

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



July 24, 2022

We find ourselves in strange and challenging times. There are major news stories concerning the war in Ukraine. There are ongoing occurrences of

shootings whether they be on the streets, in a shopping mall or sadly in a school. There are continuous issues concerning our southern border with the flow of illegal drugs, human trafficking and who-knows-who crossing into our country. Our pocketbooks feel the crunch of inflation and the rising costs of food and gas. We have witnessed protests triggered by the Supreme Court ruling that abortion is not a constitutional right. With subsequent overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, there were reports of vandalism and destruction of pregnancy distress clinics and churches. During the confirmation hearing for a new Supreme Court justice, the candidate couldn't answer the question "Can you define the word 'woman'?" During another set of hearings there was a professor from California who couldn't say that only women can get pregnant. I don't know about you but I find all of this disturbing, and disconcerting. I find myself agreeing with Pope Francis commenting on our Catholic President's stance on abortion as "incoherent". Our world is overwhelmed with serious problems. The results can be expressed in one word: chaos. I have a basic rule of thumb; When it comes to chaos, we know evil is hiding behind it. Evil loves chaos. Chaos is the smoke screen that hides the fire. Evil thrives in chaos!

So, what are we to do? We are worried about so many things happening in our world that are overwhelming. Yet the words of Jesus from last Sunday's gospel come to mind... "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and upset with many things. Mary has chosen the better portion and she will not be deprived of it.*" All of the overwhelming news over the past couple weeks grab our attention, tend to make us anxious and downcast. The negative news has the ability to dictate our mood and thoughts; causing discouragement and anxiety. It is difficult to go against the tide with a positive outlook. "*Martha, Martha.*"

Returning to Jesus' comment to Martha about Mary having "chosen *the better part and she will not be deprived of it*" we can find an answer. There is one thing that we tend to forget and we need to revisit what Mary has chosen. Mary reminds us that we must place ourselves at the feet of Jesus and give him our full attention. This can be understood as a time for prayer and reflection letting Jesus speak to our hearts. There is urgency for personal and communal prayer at this time because we have to face and live in these times that are particularly troubling and sinful. All of the negative events that have occurred come from an evil place. The simple reason for all of these anxious and upsetting events has a sinful origin. It seems like a simplistic answer but in reality, it is the true source for all manifestations of the evil. Thus, we cannot get caught up in the chaos. We must gather like Mary at the feet of Jesus Christ, The Incarnate Word.

One solution, and I believe the only true solution to the problems face in this world is to be found in the Church. The One Thing that is necessary is a person: Jesus Christ. It is no surprise to consider as we live in such troubled times where the Church is continually being pushed to the sidelines and declared irrelevant. The Church is often declared as archaic and irrelevant in our enlightened and modern society. This is

especially noted in the cases when the Church offers insights and teachings on the life issues; life, human sexuality, marriage and family. There is intolerance for people of faith who hold true to the teachings of the Church. They are judged as ignorant, hateful and offering nothing intelligible to modern society. In fact, the great argument from the enlightened society comes in the form of name-calling and incoherent shouting. In reality the only defense that evil and sin has is to go on the offense in the form of force and the use of fear.

Back to the point, the key to unlock and disarm the forces of immorality, evil and sin is the person Jesus Christ. He is the one who brings order to our chaotic and disordered life. He is the one from whom we must learn. The only way we may learn is by spending time and listening to him. In other words, we must sit at his feet with all of our attention. In reality we are like Martha, we love the Lord but we get anxious and distracted by all the business of our daily living. We can't sit still. We find it difficult to spend the necessary time to be attentive to the Lord. When we do try to try, our minds wander all over the place. We find it very difficult to do what Mary has done. We may admire Mary but we may also get frustrated and disturbed by her. Why aren't anxious like me? You need to get up and help me.

We know that we need to stop being so busy and give our attention to the Lord. This just makes sense. It is so simple. However, some of the simplest things we need to do are sometimes the most difficult to do. We know that we need to pray. It is a good and simple thing that we know is important for us. However, we find it very difficult to give a few minutes a day to God in prayer. Granted, there are some who find it relatively easy to enter into prayer on a daily basis, but those individuals have been practicing a prayer life over a long time. Just the same, even for those who have a developed a prayer life, they all started in the same way: a difficult start with quietly settling down to pray.

One of the misunderstandings we have about our prayer life, in fact our spiritual life, is the idea that we can do this by our efforts alone. Sure, there is an effort that we need to put forth. Part of that effort is a sacrifice: a sacrifice of our time and attention. However, there is another part to this activity: the grace of God. We offer our praise, thanksgiving, contrition and intercession in prayer. These are inspired by the grace of God first. After we do this, we let God go to work in our heart, mind and soul. Looking at Mary, she was grateful for the Lord to be in her home. She sat and listened. The Word she received went to work in her heart, mind and soul. This is the great work of prayer: the Word of God, Jesus, working in our lives. We just have to freely give the Lord the chance to speak to us. We have to trust the power of his Word to transform our lives.

We need to dedicate a time for the Lord: daily. We will get discouraged by all the distractions, but we have to persevere. We may feel like a failure because we don't seem to be making progress. But, if we persevere, we are making progress, even if we do not see it. The prayer/spiritual life is almost impossible to measure because we use human standards of measurements. This is something of the Divine which cannot be measured by human standards. However, it is good to notice that if we do not dedicate a time every day, we will find that we will spend less time and then give up on our prayer life altogether. We will rarely give a thought of God. Now that can be measured: from prayer time to no prayer time.

