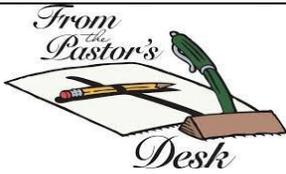


# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



November 20, 2022

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and begin the last week of the Liturgical Year. Next Sunday we begin a new Liturgical Year with the celebration

of the First Sunday of Advent. This is the yearly rhythm that tells the story of our salvation in and through Jesus Christ. With this celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, our intent is to renew our allegiance and devotion to Christ our King, Lord, and Savior. Jesus Christ is the one who claims our first allegiance. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God where *Christ's peace reigns* in our hearts now and in its fullness at the coming of His Kingdom at the end of time.

This Thursday we also observe **Thanksgiving Day**. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. At our Thanksgiving mass we will be taking up a *food collection for Eastside Ministries*. This is something that we have faithfully practiced over the years. It is particularly noted that our parish is generous in helping the poor in our area and in our support of local agencies who handle the distribution of goods and services. Baskets will be available in church for your food donations.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day we are reminded once again of our need to live with the spirit of gratitude. Our gratitude is primarily rooted in our belief that Jesus Christ is in our midst. The most important fact of his presence is the promise of our salvation. This is the cause of our joyful hearts. Joyful hearts are thankful hearts. This expression of our thankfulness is what we do every day in the Church as we celebrate the Eucharist. The word "*Eucharist*" means "*Thanksgiving*." The Eucharist is Christ's abiding presence in our midst. He is ever-present in the Word and Sacrament. Thus, this is the first and most important expression we can offer to God in prayer: our thanksgiving. Thanksgiving flows from the heart that trusts in the abiding presence of God: in good times and when it is most difficult in bad times.

We are thankful for so many blessings in our lives and in our country. We are indeed blessed in so many ways. Just the same, as people of faith, we need to press deeper into thankfulness in a more personal way. For example... we are thankful for the gift of our life; the love and mercy of God that sustains us every day; and all the events and people that have brought us to this day. We are particularly thankful for those who have inspired us in our Catholic Christian faith. It is also important for us to be thankful for all those challenging events that have made us better persons. Those challenging times are truly moments of grace which, if we are open to the work of grace, have brought us to a deeper and more substantial faith. There are so many events and people who have influenced us, challenged us, and helped us grow in so many ways: emotionally, physically, spiritually, and so forth. Reflections in this manner involve an added investment of our time in quiet reflection and thankful prayer.

Then there is our national celebration of Thanksgiving Day when as a nation we raise our minds and hearts to God who has blessed us in so many ways in this great country. In the spirit of Thanksgiving please consider joining us for morning mass. It is a wonderful way to start the day expressing our *Thanksgiving* to God for the many blessings we enjoy as a nation.

Just over a week ago, November 10, we observed the feast day of Pope St. Leo the Great. St. Leo reigned as Pope between

440 – 461. During his papacy he confirmed the doctrine of the Incarnation which was reaffirmed at the Council of Chalcedon as a Dogmatic expression of our Catholic Faith concerning the Person of Jesus Christ. More to the point, in mentioning this doctrine affirmed by St. Leo, the Church offers us a quote from his reflections.

*"Thus, it is that God by loving us, restores us to His image, and, in order that He may find in us the form of His goodness, He gives us that whereby we ourselves too may do the work that He does, kindling that is the lamps of our minds, and inflaming us with the fire of His love, that we may love not only Himself, but also whatever He loves."*

As we know human life is damaged and distorted by original sin. This prevents us from seeing the *image and likeness* of God within ourselves and in others. We are reminded of this when we sing those words from the song "Amazing Grace" that our eyes are "*made blind by sin*." The unfortunate reality of our lives is that we have become accustomed to this blindness caused by sin. We consider this damaged state as normal. But it was not so "In the beginning."

Through Jesus Christ, by virtue of our baptism, the image of God has been restored. We are no longer in the condition in which it would be *impossible* to recognize the image of God. Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to recognize the image of God in ourselves and most especially in others.

There is a way in which this is played out in an everyday experience that I think we have all had. Occasionally, we encounter someone or know someone who always sees the good in others. This person always seems to have a positive outlook on life. They perceive good everywhere. It is as if they are so aware of goodness in their own life that they can perceive goodness in others. They also see the good in every situation and event.

