

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

As we come to the end of Easter Week we have thankful hearts for a wonderful Easter Weekend. Unlike last year when Easter was celebrated very early the weather was a little chilly but great: at least for me since I'm from that place up north. In spite of the threat of rain on Saturday the weather cooperated for a pleasant Easter Vigil. Holy Saturday was indeed a beautiful day. The church was again beautifully decorated throughout the Easter Triduum. The liturgies for Easter Sunday were full, faith-filled and deeply moving. Easter is the Greatest Celebration of the Church; indeed, the very centerpiece of our faith life as Catholics. Again, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in some way to make this year's Easter celebration so wonderful.

During the Easter Vigil we welcomed one individual into the Church as he received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist: Ryan Amspaugh. We offer him our best wishes, prayers and support as he joined us in the Catholic Church. May God bless him as he continues his journey to the fullness of the Kingdom in the Catholic Church.

There were other individuals who were also in our RCIA class this year, but they were not quite ready to enter the Church this Easter. Entrance into the Church in all reality is a big decision and one should be ready to make this commitment. God willing, these individuals will eventually enter the Church in the very near future.

We also had a few individuals who were baptized as Catholics as infants but never had the chance to learn and grow in the Catholic faith. They also rounded out our rather full class as they prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. These individuals were confirmed in Columbus with the diocesan celebration for receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist for adults from around the diocese of Columbus. The individuals from our parish were Michael Weisman, James Sullivan and Dawn Barone. We wish them the very best as they continue their growth in the faith.

All throughout the Lenten Season and during the Easter Celebration our thoughts are drawn into the deep historical roots of our Faith. We have taken a long look into Salvation History. During the Easter Vigil we turned to the story of creation, the First Passover and Exodus from Egypt, and the prophetic voice of Isaiah. All these passages were focused on the fulfillment of Salvation History in the person of Jesus Christ. Only the love of God could bring salvation and this love was "made flesh" and perfectly revealed through Jesus Christ. This Faithful Love was perfectly revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The salvation won for us in Our Lord can only be received by our response manifested by our acceptance and ascent of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all Scripture. Our faith has deep roots in this long history that reaches its peak in Jesus Christ. We find salvation in no other person: Jesus Christ.

During the weeks ahead, we will be reading through the Acts of the Apostles especially a continuous reading during the daily masses of the Easter Season. All of Salvation History leads up to Jesus and from Him it expands onward into the future. This book of the New Testament tells the story of the activities of the Apostles in the early days of the Church. It is the record of their witness to what they have seen and heard. The most notable characters we encounter are the great apostles Saints Peter and Paul.

As we read from the Acts of the Apostles about the early days of the Church we come across curious details that could be

easily overlooked. We read that the early Christian Community, the Church, "... devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." What is interesting for us to consider is that the text of the New Testament as we have it did not yet exist. The only Scriptures the early Christian Community had at that time were the Hebrew Scriptures: The Old Testament. Along with these Scriptures we have *the teaching of the apostles, communal living, breaking of the bread and prayers*. An interesting question can be asked... "*What came first: The Church or the New Testament?*" The answer must be the Church. The community of believers, the Church, existed before the New Testament was actually written. The Church existed under the *witness and the teaching authority* of the Apostles. The New Testament was written and formally recognized much later. The New Testament: The Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles and Revelation came from the Church. This is an important point. Here we see the priority of the living faith; the witness and the teaching of the Apostles (and their successors) as essential at the beginning of the Church. From this historical fact we come to an understanding that the Church has *two* authorities: The Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scriptures. Together we refer to the Sacred Tradition and the Sacred Scriptures as the *Deposit of Faith*. In the Acts of the Apostles we see this in its simplicity.

We also notice in the Acts of the Apostles that... "*Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to the breaking bread in their homes.*" In other words, the early Christians were still connected to the prayers and worship of the Jewish faith. There remained a deep connection to Temple/Synagogue Worship which consisted of reading from the Scriptures (the Law, Prophets, and the praying of the Psalms) followed by instructions and teachings from the Apostles. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the Apostles were often in the Temple instructing and teaching about Jesus Christ. This was their communal gathering in prayer. The new element added by the Christians was the Liturgy of the Eucharist: the "*Breaking of the Bread*". For the early Christians this replaced the Temple sacrifices and the small Christian Community did this in small gatherings in their homes. Eventually these two elements were joined together and celebrated at various gathering places after the Temple was destroyed around 70 A.D. This formal prayer, which we now call the Mass, slowly developed out of this Temple worship taking on a new Christian form. Even though this is a very simple outline it is important to note that our Sacred Liturgy has these deep roots. The new element of the *breaking of the bread* took place in the homes of believers because it was not something that could be done in the Temple since it was a distinctively Christian rite. It was something that Jesus told his disciple to do *in memory of him*. So, the followers of Jesus did exactly that. Again, this is something that will see further development in the future growth of the Church.

