

# SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



April 24, 2022

As we come to the end of Easter Week, we have thankful hearts for a wonderful Easter Weekend. Unlike last year when Easter

was celebrated very early the weather was a little chilly but great. The Easter Vigil on Saturday evening was a wonderful faith filled celebration as we welcomed new members to the Church. The liturgies for Easter Sunday were full, faith-filled and deeply moving. Easter is the Greatest Celebration of the Church; indeed, the very centerpiece of our faith life as Catholics. Again, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in some way to make this year's Easter celebration so wonderful.

During the Easter Vigil we welcomed new members into the Church as they received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist: Jamie Clark, Colt Zinn, Shannon Zinn, and Linda Steinke. We received into full communion with the Catholic Church with a profession of faith, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist: John Tyler Clark, John Curtis Clark, Russell Denny, Shawn King, Jason Staples and Melissa Shafer. We also baptized John Alexander Clark, the son of John Tyler and Nicole Clark. May God bless them as they continue their journey to the fullness of the Kingdom in the Catholic Church.

There were other individuals who were also in our RCIA class this year but they were not quite ready to enter the Church this Easter. Entrance into the Church in all reality is a big decision and one should be ready to make this commitment. God willing, these individuals will hopefully enter the Church in the future. Personally, I admire these individuals as they seriously consider entrance into the Catholic Church.

All throughout the Lenten Season and during the Easter Celebration our thoughts were drawn into the deep historical roots of our Faith. We have taken a look into Salvation History. During the Easter Vigil we considered the story of creation, the First Passover and Exodus from Egypt, and the prophetic voice of Isaiah. All of these passages were focused on the fulfillment of Salvation History in the person of Jesus Christ. Only the love of God could bring salvation. This love was perfectly revealed to the world in and through the person of Jesus Christ. This Love is personal. It is perfectly revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is salvation, gained for us and can only be received; not earned or deserved by us. Our faith has deep roots in this long history that reaches its peak in Jesus Christ. We find salvation in no other person: Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all Scripture.

During the weeks ahead we will be reading through the Acts of the Apostles. This is especially noted by a continuous reading during the daily masses of the Easter Season. As Salvation History leads up to Jesus, it continues forward from Him and expands onward into the future. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the activities of the Apostles in the early days of the Church. It is the record of their witness to what they have seen and heard. The most notable characters we encounter are the great apostles Saints Peter and Paul.

As we read about the early days of the Church, we come across curious details that could be easily overlooked. We read that the early Christian Community, the Church, "... *devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.*" What is

interesting for us to consider is that the actual text of the New Testament. Especially the Gospels, did not yet exist. The only Scriptures the early Christian Community had at that time were the Hebrew Scriptures: the Old Testament. Along with these Scriptures we have *the teaching of the apostles, communal living, breaking of the bread and prayers.* The first thing we can say is that the Church existed before the New Testament. It was the community of believers under the instruction of the Apostles praying and the centrality of the Eucharist. The community of believers, the Church, existed before the New Testament was actually written. The Church existed under the *witness and the teaching authority* of the Apostles. The New Testament was written and formally recognized much later. The New Testament: The Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Letters and Revelation came from the Church. This is an important point. Here we see the priority of the living faith; the witness and the teaching of the Apostles (and their successors) as essential at the beginning of the Church. From this historical fact we come to an understanding that the Church has *two* authorities: the *Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scriptures.* Together we refer to the *Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scriptures* as the *Deposit of Faith.* In the Acts of the Apostles, we see this in its simplicity.

