

March 31, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent

<u>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</u>					<u>Weekday Readings</u>
Mon	Apr 1			No Scheduled Mass	Is 65: 17-21/Jn 4: 43-54
Tue	Apr 2	(SN)	8:00am	No Mass Intention/Exposition Closing 4pm	Ez 47: 1-9, 12/Jn 5: 1-16
Wed	Apr 3	(HF)	8:00am	Marilyn Frederick/Exposition Closing 8pm	Is 49: 8-15/Jn 5: 17-30
Thu	Apr 4	(HF)	6:30pm	Marilyn Inkrott	Ex 32: 7-14/Jn 5: 31-47
Fri	Apr 5	(SN)	8:00am	Deacon Kenny Klear	Wis 2: 1a, 12-22/
Fri	Apr 5	(SN)	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross	Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat	Apr 6	(SN)	4:00pm	Don and Mary Noirot, Steve Noirot/ Victor and Cecilia Schroeder/ Liv & Dec'd Kuhlman-Inkrott Families	
Sat	Apr 6	(HF)	7:00pm	Linus and Arlene Rosengarten/Kathy Sager/ Robert, Elmer and Roy Tobe	
Sun	Apr 7	(HF)	8:30am	For the Parish	<u>Sunday Readings</u>
Sun	Apr 7	(SN)	10:30am	For the Parish	Is 43: 16-21/Phil 3: 8-14/
Sun	Apr 7	(SN)	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross	Jn 8: 1-11

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, known to Catholic Christians as “Laetare Sunday”, signals the approaching high point of the journey we have trod these forty days. Traditionally, this day is marked by the use of rose-colored vestments and altar paraments as a way of recalling the expectant joy awaiting us in the paschal mystery soon to be commemorated during Holy Week or as our Christian ancestors called it “Great Week”.

It could be said that the cause for our rejoicing on this fourth Sunday of Lent also has a connection with the joy revealed in our hearing of the gospel narrative assigned to this Lord’s Day. The story of the prodigal son is a love story that captures human behavior gone astray and finds its way home.

I am always drawn, however, not to the son who squanders his father’s inheritance, but to the faithful brother who learns that his estranged sibling returns and is welcomed with a fine robe, a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet and a feast of a fattened calf. This brother is infuriated that his father has never once offered the same to him. He is the one who states the fact “Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends”. We might think this brother received the “bum rap” for his faithfulness, but there is perhaps a more meaningful lesson in this closing scene of the narrative than the lesson learned by the brother who squandered the inheritance given to him.

Jealousy is the work of the Evil One. It is a cancer that erodes trust and finds its way into the soul in small increments. What we are taught in this last scene, I believe, is the pinnacle of the whole narrative and it is expressed in the words of the welcoming father: “My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours”. This statement transcends material wealth, possessions and inheritance. It rises above robe, ring and sandal. It is an expression of belonging; that we belong and are counted among God’s chosen people. Everything we possess in faith, in spiritual matters, is common to us all. It should be our united cause and effort to welcome our lost members home to the community of faith. It should be our common cause and effort to pray for the wandering from our family in faith.

Regardless of where we ourselves may wander in life, perhaps like the son who squandered material wealth only to be brought back to the embrace of a father’s love, or like the jealous son who likewise learned the lesson of what it means to belong to a family where love abounds, God’s desire to embrace us, his children, is constantly offered. That, too, is the wisdom of the psalmist today who charges us to “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord”.

Monsignor Singler

WEEKLY OFFERINGS			
March 23 & 24, 2019			
St. Nicholas:		Holy Family:	
Regular:	\$3,443.01	Regular:	\$2,669.00
Fuel:	40.00	Fuel:	50.00
Easter Flowers:	10.00		
Total:	\$3,493.01	Total:	\$2,719.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes.</i>			

CONFESSION SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Day of Grace, Tuesday, April 2 (SN) 9-11:30am 1:30-3:30pm
 Thursday, April 4 (HF) 5:00 - 6:15pm
 Saturday, April 6 (SN) 2:00 - 3:30pm

MAY-JUNE LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

will be prepared soon. Please contact the Parish Office by April 10 with any dates you are not available for the May-June schedule. If you have been inadvertently left off past ministry schedules please mention that in your email or phone call when you contact the Parish Office. Email: snhf@fairpoint.net
 Phone: 419-876-3481

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH CHOIR will be practicing for Holy Week liturgies every Monday now through April 15 at 7:00pm in the church choir loft.

HOLY FAMILY ALTAR ROSARY ANNUAL WOMEN OF ALL AGES BREAKFAST

will be held next 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. Please sign-up by tomorrow, Monday, April 1.

**DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE
AS OF MARCH 25, 2019**

St. Nicholas
Parish Goal: \$11,000
Total Paid: \$9,370

85.18%

OF PARISH GOAL MET

Holy Family
Parish Goal: \$11,000
Total Paid: \$8,625

78.41%

OF PARISH GOAL MET

MONIES COLLECTED OVER THE PARISH GOAL ARE REFUNDED TO OUR PARISHES

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL: We would like to thank all our Parishioners who joined together in pledging their gift to the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not made your commitment, pledge envelopes and pencils are available in the pews. Once completed, kindly place your pledge card in the offertory. Every gift is very important. Thank you for your generosity. For more information on the impact of your support for the appeal, visit Toledodiocese.org/ACA.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION/YOUTH GROUP

Junior High Christian Formation students will meet this Wednesday, April 3. Eighth graders will meet from 6-8 at St. Nicholas Parish Center Hall.

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

Senior Christian Formation students meet next Sunday, April 7 at Holy Family Religious Education Center.

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 Sunday, April 7, beginning at 6:00PM with the Stations of the Cross in St. Nicholas Church.

Parents of Freshmen are reminded to drop their postcard in the mail or call Marty Schroeder or the Parish Office to confirm that you received your letter regarding the 22nd Annual Parent/Freshmen Trivia Challenge to be held Sunday, April 14 at Holy Family Parish Hall. If you did not receive your letter this past week, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection. This collection helps Christians in the Holy Land. Please be generous. For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday

CATHOLIC LADIES OF COLUMBIA #215 will be gathering at Touches in Glandorf on Saturday, April 6 to celebrate the perfect attendance of Darlene Miller for 2018. All are welcome to come and enjoy lunch at 11:00 am. If you are a member of Council 215 who is celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary this year, please call Pat at 419-235-1991 to inform her of this milestone so you can be honored at the potluck in May. We will be joining Ottawa Council on April 16 for the annual spring fling. Call Pat for details or to RSVP. Springfield Council is having a retreat on April 29, call Pat for details if interested in going. **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL \$5.00 DUES?** Call Jane 419-523-3350 to check on your balance due.

RAFFLE: 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 Ladies of All Ages Dinner on Sunday, April 28.

BAPTISMAL CLASS: All first-time parents, and parents expecting their first child from St. Nicholas and Holy Family are required (per diocesan policy) to attend baptismal instructions. The next class will be held on Sunday morning, April 28 from 9:30am to 11:15am in the Holy Family Religious Education Center. These classes are held twice a year. The next one will be scheduled in October 2019. Please call the Parish Office (419-876-3481) or Marty Schroeder (419-943-3767) to register, ask questions or for more details and information.

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.

PUTNAM COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE will be meeting this Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30 PM in St. Michael's Parish Center, Kalida. All are welcome. Thank you to all who supported Right to Life by donating, helping and buying items at our annual garage sale held last week.

FIRST FRIDAY LATIN MASS: Latin Mass will be celebrated this Friday, April 5 at 7:00 PM at Domus Angelorum Retreat House, located at 21706 State Route 114, Cloverdale. All are welcome.

THE DOMUS ANGELORUM RETREAT HOUSE, Cloverdale, will be conducting a retreat on the topic "The Mystical Body" on Saturday, April 13. The day begins with Mass at 8:30 am with registration and Adoration following Mass. The day will conclude with Confession and Benediction at 3:00 pm. Retreat leader will be Father Herman Scherger. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. All are welcome.

SUNDAY TELEVISED MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND: WTOL Ch. 11 at 5:00 am, WNWO Ch. 24 at 6:30 am & WTVG Ch. 13.2 at 8:30 am. or anytime on Sundays at www.HeartoftheNation.org. Please share this information with anyone you know who cannot get out to church. (For those who can get out to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.)

SPRING BAZAAR & BAKE SALE at the Ottawa Senior Citizens Center from 10am-2pm this Wednesday, April 3 and this Thursday, April 4. Lunch on both days will be from 11am-1pm for dine in or take out. Call 419-523-5593 for take out orders.

OTTAWA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY will be held this Friday, April 5 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Ottawa. Meals will be served 4:30PM - 7:00PM.

THE ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY CAP AUCTION will be held on Saturday, April 13 at the Leipsic Fogle Center. Doors will open at 5:00PM. Auction starts at 6:00PM. BBQ chicken dinners available for purchase. No tickets necessary. Please come for a fun night and support a great cause!

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:
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