

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This year's Bishop's Annual Appeal is underway. The theme for the 2019 appeal is, "*God Makes Every Grace Abundant.*" When we consider our financial gift to the diocese we offer it as our gift to God and our neighbor. All of our acts of charity are to be viewed as responses for the many gifts and blessings from God first and foremost. All things belong to God in the first place and all that we have is indeed a gift from God. When we make an offering to God we are merely sharing what God has given us in the first place: His blessings. In return God multiplies our gift abundantly. Consider the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000 with five barley loaves and two fish. (John 6:1-ff.) As you consider your gift for this year's appeal, please think that your generous gift, combined with the generosity of others, enables the Bishop to continue his ministry throughout the diocese.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal extends the reach of the Church to the 23 counties that comprise the Diocese of Columbus. Your gift helps the Church in Columbus provide many services throughout the diocese, such as the promotion of vocations and seminarian formation, sacramental preparation programs, emergency repairs to parishes and schools, tuition assistance, care and assistance to those in need as well as many other areas of concern. These ministries and the assistance they provide are extremely important to the lives of many of our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese. The Bishop's Appeal is also important for financially maintaining the work of the Chancery and Diocesan Offices.

As your Pastor, I believe that we will be able to do our fair share to help the Diocese of Columbus in this important matter. Envelopes for the appeal can be found in the pews. I encourage everyone to take an envelope, fill it in and make a gift (pledge) to the Diocese. It is important that a greater number of parishioners take part in this appeal. I am well aware of the many demands placed upon us and our available funds. Nevertheless, we are to be good stewards of the many gifts God has given to us. As stewards we are to be generous to those in need. The need of the diocese is just as important as the need we have in our parish when it comes to the daily operations and activities. Just as we are the parish of St. Nicholas, we are also the people of the Diocese of Columbus. We must be good stewards of our parish and our diocese. I am aware that many of our parishioners have tight budgets, but it is precisely during these times we must also be people who act out of charity and faith. It is during the difficult times that our faith and generosity come into play. Faith and generosity do not manifest themselves when times are easy. Please do whatever you can for the appeal.

This year I would consider it a particular challenge for our parish to *increase our parish participation in the Bishop's Annual Appeal*. We need to increase the number of families participating in this year's appeal. For those who participated last year, please do the same this year. For those who have not participated I ask that you make a gift/pledge this year. No amount is too small, participation is important. What is important this year is to increase the number of participating parishioners. This is something that we can do. I also believe that if we increase the number of participating families we will be able to hit our parish target.

Our parish census indicates that we have 1,074 families registered. Out of that we had 174 families/individuals who have contributed to last year's BAA. The total pledges made totaled

about \$44,000. We had a target of \$77,000. The quick glance indicated that 902 registered families did not participate in last year's appeal.

Even though we had a relatively small percentage of families who participated we do appreciate those who have made a gift/pledge. Not wanting to sound negative it is not too surprising that this is consistent with the percentage of registered families who actually participate in the life of the parish by attending Sunday Mass and contributing to the good of our parish. There is a greater percentage of those who seriously take their responsibility to support the parish, but those actively supporting the parish are still less than 50% of registered families. I think this is a common difficulty with all churches across the board. I wish it were different here at St. Nicholas. But it is true that many do not participate in the life of the parish and leave a smaller percentage of the parish families to financially carry the ongoing work of the parish. Considering our offertory collection, those contributing individuals have done an outstanding job in the care of the parish. This, however, does not negate the responsibility of everyone. It is not only a matter of personal responsibility; it is also a matter of fairness to our fellow parishioners who are carrying the financial burden for maintaining our parish. Give it a thought.

That being said I would like to see our parish increase and maybe double the number of families/individuals participating in this year's BAA. Again, I think we can do this without much difficulty.

To give you an idea here are the facts from last year's BAA report. The largest group of contributors was at the \$100 level. There were 55 pledges at this level. There were 44 who pledged more and 75 below the \$100 level. Six who submitted an envelope but were unable to make a gift. This put us at \$ 44,000 which was pretty good but short of the target. Just the same, knowing this I hope it gives you some indication of where we were at with last year's appeal. This year our parish target is \$80,000. With greater participation I think we will be able make our parish target. This will also give us a good indication about our ability to raise the funds needed to continue some of the major projects that need to take place here in the parish: i.e. windows, sidewalks and building repairs. Give this your consideration and do what you are able.

I don't like talking about money matters. You know your finances. I do not. Nor do I think that I need to know. I know my personal financial situation and I know my responsibilities and the duty I have regarding charitable giving. I trust that you do as well.

However, I will mention this: Regarding money matters I would like to let you know that we are getting closer to pulling the trigger on our window project. We have been saving our funds received in the "Capital Improvement Fund" envelopes in your monthly packet. These funds and a couple gifts to our window project have been growing. We have also sought out and applied for grants as well. To date we have met with a company who specialize in Church stain glass windows and their exterior protection. We have learned a great deal about our windows and the process for protecting them on the outside. The technology is quite sophisticated and efficient. This will greatly improve the exterior look of the church as well as improve the look of the stain glass windows themselves from the inside of the church. I will address this further in the near future.

In the meantime, if you would be so kind as to give the "Capital Improvement Fund" envelope a little bump for the next couple months, this will give us a little more breathing room to

get this underway. Your generosity and care for the operation and maintenance of the parish is appreciated by your fellow parishioners. Again, we can do this.