We also notice in the Acts of the Apostles that... "*Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to the breaking bread in their homes.*" In other words, the early Christians were still connected to the prayers and worship of the Jewish Scriptures and prayers. There remained a deep connection to Temple/Synagogue Worship which consisted of reading from the Scriptures (the Law, Prophets, and the praying of the Psalms) followed by instructions and teachings from the Leaders, in the early church, the Apostles. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the Apostles were often in the Temple instructing and teaching about Jesus Christ. This was their communal gathering in prayer. The new element added by the Christians was the Liturgy of the Eucharist: the "*Breaking of the Bread*". For the early Christians this replaced the Temple sacrifices and the small Christian Community did this in small gatherings in their homes. Eventually these two elements were joined together and celebrated at various gathering places after the Temple was destroyed around 70 A.D. This formal prayer, which we now call the Mass, slowly developed out of this Temple worship taking on a new Christian form. Even though this is a very simple outline it is important to note that our Sacred Liturgy has these deep roots. The new element of the *breaking of the bread* took place in the homes of believers because it was not something that could be done in the Temple since it was a distinctively Christian rite. It was something that Jesus told his disciple to do *in memory of him.* So, the followers of Jesus did exactly that. Again, this is something that will see further development in the future growth of the Church.

The important point to be made here is the centrality of the Eucharistic Liturgy in the lives of the early Christians. It was essential to gather for communal prayer, the reading of Scripture, instruction from the Apostles and the "*Breaking of the Bread.*" It was because of this persistence in gathering that the Church survived. Considered from a worldly perspective, if the Church was a mere social institution, it would not have survived shortly after the life of Jesus. Throughout world history we have seen the rise and disappearance of many religions. There has been the rise and fall of many human organizations and governments. Then there is Christianity

which started with a single individual who was executed. He had twelve Apostles (of which one was a betrayer) who proclaimed that he is risen from the dead. These followers were willing to sacrifice their lives for Jesus and his teaching. Many did exactly that! Christianity has survived to this day with literally billions of followers throughout a two-thousand-year history. It was the gathering for prayer, reading of Scripture, instruction by the apostles and the “*Breaking of the Bread*” that made it possible to survive in this world. The Church is the Body of Christ. In Word and Sacrament this abiding presence of Christ remains into the future.

We are living in difficult times. The practice of the faith is diminishing which makes these times all the more difficult. Many Catholics have become indifferent and do not see the necessity of the Church. Many Catholics do not see the need to “*devote themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to the breaking bread...*” What we call “The Mass” today was the source and strength of the early Christian Church from her infancy. It is the enduring strength of the Church, especially during times of persecutions. The Eucharist and the Holy Scriptures that are the source of strength for the Church today. It is and remains the strength for every Catholic. We must not take our gathering for *the breaking of the bread* for granted.

Have a great Easter Season.  
Father Ralko

Next Saturday, April 30 our Second Graders will be making their First Holy Communion. We have decided to celebrate this event on Saturday since we only have two masses on Sunday which are well attended. Celebrating this event on Saturday we will be able to accommodate the usual large crowds of family and friends who will come and support our First Communicants.

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

**FUNERAL DINNERS** – Those interested in helping with funeral dinners should contact the parish office. A variety of volunteers are needed. Some make phone calls, some cook, some serve and clean up. Ideally there will be three teams of workers with the teams rotating as needed. Please call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail [pboggs@stnickparish.org](mailto:pboggs@stnickparish.org).

**MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE**  
The Muskingum Valley Right to Life will once again, be sponsoring a full-page Mother’s Day tribute ad in the Times Recorder on May 8. For this we will be collecting names, along with a \$3.00 donation, at all masses the weekends of April 23-24 and April 30-May 1 for all who wish to honor their mother(s), both living and deceased, on their special day.

### Catalyst Night Youth Ministry News!

Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on Sunday, **May 1st at 6:00 p.m.** The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET). 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!

### Rosary Leaders

**The Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. 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 Sunday 8:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Mass are asked to call the parish office.**

“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

There will be a **St. Nicholas Festival meeting May 2 at 6:30 p.m.** in the St Nicholas Parish office. This year's festival will be Friday, August 5 & Saturday, August 6. All of those interested in helping make this year’s festival a success are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there! For more information contact Kevin Jones at 614-561-6381 or [kevin.jones@jonesschlaterflooring.com](mailto:kevin.jones@jonesschlaterflooring.com)

**Surviving Divorce** is a twelve-week program featuring thirty-minute DVD sessions each week. Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing.

