

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday we also celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. We find ourselves quickly coming to the end of the Easter Season. To emphasize the greatness of the Easter Season we celebrate it for forty days that compliments the Season of Lent: mirroring the Lenten Season. We then top it off with an additional ten days (especially noted if we celebrated the Ascension last Thursday) as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on the 50th day following Easter. The word "Pentecost" means the fiftieth day. In the Old Testament it is referred to the "Feast of Weeks". Exodus 34:22. "You shall observe the festival of weeks, the first fruits of wheat harvest." This was an observance of seven weeks of planting and growing followed by the celebration of offering the first fruits of the wheat harvest. How appropriate for Pentecost being the celebration of the "First Fruits" of the Spirit as the Apostles preach with the result of thousands of converts to the faith.

Back to the Ascension, as we celebrate this feast we celebrate that where Jesus has gone we hope to follow. Jesus Christ returns to the Father with his *resurrected and glorified* human body. Jesus has his human body, now resurrected and glorified, forever.

This is a very important point to be made: God created us Body and Soul. Many people have the dualistic view of life expressed as the *Spirit is good and the Body is bad*. Part of this idea comes from the ancient philosophies of individuals like Plato who considered the body, because of its imperfections, was a *prison for the human spirit*. Eternal life happens when the spirit is released from the prison of the body. A modern manifestation of this idea is expressed when someone claims to be a *spiritual* person. (They do not believe in organized religion or church.) There is a truth here but not the whole truth. It is true that we have a spiritual life, but that is not the whole story. We are called to holiness while we live in the body. Spirituality is a means to holiness, not the final destination. Living in holiness is manifested in and through the body. Holiness transforms both body and soul. There must be a bodily manifestation of holiness. That is in part the theology of the incarnation. In reality, we are not destined to live in eternity as spiritual beings. We are not angels, nor are we intended to be angels. We are human beings, created in the *Image and Likeness of God*, with a body and a soul. This is what we are: beings with a body and a soul. Salvation and eternal life are for both body and soul. "*We believe in the resurrection of the body*" as we say in our creed. The teaching on the Ascension of the Lord is an affirmation of the Resurrection and the ultimate goodness and final destination of both the body and the soul: together and glorified in heaven. Jesus Christ came to save us body and soul. It is an affirmation of who we are as God's beloved human beings.

As Jesus ascends into heaven he sends with the Father the promised Advocate: The Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and draws us deeper into the very life of God: love. While we live in this world, the Holy Spirit will lead us into the heart of God, the Church; "*Mystical Body of Christ*". The Church is in a manner of speaking a manifestation of the Incarnation: a physical, bodily, manifestation of the Word of God, Jesus Christ. With this in mind, we can say with confidence where Jesus Christ has gone, we hope to follow; as the Bride of Christ (the Church) and as individuals.

It is official, the academic year is over and summer vacations are underway; at least for our students. This can be a good time for rest, recreation and refreshment. It is a great blessing to have this time off from the hard work of education. It is also a time

that can set our students back. It is all too easy to let things slide and for our students to slip into bad habits that are not conducive to intellectual and spiritual growth. I have always been assigned to parishes which have had schools. One common experience expressed by principals and teachers was not only the joy for summer vacation but also the down side of summer vacation: many students developed bad habits and have slipped backwards regarding their education. Don't get me wrong, we do want our students to enjoy their summer vacation. Getting outside, engaging in sports, having fun etc. but it is important for them to know that education doesn't only take place in the classroom. It is important for them to spend some time reading and thinking; more to the point, reading and thinking good things. It is also extremely easy to waste numerous hours on some of the current video games. It would be wise to monitor the amount of time with these video games as well as time spent with social media. I have heard too many negative stories and studies in sociology and psychology that expound on the negative effects on young minds.

Summer vacation is not a vacation from our vocation. With more free time it is also easy to neglect the spiritual life. Stay connected with the church. I have mentioned this once before, if there is travel in your plans make the effort to attend Sunday mass while vacationing. It is a great way to stress the importance to thank God for the many blessings and opportunities we enjoy. There are many advantages by attending Sunday mass in different locations during our travels. It gives an example of the universal (catholic) nature of the Church. The same Sunday mass that would be celebrated here at St. Nicholas is also celebrated in other Catholic Churches everywhere on any Sunday. It also gives us an appreciation of the size, strength and goodness of the Catholic Church throughout the world. We are part of the great Christian Community, the Church; the Body of Christ in the world.

Next Sunday we will be celebrating the feast of Pentecost. Come Holy Spirit.

Have a great week.

Father Ralko

[BAA: Repeating from last Sunday's bulletin... We still have a bit of business that needs to be addressed. As you have probably observed over the years I have not been one to preach on the Bishop's Annual Appeal from the pulpit. I have announced it but have not preached on this appeal. However, this does not diminish the importance of this collection for the diocese. We do not need to be overly reminded about the important work of the diocese. Nevertheless, this is part of our responsibility to assist in this important work. We do so with our financial support. I wish there were some magical way to inspire greater participation in the Bishop's Annual Appeal. I find it a rather unpleasant business to remind people of their responsibilities. But the Appeal is a part of our responsibility as Catholic Christians. We have a personal responsibility to provide for the financial support of our parish as well as our diocese. I accept my responsibility for both and have made my pledge. I hope that you will do the same.