The important point to be made here is the centrality of the Eucharistic Liturgy in the lives of the early Christians. It was essential to gather for communal prayer, the reading of Scripture, instruction from the Apostles and the "*Breaking of the Bread.*" It was because of this persistence in gathering that the Church survived. Considered from a worldly perspective, if the Church was a mere social institution it would not have survived shortly after Jesus. Throughout world history we have seen the rise and disappearance of many religions. There has been the rise and fall of many human organizations and governments. Then there is Christianity which started with a single individual who was executed. He had twelve Apostles (of which one was a betrayer) who proclaimed that he was raised from the dead. These followers were willing to sacrifice their lives for Jesus and his

teaching. Many did exactly that! Christianity has survived to this day with literally billions of followers throughout a two-thousand-year history. It was the gathering for prayer, reading of Scripture, instruction by the apostles and the "Breaking of the Bread" that made it possible to survive in this world. The Church is the Body of Christ. In Word and Sacrament this abiding presence of Christ remains into the future.

We are living in difficult times. The practice of the faith is diminishing which makes these times even more difficult. Many Catholics have become indifferent and do not see the necessity of the Church. Many Catholics do not see the need to "devote themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to the breaking bread..." What we call "The Mass" today was the source and strength of the early Christian Church from her infancy. It was the enduring strength of the Church during times of persecutions. It is the source of strength for the Church today. It is and remains the strength of every Catholic. We must not take the Mass for granted.

Have a great Easter Season.
Father Ralko

Next Saturday, **May 4th** our Second Graders will be making their First Holy Communion. We have decided to celebrate this event on Saturday since we only have two masses on Sunday which are well attended. Celebrating this event on Saturday we will be able to accommodate the usual large crowds of family and friends who will come and support our First Communicants.

Church Support

APRIL 21, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$11,835.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,946.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$1,086.00

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

**This week we pray Week III of the
Liturgy of the hours.**

*We welcomed into the church through
Baptism last weekend:*

Lincoln Andrew Brady son of Mr. & Mrs. Sean Brady

**ATTEND THE INFORMATION MEETING IN THE
ST. NICHOLAS TEEN ROOM ON SUNDAY, MAY 5TH
AT NOON FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE
2019 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE –
"BLESSED BROKEN GIVEN"**

The event is to be held November 21-23, 2019. A three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic Teenagers. Includes 3-night stay at a hotel, coach buses round trip, 7 meals, shirt, water bottle and bag. Parents may attend with their students. All high school students and their parents are encouraged to attend this informative meeting. (This includes students who will be Freshmen in November 2019).

"God Makes Every Grace Abundant"

The theme of the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal inspires us to place our trust in God and bring hope to those who most need to feel His love. Works of kindness and assistance, sometimes in the smallest way, can bring about a profound change in a person's life. Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, we have an opportunity to bring about a positive change in the lives of many of God's people. Through your generosity, you are supporting the various ministries and programs that are vital in spreading His love. Next week is Commitment Weekend for the Appeal, at which time you can make your gift or pledge.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA BAKE SALE - SUNDAY, MAY 5th FOLLOWING THE 8:15 A.M. AND 10:45 A.M. MASSES.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on **Monday, April 29** at 3:30 p.m. at the parish office. This will be our group's last meeting until fall. If have any questions, please contact Judi Peterson at 453-5288.

MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

The Muskingum Valley Right to Life will once again be sponsoring a full-page Mother's Day tribute ad in the Times Recorder on **May 12**. For this we will be collecting names, along with a \$3.00 donation, at all masses, this weekend and on May 4 & 5, from all who wish to honor mothers on their special day.

First Holy Communion

St. Nicholas students who have been preparing to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist, by making their first Confession and participating in their First Communion Retreat, will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time on **Saturday, May 4** at 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please keep these 21 children and their families in your prayers.

Join the Parish in Praying the Rosary

Each weekend of May, St. Nicholas parishioners will pray the Rosary before each Mass. Please come about 20 minutes before Mass and pray the Holy Rosary during Mary's month of May. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, call 740-453-7141.

