

March 24, 2019
Third Sunday of Lent

<u>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</u>				<u>Weekday Readings</u>
Mon	Mar 25		No Scheduled Mass	Is 7: 10-14, 8:10/Heb 10: 4-10/ Lk 1: 26-38
Tue	Mar 26	(SN)	8:00am Rita J. Singler/Exposition Closing 4pm	Dn 3: 25, 34-43/Mt 18: 21-35
Wed	Mar 27	(HF)	8:00am Tom Deitering and Liv & Dec'd Deitering- Kaple Families/Exposition Closing 8pm	Dt 4: 1, 5-9/Mt 5: 17-19
Thu	Mar 28	(HF)	6:30pm Laurene Halm	Jer 7: 23-28/Lk 11: 14-23
Fri	Mar 29	(SN)	8:00am Kathy Homan	Hos 14: 2-10/Mk 12: 28-34
Fri	Mar 29	(HF)	7:00pm Stations of the Cross	
Sat	Mar 30	(SN)	4:00pm Othmar and Dorothey Michel and Andrea Haselman/ Deacon Kenny Klear/Henry, Kate, Ed, and Marie Drummelsmith/Urban Lammers	
Sat	Mar 30	(HF)	7:00pm For the Parish	<u>Sunday Readings</u>
Sun	Mar 31	(HF)	8:30am Liv & Dec'd Halker-Zeller Families	Jos 5: 9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5: 17-21/ Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32
Sun	Mar 31	(SN)	10:30am For the Parish	

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The words of Sacred Scripture emanating from the gospel acclamation for the Third Sunday of Lent should be most sobering to many ears that hear it this weekend: *“Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*. I suspect that some people hearing that command simply write it off as a threat or better yet as a scare tactic. There may be some that would conclude repenting is important, but that they have plenty of time to align themselves for the glory of eternity. But I ask you, is there ever really enough time in this life to do anything especially when the stakes are high in the after-life awaiting us?

Our Lord's call to repentance was not simply a means to see if anyone would respond. It was truly something that implied immediacy. Now is the time to repent. Now is the time to reconcile. Now is the time to heal the hurt. I cannot help but to go back in memory to the early comments of Pope Francis in the first days of his pontificate when speaking of the confessional in a church as a field hospital for the wounded. That image is so descriptive of the number of penitents I have encountered in the confessional the past three decades. The anguish, the hurt, the guilt many people feel in our times is deep and is often accompanied by the feeling that because one has been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all is lost. I have heard some claim that their sins and the multiplication of those sins have buried them so low in the abyss of darkness that God could never forgive them. This is simply not true.

If we believe that Jesus Christ came to save us and show us the way to himself, why do we keep thinking that any sin we commit could never be forgiven? This is the overtime work of the Evil One who wants us to be duped into thinking there is no way we could ever be saved. Remember, Satan is the one taunting Jesus on the cross with the two thieves hanging next to him. We'll hear the first thief's banter on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord in the gospel account of St. Luke, as we will also hear the promise of Jesus to the second thief who acknowledges his sin, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Those words are meant for each of us and any sinner who comes to Jesus. Being in paradise with Jesus

should be the motivation for all of us in this mortal life.

It is never too late for reconciliation. Now is the time. As we did last year, two full days have been set aside as "Days of Grace" for Holy Family and St. Nicholas parishes. In addition to the expanded times during Lent on Thursdays and Saturdays, confessions will be heard during the St. Nicholas Day of Grace on Tuesday, April 2. Between the hours of 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM, and again between 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, I will be available in the "field hospital" to assist those needing God's grace to be healed and reconciled. I will do the same Day of Grace at Holy Family Church on Wednesday, April 10 between the hours of 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, and again between the hours of 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This late afternoon-early evening segment coincides with the diocesan-wide effort, called *The Light Is On*. The idea is that any church in the Catholic Diocese of Toledo will have a priest available to hear confessions during those hours.

I think all of this is simply a matter of taking the message of the gospel acclamation to heart: *“Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* God bless your Lenten journey.

Monsignor Singler

WEEKLY OFFERINGS
March 16 & 17, 2019

St. Nicholas:	Holy Family:
Regular: \$3,915.26	Regular: \$3,478.00
Fuel: 210.00	
Total: \$4,125.26	Total: \$3,478.00

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Thursday, March 28 (HF) 5:00 - 6:15pm
Saturday, March 30 (SN) 2:00 - 3:30pm

FORGIVEN

Monsignor Singler will be leading the second of a two-part video series and conversation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Thursday, March 28 in the Holy Family Parish Hall immediately following the scheduled 6:30 PM Mass (7:15PM). The same session content will be repeated at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall this Friday, March 29 at 9:00 AM. Sessions will last 90 minutes.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION/YOUTH GROUP

Junior High Christian Formation students will meet this Wednesday, March 27. Eighth graders will meet from 6-8 at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall.