The envelopes are available at the ends of the pews. I ask you to please pick one up and make your pledge or donation today. There is one particular goal that we can achieve; *increasing the number of parishioners participating* in the BAA. Our participation rate is not as it should be. So, I ask you, for those who have contributed last year please repeat your pledge to the appeal. If you have not, I ask that you take an envelope, fill it in and make some kind of pledge or one-time gift to the appeal. We can do this. And finally, for those who have already responded to this year's appeal... thank you.]

Note Well: Wednesday morning mass will be at 8:00 am for the summer months.

Church Support

May 26, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$8,329.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$4,440.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(2,420.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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

Correction: *The intentions for today's 10:45 a.m. Mass are for Ann Arnold and Millie Swierz. Apologies to the Arnold and Swierz families for the error in last weekend's bulletin.*

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING.
CHECK IT OUT AT
WWW.STNICKPARISH.ORG**

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. **TIME IS RUNNING OUT! REGISTER NOW!!!!**

JUBILEE OF ANNIVERSARIES MASS

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. Please RSVP by **Wed., 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! Couples may register by contacting the Marriage and Family Office at (614)-241-2560 or by visiting columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment.

Desire to spend time with Christ every day? The Church is open for private prayer and adoration of Christ in the Tabernacle; weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. until noon and Saturdays from noon until Mass time.

Mark Your Calendar for The Saturday Night Parish Dinner – Saturday, June 15th immediately following the 5:15 p.m. Mass in the Parish Social Hall (church basement). Taco Night! It's free!!

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 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 be 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 is 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. The event is free. For More information call the parish office (740) 453-0597.

Pilgrimage to EWTN ‘Eternal Word Television Network’ and The Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of the Angels Monastery

St Nicholas is researching a pilgrimage to Alabama to EWTN and the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. If you would like more information or you are interested in making a pilgrimage, please call 740-453-7141. We are looking at a 4 day /3-night pilgrimage. Possibly September 16 –19. If we can fill the 50- passenger bus, the cost would be approximately \$370 per person (4 per room) \$500 per person (2 in room). This price also includes seat on the bus, breakfast at hotels and lunch each day. EWTN was founded by Mother Angelica in 1981 and today is the largest media network in the world. In 1999 the Shrine and Monastery were dedicated in Hanceville, AL about 60 miles from EWTN.

Men of The East

Blessed Sacrament Church 394 E Main St, Newark, OH 43055 will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on Thursday, June 13th, starting at 7:00 pm in the Church. All men of the twelve-parish consortium are invited and encouraged to participate in these once a month Traveling Holy Hour's. Men of The East is a Catholic Men's Laity Ministry comprised of all practicing Catholic men who attend one of the 12 parishes in Knox, Licking or Muskingum counties. Men of The East exists to support, strengthen and help maximize the spiritual growth of men of the Catholic Church. Men of The East is a part of the larger Catholic Men's Laity Ministry for the Columbus Ohio Diocese. For more information about Men Of The East, contact Mike Musselman at 452-9806 or visit www.MenOfTheEast.com

First Friday Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration Friday, June 7th following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 4:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration is the worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass. “...He said to Peter, “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?” Mt 26:40. All are encouraged to visit the Blessed Sacrament, exposed in the Monstrance, as a sign of gratitude and acknowledgement of Christ's presence. Don't have an hour? Anytime spent with Christ is time well spent. All are welcome!

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

June 9, 2019
Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, June 8 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lectors: Sylvia Norris, Nancy Susa
Servers: Libby Pratt, Luke Pratt
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Philip Kocoloski
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Scott Peterson, Don Susa
Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hamilton, Margaret Kronenbitter,
Paula Peterson, Karen Robinson

Sunday, June 9 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Janet Moses
Lector: Bill Sullivan, Susan Thompson
Servers: David Eppley, Christina Rozsa
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Dan Sylvester
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Tim Hoffer, Joshua Wright
Eucharistic Ministers: Dottie Durant, Linda Haswell, John
Haswell, Dodi Sealock

Sunday, June 9 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Sam Palleschi
Servers: Mason Harmon, Ajay Paynter
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Laurie Harmon
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Sue Hillis, Mike Musselman
Eucharistic Ministers: Susie Altier, Jennifer Bernett, Robert
LaPrad, Jim Pottmeyer

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, June 3, St. Charles Lwanga

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Russell Glaub**, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
7:00 p.m., Meeting for VBS volunteers- Parish Activity Center

TUESDAY, June 4

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Mike Andrews**, birthday, Church

WEDNESDAY, June 5, St. Boniface

8:00 a.m., Mass: **L/D members of the Hohman & Crum families**, Church
6:30 p.m., Festival Meeting in the Parish Office – upper level

THURSDAY, June 6, St. Norbert

NO MASS

FRIDAY, June 7

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Henry Sulens**, Church
All day until 4:00 p.m., Eucharist Adoration, Church

PENTECOST SUNDAY

SATURDAY, June 8

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: **Donald Sigris**, Church

SUNDAY, June 9

8:15 a.m., Mass: **St. Nicholas Parishioners**, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: **Richard W. Brown**, Church
Irene & Richard Dillon, Church

Readings for Week of June 3, 2019

Mon.	Acts 19:1-8	Jn 16:29-33
Tues.	Acts 20:17-27	Jn 17:1-11a
Wed	Acts 20:28-38	Jn 17:11b-19
Thurs.	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11	Jn 17:20-26
Fri.	Acts 25:13b- 21	Jn 21:15-19
Sat.	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31	Jn 21:20-25
Sun	Acts 2:1-11	Jn 20:19-23

If you did not have enough to itemize your charitable donations this year, please contact your tax preparer and see if you are eligible to make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution.