**The next session will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning May 4th. Meetings are held in the parish office. For information about upcoming sessions and to register contact Patty, (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or [pboggs@stnickparish.org](mailto:pboggs@stnickparish.org)** SCHEDULING NOTE: This is the start of a 12-WEEK PROGRAM. During the FIRST THREE WEEKS registration remains open. After the first three sessions, due to the sensitive nature of this group and to build relationships and confidentiality, the doors are closed to new participants.

### Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

This year’s theme is “CATHLETICS”! Vacation Bible School will be held the week of Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with this year’s Vacation Bible School, **please attend the Volunteer Meeting on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Office.**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, May 6th.** 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](mailto:pboggs@stnickparish.org)



# SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

Church Support		
Sunday, April 17, 2022		
OFFERTORY		\$9,726.00
EFT		\$4,747.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY		\$14,473.00

## 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 10:00 a.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, April 25

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Bill Wagner, anniversary Church**  
10:00 a.m., Rosary, Parish office chapel

### TUESDAY, April 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Ann Quinn, Church**  
10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

### WEDNESDAY, April 27

8:10 a.m., School Mass: **L/D Members of The Musselman Family, Church**  
7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A., parish office

### THURSDAY, April 28

**NO MASS**

### FRIDAY, April 29

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Ray Andrews, Church**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### SATURDAY, April 30

11:00 a.m., First Holy Communion, Church  
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: **Robert Wahl, Church**

### SUNDAY, May 1

8:15 a.m., Mass: **William C. Kohler, birthday, Church**  
9:15 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School, Bishop Fenwick  
10:45 a.m., Mass: **St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church**

## Readings for Week of April 25

Monday	1 Pt 5:5b-14	Mk 16:15-20
Tuesday	Acts 4:32-37	Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-26	Jn 3:16-21
Thursday	Acts 5:27-33	Jn 3:31-36
Friday	Acts 5:34-42	Jn 6:1-15
Saturday	Acts 6:1-7	Jn 6:16-21
Sunday	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41	Jn 21:1-19

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

April 30 and May 1 3rd Sunday of Easter

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
<b>Saturday, April 30</b> 5:15 p.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Keena Hansel	Scott Peterson Karen Robinson, Margaret Kronenbitter
<b>Sunday, May 1</b> 8:15 a.m.	Janet Moses	Susan Thompson	Dan Sylvester Cheryl Sylvester, Susan Pratt
<b>Sunday, May 1</b> 10:45 a.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Dr. Repuyan	Claire Tiberio Gerald Tiberio, Tim Hoffer

April 24, 2022

# ARISE

*virtual Mother's Day retreat  
for those in a season of infertility*

*May 6–8, 2022*



*Springs*  
IN THE  
DESERT

Register free:  
[www.springsinthedesert.org/arise](http://www.springsinthedesert.org/arise)

# MEN'S ONE-DAY ROAD TRIP PILGRIMAGE

**A Walk with Christ. A Journey Toward Heaven.**

**...at Historic St. Joseph Church and Parish Hall**  
*"The Cradle of the Faith in Ohio" in Somerset, OH*



**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
**8:00am - 2:00pm**

**\$20 Registration Fee**  
Includes Breakfast and Lunch

- Hear about one man's pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago!
- Learn of Pope Saint John Paul II's writings about pilgrimage!
- See artifacts and presentation about the beginnings of Catholic life in Ohio!
- Listen as a man discloses his journey of conversion to become a disciple of Jesus Christ!
- Rosary | Intercessory Prayer | Holy Mass

**Limited Space - Register Soon!**  
Online at  
[www.CatholicMensMinistry.com/Pilgrimage](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com/Pilgrimage)  
(Registration Form Next Page)



**Fr. Andre-Joseph LaCasse, O.P.**  
Dominican priest and Pastor, Holy Trinity and St. Joseph parishes, Somerset



**John Swartz**  
Parishioner, St. Agatha Church, Columbus



**Bill Noll**  
6th-generation parishioner, St. Joseph Church and Principal, Holy Trinity School, Somerset



**Jeff Silleck, D.Min.**  
Business Manager for the parishes of Somerset, Ohio

## Questions?

Contact John Schechter at (614) 565-0824  
or [jschechter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jschechter@sbcglobal.net)