Our salvation and prayer life are important. It is so important that God gave us a day to dedicate to him: the Sabbath or in our case Sunday. It is then that God works on us. We need this. If we do not give God this time to work on us, the secular work week will more than be pleased to occupy our heart, mind and soul. Then when it comes to prayer, we will find that we are anxious and distracted. We will be tempted to give prayer up altogether.

This is the *one thing that is most important*. We must hold on to it; welcome it, cherish it, and allow it to shape and strengthen us in these most difficult times.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

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

Next weekend, July 30 & 31, St. Vincent de Paul will be "Holding the Hat" during all Masses as a 2nd collection.

We pray for those who have died recently:
Harvey Cricks

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - CATHLETICS Training to Be Champions For Christ Monday, July 25th through Friday, July 29th. 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. each night. Registration forms can be found near the entrances of the Church, on the parish website and in the parish office. Questions? Please call the parish office at (740) 453-0597 ext.14 or e-mail: pboggs@stnickparish.org.

PRE JORDAN-CLASS will be held Wednesday, August 3rd. 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 are asked pre-register for this class by calling (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.



The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women aged 16 and up are welcome to join us.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.**

Men of the East - Traveling Holy Hour

St. Leonard Catholic Church, 57 Dorsey Mill Rd E, Heath, will host the Men of the East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church. All Men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once-monthly Holy Hours. Men of the East exists to support, strengthen, and help maximize the spiritual growth of men of the Catholic Church. It is part of the larger Catholic Men's Laity Ministry movement in the Columbus Ohio Diocese.



Seasonal cards are sent throughout the year to all Catholics living in area nursing homes and to homebound parishioners. Birthday cards are sent to all senior parishioners. This year we need cards for birthdays, Easter (with a religious message), summer and fall, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Volunteers will add appropriate greetings to blank cards. A basket has been placed in the church vestibule for your donations. Monetary donations may be placed in an envelope identified for Lenten Greeting Card Project and placed in the collection basket. Thank you for helping to keep those who cannot join us at Mass feel connected to our parish community. If a member of your family is homebound and you have not notified the parish office, please do so as soon as possible.



BISHOP ROSECRANS
HIGH SCHOOL



Bishop Fenwick
School

The Catholic Schools of Zanesville

Bishop Fenwick and Bishop Rosecrans Teachers needed: High School Part-time Math Teacher, High School Full-time Intervention Specialist, Middle School Math Teacher, Middle School Religion Teacher, Middle School Science Teacher, Technology Teacher (full-time) and K-4 Reading Teacher (full-time). Requirements for all teaching positions: Hold an appropriate Ohio teaching license (Professional, Permanent, or Resident Educator) or be eligible to obtain one before beginning to teach. Current satisfactory BCI & FBI background checks. Have attended or be willing to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training Excellent verbal and written communication skills Candidate must complete an online teaching application with the Diocese of Columbus. Interested parties should send their letter of interest and résumé to Executive Director of the Catholic Schools of Zanesville, Kelly Sagan, at ksagan@cducation.org

"Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. "To visit the Blessed Sacrament is . . . a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord" (Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1418(Paul VI, MF 66).)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, August 5th. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 3:00 p.m. All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration and volunteers are needed as Christ exposed in the Monstrance must never be left alone. While drop-ins are welcome and encouraged, 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 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

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Church Support		
Sunday, July 17, 2022		
OFFERTORY		\$7,943.00
EFT		\$4,787.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY		\$12,730.00

May God Bless for supporting you parish!

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.



What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, July 25, St. James

8:00 a.m., Mass: *The Davis Family*, Church
 10:00 a.m., Rosary, Parish office chapel
 6:00 p.m., VBS- parish activity center

TUESDAY, July 26, Ss. Joachim and Anne

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Jane Pfeifer, birthday*, Church
 6:00 p.m., VBS- parish activity center

WEDNESDAY, July 27

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Patrick Tanner*, Church
 6:00 p.m., VBS- parish activity center

THURSDAY, July 28

No Mass today
 6:00 p.m., VBS- parish activity center

FRIDAY, July 29, St. Martha

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Mary Hupp, birthday*, Church
 6:00 p.m., VBS- parish activity center

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY, July 30

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
 5:15 p.m., Mass: *Emily Swierz*, Church

SUNDAY, July 31

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Mary Dozer*, Church
 10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners*, Church

Readings for Week of July 25

Monday	2 Cor 4:7-15	Mt 20:20-28
Tuesday	Jer 14:17-22	Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday	Jer 15:10, 16-21	Mt 13:44-46
Thursday	Jer 18:1-6	Mt 13:47-53
Friday	Jer 26:1-9	Jn 11:19-27
Saturday	Jer 26:11-16, 24	Mt 14:1-12
Sunday	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23	Lk 12:13-21

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

July 30-31, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, July 30 5:15 p.m.	Laura DeCoy	Nichole Hannahs	Dan Snider Charlotte Snider, Karen Robinson
Sunday, July 31 8:15 a.m.	Sandy Black	Bill Sullivan	Peggy Hill Phil Kocoloski, Dan Sylvester
Sunday, July 31 10:45 a.m.	Jackie Connell	Bernie Budde	Claire Tiberio Gerald Tiberio, Jocelyn Connell