

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



May 29, 2022

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. We find ourselves at the end of the of the Easter Season.

To emphasize the greatness of the Easter Season we celebrate it for forty days that compliments the Season of Lent: mirroring the Lenten Season. We then top it off with an additional ten days (counting days if we celebrated the Ascension last Thursday) upon which we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost: The Fiftieth day following Easter. The word "Pentecost" means the fiftieth day. In the Old Testament Pentecost is referred to the "Feast of Weeks". Exodus 34: 22. "*You shall observe the festival of weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest.*" This was an observance of seven weeks of planting and growing followed by the celebration of offering the first fruits of the wheat harvest. How appropriate for Pentecost being the celebration of the "First Fruits" of the Spirit as the Apostles go out to preach resulting in the thousands of converts to the faith on that day.

Back to the Ascension, as we celebrate this feast, we celebrate Jesus' ascension to the Father with the hopes that where he has gone, we hope to follow. Jesus Christ returns to the Father with his *crucified/resurrected and glorified* human body. Jesus has his human body, now resurrected and glorified, forever. The wounds of his crucifixion remain. His Glorious wounds are evident in his resurrected body as noted in the gospel passages on that *First Day of the Week*.

There is an important point to be made here. God created us Body and Soul. Many people have the dualistic view of life expressed as the *Spirit is good and the Body is bad*. Part of this idea comes from the ancient philosophies of individuals like Socrates who considered the body, because of its imperfections, as a *prison for the human spirit*. Eternal life happens when the individual's spirit is released from the prison of the body. In this thought there is a contempt for the body. This is not part of God's design. Recall from Genesis, after God created the man and the woman, He declared that this is "Very Good".

A modern manifestation of the idea of contempt of the body is expressed when someone claims to be a *spiritual* person. These individuals claim that they do not believe in identifying with an organized religion or a church. This is an expression of a truth about an understanding of spirituality, but it is not the whole truth. It is true that we have a spiritual life, but that is not the whole story. We are called to holiness while we live in the body. Spirituality is a means to holiness, not the final destination. Living holiness is manifested *in and through* the body. Holiness transforms both body and soul. The mystery of the Incarnation is the manifestation of the Holiness of God in the human person of Jesus of Nazareth. The body is necessary for communicating and manifesting holiness. This is precisely how Jesus revealed God to humanity.

In reality we are not destined to live in eternity as purely spiritual beings. Angels are spiritual beings. We are not angels, nor are we intended to be angels. We are human beings, created in the *Image and Likeness of God*, with a body and a soul. Salvation is for both body and soul. "*We believe in the resurrection of the body*" as we say in our creed. The teaching on the Ascension of the Lord is an affirmation of the Resurrection and the ultimate goodness and final destination of both the body and the soul: together and glorified in heaven. Jesus has his crucified, resurrected and glorified human body forever in Heaven.

As Jesus ascends into heaven, he then sends with the Father the promised Advocate: The Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and draws us deeper into the very life of God: love. While we live in this world, we need the Holy Spirit who will lead us into the heart of God, the Body of Christ, the Church. Theologically we can say the Church is Incarnational in the ongoing manifestation of Christ in the World. The Church is the physical, bodily, manifestation of the Word of God: Jesus Christ. Greater union with Christ is also greater union with the Church.

This weekend we are celebrating Memorial Day. This holiday signals the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. Over this weekend and in the next few days our parish High School seniors and families will be celebrating their graduation. We wish them all the very best as they complete this milestone in their lives. We encourage them and wish them God's Blessings as they continue on in either furthering their education on the college level or entering the workplace. We pray for their success in life and remind them that in all they do in life they must put a priority on their Catholic Christian Faith. Our Catholic Christian Faith touches and elevates every aspect of our life by the grace of God. When God and our Faith is placed as the priority of our lives, everything fits into its proper perspective and place. Jesus' own words say it all, "*What profit would a man show if he were to gain the whole world and destroy himself (his soul) in the process?*" (Matt 16:26) Stay close to God and you will not destroy your life in the process.

Tomorrow is the official celebration of Memorial Day. It is a custom of many to visit cemeteries on Memorial Day. It is a good and devout practice to visit the graves of our relatives, especially those who have served our country well. Saying a thoughtful prayer for the repose of the souls of our beloved departed while visiting the cemetery is always and excellent thing. Thus, we pray... "*Eternal Life grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*" Amen.

On this Memorial Day as we pray and remember our veterans who have died, we pay particular attention to those veterans who have passed away this past year. As a good practice for Memorial Day may I suggest attending morning mass. Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. This is a liturgy that has been well attended in the past. As I think over the past, I have always been edified by the large number of parishioners who mark the National Holidays by starting their day by attending the Eucharistic Celebration. The prayers offered for the intentions of our country are important and our parishioners prove their good citizenship by seeking God's blessings on our country, our leaders, the common good of her citizens, and the repose of the souls of our departed veterans.

Tomorrow evening will mark the beginning of a celebration for our newly appointed Bishop for the Diocese of Columbus. The diocese will begin with Vespers; A prayer service on the vigil of the Episcopal Ordination for Bishop-Elect Fr. Earl Fernandez. On Tuesday afternoon, Fr. Fernandez will be ordained a Bishop and installed as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. These are exciting times for our diocese. Please keep Bishop-Elect Fernandez in your prayers.