Then there is the flip side where there are individuals who always seem to perceive negative things. They see the worst in others. They see the faults and sins of others. They only see the downside in every situation and event. More times than not, they are totally unaware of any goodness in themselves, much less in others as well.

This is not a hard and fast theory. It just seems that it is a general tendency. It just makes sense that we see things in the manner that we are most familiar with. A gracious heart sees good and a heart devoid of grace sees wickedness.

So how do we try to cultivate a good (gracious) heart. It starts with grace. It happens when we consciously place ourselves in the presence of God. Grace always flows forth from God. Grace becomes operative when we request and are open to God's grace. We must desire grace, which is nothing less than the love of God. This is the point that was made by St. Leo: knowing the love of God for us in Christ we can love what God loves. We can do good and are able to see the goodness of God in others. This is a true joy and an occasion for thanksgiving.

This sounds easy, but it is not always an easy request. It takes a conscious decision to place oneself in the presence of God as we request His grace. One simple way which is not always easy, is to gather with the worshiping community of faith. For the Catholic, this happens when we gather for Sunday mass. This sounds simple but it is not easy for so many. Nevertheless, we need to be reminded that this is the greatest prayer of the Church. It is our prayer of thanksgiving (the Eucharistic Celebration). The Sacrifice of the Mass makes us

aware that we are loved by God and have received the promise of salvation in Christ. For this we are thankful. The mass is the greatest source of God's Grace because this is where we encounter Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament.

The image and likeness of God in which we are created has been damaged. We are restored in God's image and likeness in and through Jesus Christ: First in Baptism then sustained in the sacraments of the Church. We have the means to live in the image and likeness of God through the Church and Her Sacraments. The Eucharist is the greatest source of nourishment and growth to be more like Christ; to be filled with joy, and to have grateful hearts.

The key point; our ability to see the good in our lives and the lives of others is grace. We do this in and through Jesus Christ. We are greatly blessed. The love of God is ever-present to us and active in our lives. This is the cause for our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. It is how we are able to see the same in others, especially those for whom we may find it difficult to have a positive regard. This ability can only happen by the grace of God and a sincere desire to cooperate with His Grace.

Have a great week and a joyful Thanksgiving Day.

Father Ralko



We will be collecting food for Eastside Ministries. Baskets will be in the back of the church for your donations.

**Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration:** All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, December 2nd**. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin immediately after 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m. If you can commit to an offering an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adoration, please contact the parish office at (740) 453-0597, ext. 14 or [pboggs@stnickparish.org](mailto:pboggs@stnickparish.org)

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

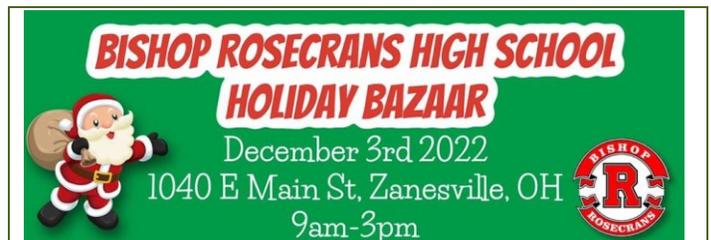


Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Budde who celebrated their **60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on November 10!

**BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS:**



Booster Mania tickets are available for the upcoming year. \$25.00 each or three tickets for \$60.00, drawings for tickets are for every day for this next year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.



We will have vendors with arts and crafts, jewelry, baked goods, and so much more – something for everyone on your Christmas List. We will also have a full concession stand with homemade soups and sandwiches. For more information, contact us at [holidaybazaarbrhs@gmail.com](mailto:holidaybazaarbrhs@gmail.com).



**THE GIVING TREE**

Every Advent we place a Giving Tree in the Church vestibule. It contains paper ornaments with gift items to be purchased for needy families. This year we will be giving the gifts to the Muskingum Valley Clinic for children, Heartbeats, Transitions, and our own homebound St. Nicholas Parishioners. Please pick an ornament, buy the requested item, wrap and securely fasten the ornament tag to the package. **All packages must be returned to the church by December 18<sup>th</sup>**. You are always so generous, and we thank you for helping others this holiday.