Spring Card Party - Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Church Basement. Soup, Salad & Dessert! \$5.00 per person, includes the meal! ALL ARE WELCOME! Hosted by the Daughters of Isabella.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Day is **Saturday, May 18th** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Students will help with minor home repairs, painting, yard work, etc. Students meet at St. Nicholas Teen Center at 9:00 a.m. to be teamed up with our adult volunteers and to receive work assignments. Permission Slips Required! Download the permission slip from our website: <https://zanesvillecatholic.wixsite.com/zanescath teens>

Vacation Bible School – More Volunteers needed!!

If you desire to share your time and faith with our kindergarten through sixth grade children in Vacation Bible school, please call 740 453-7141 to volunteer. Dates for VBS are **Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14**, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Parish Activity Center.

More announcements are printed at the bottom of the next page

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

May 5, 2019
Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 4 @ 11:00 a.m.- 1st Communion Mass

Cantor: Kay Denbow

Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock

Servers: Libby Pratt, Luke Pratt

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Carol Kohler

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Jennifer Bernett,
Karen Hardman

Eucharistic Ministers: Philip Kocoloski

Saturday, May 4 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy

Lectors: Sharon Coen, Nancy Susa

Servers: Mason Harmon, Wesley Nestor

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Margaret Kronenbitter

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold, Jim McKeef

Eucharistic Ministers: Laurie Harmon, Scott Peterson, Paula
Peterson, Don Susa

Sunday, April 28 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black

Lector: Peggy Hill, Susan Thompson

Servers: David Eppley

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Tim Hoffer

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: John Haswell,

Linda Haswell

Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Hillis, Jim Hillis, Dan Sylvester,
Cheryl Sylvester

Sunday, April 28 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Rachel Taylor

Lectors: Wendy Hart, Sam Palleschi

Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Susie Altier

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Jim Pottmeyer, Larry Taylor

Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Burns, Vicki Burns, Mary Mirgon,
Mike Musselman

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will have its annual spring brunch at **11:00 a.m. May 16** in the gymnasium of the local Salvation Army, 515 Putnam Ave. A preview of the silent auction and baked goods sale starts at 10:00 a.m. Zanesville history items will be on display and there will be entertainment from locals. Reservations are \$15 a person and can be made by calling 740-607-1209.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor - **Saturday, May 18th** from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. High School Students will be available to help with spring projects, yard work and minor home repair. In the past our students have washed fences, painted, washed windows, cleaned garages and helped with minor home repairs. If you have a job for our students, call the parish office. We will be happy to put you on the list.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, April 29

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Glen Sidwell, birthday, Church*

2:00 p.m., *Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office*

6:00 p.m., *Blessed Virgin Mary Bible Study, Parish Office, meeting room*

TUESDAY, April 30

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Bob Wahl, Church*

WEDNESDAY, May 1

8:10 a.m., *School Mass: Roger Eppley, Church*

7:00 p.m., *R.C.I.A., Parish Office, meeting room*

THURSDAY, May 2

NO MASS

FRIDAY, May 3

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Sally Freeman, Church*

All day until 4:00 p.m., *Eucharistic Adoration*

3rd Sunday of Easter

SATURDAY, May 4

11:00 a.m.: *First Communion Mass, Church*

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Florence Schoeppner, Church*

SUNDAY, May 5

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m., *Religious Education, Bishop Fenwick*

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Cecil Mary Soller, Church*

Mass: *Irene & Richard Dillon, Church*

Readings for Week of April 29, 2019

Mon.	Acts 4:23-31	Jn 3:1-8
Tues.	Acts 4:32-37	Jn 3:7b-15
Wed	Acts 5:17-26	Jn 3:16-21
Thurs.	Acts 5:27-33	Jn 3:31-36
Fri.	1 Cor 15:1-8	Jn 14:6-14
Sat.	Acts 6:1-7	Jn 6:16-21
Sun	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41	Jn 21:1-19

Gospel Road 2019

GREAT WAY TO EARN SERVICE HOURS! Students are invited to a five-day mission focused work camp for teens in grades 9-12. Gospel Road provides teens the opportunity to live the Gospel message of love while learning practical skills such as painting, building, landscaping, etc. This year's Gospel Road will be hosted by Seaton Parish in Pickerington. Sunday July 14th through Thursday July 18th. Cost \$150 per person, can be supplemented. Registration deadline is June 8th. Only 175 participants will be accepted, spots will fill up fast. **Do Not Delay!** Call the St. Nicholas Parish Office for more information and to register.