Freshmen Christian Formation students meet today, Sunday, March 24 at Holy Family Parish Hall.

Sophomore Christian Formation students meet today, Sunday, March 24 at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall.

Junior Christian Formation students meet Sunday, April 7 at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall.

Senior Christian Formation students meet Sunday, April 7 at Holy Family Parish Hall.

I Am Catholic meets today, Sunday, March 24 from 6-7pm at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall, followed by Adoration.

Youth Group members: please contact Abby Niese to obtain registration material for this year's famine, "Walk With the Poor." Registration forms must be returned to Deb Wehri asap. There is a limit of thirty participants. The youth group's goal this year for Unbound is \$9,500. Youth Group members should also contact Abby Niese to sign up to help with the Spaghetti Dinner on April 8. Youth Group will meet next, on April 7, beginning at 6:00PM with the Stations of the Cross in St. Nicholas Church.

Parents of Freshmen: Please watch your mail box this week for a letter with an enclosed postcard regarding the upcoming Parent/Freshmen Trivia Challenge which will be held on Sunday, April 14 at Holy Family Parish Hall. If you do not receive your letter this week, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Designated boxes have been placed in the back of our parish churches to accept your expressions of gratitude to Sue Wenzinger for her 24 years of service to Holy Family and St. Nicholas Parishes as parish secretary. Please join us in this effort to thank her.

St. Nicholas Parishioner Duane Kuhlman writes: "Thank you, Monsignor and parishioners, for all of the prayers, cards, and visits during my recent surgery at The James and my recovery at St. Rita's. I am so very grateful for the love and the outpouring of kindness that comes from our community."

The family of Fr. Bob DeSloover writes: "Thank you to St. Nicholas and Holy Family parishioners who were there when the family of Fr. Bob DeSloover needed them. So many of the DeSloover family were impressed with the kindness and reverence you showed us during the viewing on Tuesday and the beautiful Mass on Wednesday. The luncheon at the hall was fantastic and the desserts over-the-top! We are truly grateful."

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Married Couples: You have a special opportunity to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend at St. Nicholas parish this coming Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31, 2019. It is an in-parish weekend, so rather than staying at a hotel, the presentations will be held at the parish and couples will return to their own homes to sleep Saturday night. Please register by this Monday, March 25. For information or to register for a weekend, go to www.wwme.org or contact Brian & Chris Schroeder at 419-538-7210 or bschroeder@bright.net.

HOLY FAMILY ALTAR ROSARY ANNUAL WOMEN OF ALL AGES BREAKFAST will be held Sunday, April 7 at Holy Family Parish Hall after the 8:30am Lord's Day Mass. Sign-up sheets are in the back of Holy Family Church.

DOLL HOUSE: St. Nicholas Altar Rosary Society members are selling raffle tickets for a doll house made by SN parishioner Larry Niese. Tickets are \$5.00 each and \$10.00 for 3 tickets. Proceeds for this fundraiser will be used to purchase new Mass vestments for St. Nicholas Parish. You may purchase tickets from any Altar Rosary officer, at Mack & Rita's, the Pit Stop or at the Parish Office. The drawing for the doll house will be at the St. Nicholas Altar Rosary Ladies of All Ages Dinner on Sunday, April 28, 2019. The drawing for the red barn took place at the St. Nicholas Altar Rosary Men of All Ages Meal. Congratulations to Msgr. Singler who purchased the winning ticket for the red barn.

ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY CLEANUP: All fall and winter flowers and wreaths must be removed from St. Nicholas Cemetery by Friday, April 19. Any winter decorations left in the cemetery after April 19 will be discarded.

REMINDER: THE CUB SCOUT PACK 207 CHICKEN BBQ AND BAKE SALE IS TODAY. Cub Scout Pack 207 will be having a Chicken BBQ and bake sale at the St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall today, Sunday, March 24 from 11am – 1pm. Dinner includes: ½ chicken, green beans, applesauce, roll. Cost is \$8. Leg Quarter meals are \$6.50. **A limited number of meals will be available for walk-ins.** 50/50 tickets will also be available

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: There is a Catholic Relief Services envelope for March 31 in your contribution envelope box. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to the hungry, displaced refugees, and all people here and abroad. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

OTTAWA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY will be held this Friday, March 29 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Ottawa. Meals will be served 4:30PM – 7:00PM.

BLOOD DRIVE: Miller City-New Cleveland National Honor Society's Annual Blood Drive is this Thursday, March 28 from noon until 6:00pm at the St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall. You may register online or call Deb Wehri at 419-876-3481 to request an appointment.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

COMPLIMENTS OF MACK & RITA'S: Beer, liquor, steaks and sandwiches available. Miller City. Jackie Verhoff, owner. PH: 419-876-3571