Next Sunday we will be celebrating the feast of Pentecost. Come Holy Spirit.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

May 29, 2022

BAA: As of May 23rd, we have had 77 families responding and making a pledge. To that we have raised \$22,445.00. This is pretty good so far. However, there is a particular goal that we need to achieve: *increasing the number of parishioners participating* in the BAA. In truth, our participation rate is not as it should be. So, I ask you, for those who have contributed last year please repeat your pledge to this year's appeal. If you have not, I ask that you take an envelope, found in the pews, fill it in and make some kind of pledge or one time gift to the appeal. We can do this. And, for those who have already responded to this year's appeal... thank you.

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

We pray for those who have died recently:
Mary Anne Blake



We welcome into the Church the recently baptized:
Eden Campbell daughter of
Anthony & Kathleen (Connor) Campbell



“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

In honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, we will pray the Rosary in the church during the month of May before the weekend Masses. Rosaries can be found in the pews and are free to take.

FUNERAL LUNCHESES – Do you enjoy cooking? If you would enjoy cooking a ham (provided) for funeral lunches, please call (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail pboggs@stnickparish.org.

MAY 31ST PRE-JORDAN CLASS RESCHEDULED!
Due to the installation of Bishop Earl Fernandes on Tuesday, May 31st, the Pre Jordan-Class scheduled for same date has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, June 14th**. The class will be held in the Parish Office at 7:00 p.m. Parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized should pre-register for this class by calling (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.

This weekend, May 28 & 29, St. Vincent de Paul will be “Holding the Hat” during all Masses as a 2nd collection.

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING – THOSE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THIS YEAR'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE PARISH OFFICE.



Have a safe and happy Memorial Day. The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 27.

Last Saturday, children from St. Nicholas Church celebrated a Confirmation Mass. Congratulations to all!



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| Nicholas John Bernath | Ethan Marcus Hammersley |
| Tyler Christopher Bennett | Nathan Joseph Hustey |
| Jaclyn Hope Connell | Brennan Nolan Jones |
| Cecilia Mattalynn Ewart | John Andrew Lepi |
| Joseph Paul Ewart | Zane David Michel Moody |
| Logan Michael Goldsmith | Ajay Lee Paynter |
| Logan Thomas Pratt | Claire Lynn Ward |

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11
Congratulations to all area 2022 graduates!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CATHLETICS Registration is now open! Registration forms can be found near the entrances of the Church, on the parish website and in the parish office. Please register by July 15th. **Families who register by June 15 will receive a free Cathletics CD.** Questions? Please call the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext. 14 or e-mail: pboggs@stnickparish.org.

Eucharistic Adoration: All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, June 3rd (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.** If you can commit to an offering an hour of prayer during Eucharistic Adoration, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597, ext. 14 or pboggs@stnickparish.org

SUPPORT OUR PARISH by attending the festival planning meeting on **Monday June 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Parish Office.** The St. Nicholas Catholic Parish Festival has a long and rich history in our church beginning in the early 1940's as a fall event in the school basement expanding to an outdoor summer festival in the early 1950's and continuing still today. Won't you please come and support your parish by being part of this wonderful tradition?

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Church Support

Sunday, May 22, 2022

OFFERTORY		\$9,740.00
EFT		
TOTAL OFFERTORY		\$9,740.00

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.

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 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.



Summer Office Hours

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The Parish Office will begin its summer hours June 3, closing at noon on Fridays.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, May 30, Memorial Day

8:00 a.m., Mass: Virginia Morozowsky, Church
Parish Office Closed

TUESDAY, May 31, The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m., Mass: Pastor's Intention, Church

WEDNESDAY June 1, St. Justin

8:00 a.m., Mass: Donald Thompson, Church

THURSDAY, June 2, Ss. Marcellinus & Peter NO MASS

FRIDAY, June 3, St. Charles Lwanga & Companions

8:00 a.m., Mass: Francis Noll birthday, Church

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

SATURDAY, June 4

2:30 p.m., Wedding, Olivia Moyer & Nicholas Phillips, Church

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: Mike Andrews, birthday, Church

SUNDAY, May 29

8:15 a.m., Mass: Tony West, birthday, Church

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

Readings for Week of May 30

Monday	Acts 19:1-8	Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday	Zep 3:14-18a	Lk 1:39-56
Wednesday	Acts 22:28-38	Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	Jn 17:20-26
Friday	Acts 25:13b-21	Jn 21:15-19
Saturday	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31	Jn 21:20-25
Sunday	Acts 2:1-11	Jn 20:19-23

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

June 4 & 5- Pentecost Sunday

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, June 4 5:15 p.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Nichole Hannahs	Laurie Harmon Margaret Kronenbitter, Scott Peterson
Sunday, June 5 8:15 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Patti Logan	Susan Pratt Jim & Sue Hillis
Sunday, June 5 10:45 a.m.	Jackie Connell	Kenna Hansel	Karen Hardman Tim Hoffer, Jocelyn Connell