St. Nicholas Day Dinner! Please join us for dinner on **Saturday, December 3** following the 5:15 p.m. Mass as we celebrate our Patron Saint Nicholas featuring traditional German foods. All are invited!

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Bishop Fenwick Elementary is hiring a Full-time Middle School English Language Arts Teacher. If you or someone you know might be interested please contact Kelly Sagan at [ksagan@cducation.org](mailto:ksagan@cducation.org)

**MESSIAH CONCERT** - Handel's oratorio "Messiah" will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6:00 PM at Central Trinity United Methodist Church, 62 South Seventh Street. It will last approximately two and a half hours. A free-will-offering will be taken up. Friends and neighbors of many religions will be participating in the chorus and orchestra. You are invited to this beautiful ecumenical concert.

**JOB OPENING**—There is a job opening at St Thomas Aquinas Parish for a Housekeeper beginning January 2023. Duties will include housekeeping responsibilities in the rectory, altar linens for the church and other light duties in the parish office, church and Activity Center. The position is hourly and will ideally be structured for 7 hours per day for 4 days per week, but this schedule can be adjusted to meet the needs of an applicant. If you are interested in the position, please either submit a résumé to Michael Morris at [mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org) or call the Parish Office at 740-453-3301, ext. 121.

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## Church Support

Sunday, November 20, 2022

OFFERTORY-	\$8,178.00
EFT	\$0.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$8,178.00

**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](http://stnickparish.org).

The **Bishop Strong Fund** provides unrestricted funding for the Catholic Schools of Zanesville that will be used for the current years' operating needs. All Bishop Strong Fund donations stay in Zanesville, are tax deductible and directly benefit our current students. If you would like to support the students of Bishop Rosecrans and Bishop Fenwick mail a check to Bishop Strong Fund, 1040 E. Main St., Zanesville, OH 43701. Click on the donate button at [catholicschoolsofzanesville.org](http://catholicschoolsofzanesville.org) and or text BISHOPS to 366283. EVERY gift counts!

*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 needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

## What's Happening in Our Parish

### MONDAY, November 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Steven Baum**, Church  
10:00 a.m., Rosary, Parish Office Chapel

### TUESDAY, November 22, St. Cecilia

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Charles & Agnes Jalbrzikowski**, Church  
10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Parish Office

### WEDNESDAY, November 23, St. Clement I, Pope

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Thomas Trott**, birthday, Church  
7:00 p.m., RCIA, Parish Office

### THURSDAY, November 24, St. Andrew Dũng-Lac

Office is closed today  
8:00 a.m., Thanksgiving Mass: **Pastor's Intention**, Church

### FRIDAY, November 25, St. Catherine of Alexandria

Office is closed today  
8:00 a.m., Mass: **Jerry Davis**, birthday, Church

## 1ST SUNDAY ADVENT

### SATURDAY, November 26

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: **Joe & Marilyn Swackhammer**, anniversary, Church

### SUNDAY, November 27

8:15 a.m., Mass: **Cletus Schoeppner**, Church  
10:45 a.m., Mass: **St. Nicholas Parishioners**, Church

## Readings for Week of November 21

Monday	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5	Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday	Rv 14:14-19	Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday	Rv 15:1-4	Lk 21:12-19
Thursday	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a	Lk 21:20-28
Friday	Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2	Lk 21:29-33
Saturday	Rv 22:1-7	Lk 21:34-36
Sunday	Is 2:1-5	Mt 24:37-44

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

November 24, 26 & 27, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
<b>Thursday, November 24</b> 8:00 a.m.	Janet Moses	Keena Hansel	Tim Hoffer
<b>Saturday, November 26</b> 5:15 p.m.	Kevin McCarthy	Mike LaPlante	Dan Snider Charlotte Snider, Scott Peterson
<b>Sunday, November 27</b> 8:15 a.m.	Sr. Bernadette	Rocky Rowe	Phil Kocoloski Joan Kocoloski, Susan Pratt
<b>Sunday, November 27</b> 10:45 a.m.	Laura DeCoy	Othello Repuyan	Diana Dunn Tim Hoffer, Claire Tiberio