Have a great week.  
Father Ralko

## Church Support

May 12, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$11,013.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$7,124.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly surplus	\$264.00

**May God bless you for supporting your parish!**

## This week we pray Week I of the Liturgy of the hours.

### 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. Call Patty at (740) 453-0597 to register.

### SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

St. Paul On the Power of The Cross, a seven-week bible study by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, will begin **Monday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office, upper level. Participants will need the book St. Paul On the Power of The Cross, Bible and notebook. Please call the parish office to register so that we may order your book. Registration deadline is **Wednesday, May 29th**. Books will be available for pick up June 10th in order to allow participants to complete the “Introduction” prior to the first meeting. The cost is \$9.00. Scholarships are available.

St. Nicholas will hold a **Pre-Jordan Class** for parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized on **Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office building. Please call 453-7141 to register for the class.

Couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th (and every year thereafter) anniversary are invited to the annual Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass and celebration in honor of their marriage! The Jubilee will take place on **Sunday, June 23**, at St. Brigid Catholic Church in Dublin. Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. and a light reception will follow. Couples may register by contacting the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560 or by visiting [columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment](http://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment). Please RSVP by **Wednesday, June 12th**. Late registrations will be accepted, but the names will not be featured in the event program or The Catholic Times. Congratulations to these couples on their faithful love!

## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to those who made their  
First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 4.  
May Jesus stay close to your hearts as you receive  
Him each weekend at Mass!

Alissa Renee Finn	Deyton Marie Hartman
Kyana Lexi Bowers	Avery Rose Hlad
Tylynn Rae Bowers	Elizabeth Judith Husted
Haigzigh Mae Buchanan	Grady Patrick McNeil
Parker Allan Buchanan	Ameliana Noel Miller
Andrew Hig Do	Franco Giovanni Palandrani
Milzy Madisyn Drzier	Alexander Gerald Patterson
Piper Addison Farrell	Cody Lee Pagnier
Carter Michael Fitz	Taylor Renee Pitecock
Granger Elizabeth Flowzrs	Dominik Murphy Van Nort
	Kennedy Jamie Walker

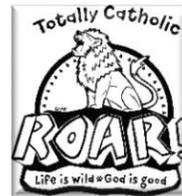
### Join the Parish in Praying the Rosary

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.

### Vacation Bible School – More Volunteers needed!!

Those interested in helping with this year's Vacation Bible School should attend the planning/set up meeting to be held on **Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Activity Center (school gym). This includes those who wish to help with set up, as well as those who will help during the event to be held **June 10 through June 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each night**.

### Roar VBS: “Life is wild, God is good” will



be hosted in the St. Nicholas Parish Activity Center (school gym) from June 10 to June 14, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for kindergarten through grade 6. At Roar, kids discover that God is good even when life getting wild! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-

building games, make and devour yummy treats, and experience one-of-a-kind Wild Bible Adventures. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. To register, complete the form enclosed in this week's bulletin (one for each child) and return it via next week's collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office. The event is free. For More information call the parish office (740) 453-0597. **Please return registration forms by May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Courage International Spring Women's Retreat** – May 30 to June 2, 2019 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Courage is for men and women who experience same-sex attractions and who have made a commitment to strive for chastity. They are inspired by the Gospel call to holiness and the Catholic Church's beautiful teachings about the goodness and inherent purpose of human sexuality. The Annual Courage Women's Retreat draws us deeper into a thriving, life-giving sacramental community. Join us for Adoration, Confession, Mass, a Rosary walk, shared meals, edifying talks, group discussions, a Courage meeting, and the opportunity to develop good, lasting friendships! E-mail [couragewomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:couragewomensretreat@gmail.com) for more information.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**May 26, 2019  
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday, May 25 @ 5:15 p.m.**

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy  
Lectors: Tom J. Pitcock, Adelaide Pitcock  
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Wesley Nestor  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Carolyn Arnold  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Dottie Durant, Paula Peterson  
Eucharistic Ministers: Philip Kocoloski, Mike Musselman, Scott Peterson, Jim Pottmeyer

**Sunday, May 26 @ 8:15 a.m.**

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky  
Lector: Bernard Budde, Bill Sullivan  
Servers: David Eppley  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Erin Roush  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Jim Hillis, Larry Taylor  
Eucharistic Ministers: John Haswell, Linda Haswell, Sue Hillis, Marvin Paul

**Sunday, May 26 @ 10:45 a.m.**

Cantor: Kay Denbow  
Lectors: Othello Repuyan, Rocky Rowe  
Servers: J. D. Wilson, Wesley Wilson  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jim McKee  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Diana Dunn, Robert LaPrad  
Eucharistic Ministers: Larry Denbow, Margaret Kronenbitter, Dan Snider, Charlotte Snider

*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 REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

*Please join us each Monday at The St. Nicholas Chapel in the Parish Office at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession for the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

***What's Happening in Our Parish***

**MONDAY, May 20, St. Bernardine of Siena**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Sara Reichart, anniversary, Church  
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

**TUESDAY, May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Reg Grear, birthday, Church

**WEDNESDAY, May 22, St. Rita of Cascia**

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Ray Andrews, Church

**THURSDAY, May 23**

NO MASS

**FRIDAY, May 24**

8:00 a.m., Mass: Daniel J. Paul, Church

***6th Sunday of Easter***

**SATURDAY, May 25, St. Bede the Venerable**

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan, Church

**SUNDAY, May 26**

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church  
10:45 a.m., Mass: Hope Buchanan, Church  
Fern Cherrington, Church

***Readings for Week of May 20, 2019***

Mon. . . . .	Acts 14:5-18	Jn 14:21-26
Tues. . . . .	Acts 14:19-28	Jn 14:27-31a
Wed . . . . .	Acts 15:1-6	Jn15:1-8
Thurs. . . . .	Acts 15:7-21	Jn 15:9-11
Fri. . . . .	Acts 15:22-31	Jn 15:12-17
Sat. . . . .	Acts 16:1-10	Jn 15:18-21
Sun . . . . .	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29	Jn 14:23-29

