10:1-12
Saturday	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 10:13-16
Sunday	Sir 27:4-7	Lk 6:39-45

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE February 26 & 27, 2022- 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, February 26 5:15 p.m.	Laura DeCoy	Nicole Hannahs	Karen Robinson Laurie Harmon, Margaret Kronenbitter
Sunday, February 27 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Susan Thompson	Daniel Sylvester Cheryl Sylvester, Phil Kocoloski
Sunday, February 27 10:45 a.m.	Kerby Staker	Sam Palleschi	Gerald Tiberio Claire Tiberio, Karen Hardman

REGISTER TODAY:

Understanding the Human Person

A Weekend Retreat Course ~ March 25 and 26, 2022
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Westerville, OH



What does it mean to be created as male and female persons? What is the purpose of our sexuality?
How can we be a 'gift' to others? Where does the family fit in?
What is the best way to speak with others about some of today's challenging moral issues?

Register for Family Honor's **Understanding the Human Person in-person course** and get answers to these questions – and more! Along with other men and women, you'll explore challenging topics, experience spiritual refreshment, and enjoy great fellowship.

Topics include: *St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body*; *The Roots of the Sexual Revolution*; *Fertility Appreciation*; *Consequences of Ungodly Sexual Behavior*; *Child Development and the Importance of Family*; *Sexual Identity and Gender Confusion*; and more.

You'll hear from a variety of speakers, get a chance to ask questions, and engage in classroom activities with other adult students. Course also includes Instructor grading and feedback, along with course books. Plus, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are provided on site. Some scholarship funds available.

Space is limited, so sign up today!

Go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-the-human-person-ohio-tickets-243140669287> for more information and to register.

Registration deadline: March 7, 2022.

Questions? Contact the Family Honor office: 803.929.0858 or info@familyhonor.org



Providing a Catholic framework on the
truth and meaning of sexuality, love,
and family.



BUILDING Our Mission to the Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs. We help form and train catechists who will form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and get bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around His altar.



Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds help African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholics spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help to support good teachers to help African American and Native American children learn. In 2018, your generous donations reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



Encouraging Vocations

We need men and women to answer the call to the consecrated life and offer their witness as radical disciples of Jesus Christ. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life in diocesan communities across the country.



BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION
www.blackandindianmission.org/nationalcollection

