

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

First off, we would like to extend to all Fathers a “*Happy Father's Day*”. May the good Lord continue to bless all our fathers in their vocation as husbands and fathers. Fatherhood is a life-long vocation: Once a father always a father. We pray for our fathers and ask God to continue to bless them with wisdom, love and courage as they nurture, guide, and protect their children.

Speaking of fathers, nice lead in, today we also celebrate the Solemn Feast of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us... “*The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian Life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*” (# 261) The Most Holy Trinity is a divinely revealed truth. It is not something that we can come up with on our own. Once accepted as a divinely revealed truth, it continually reveals greater truths about the inner life of God of which we can never exhaust. As such, this *super-natural* mystery of the Holy Trinity can never be intellectually exhausted as it continually nourishes our intellect and faith. Many would like to understand to believe. The reality is that we believe to understand. As an act of faith, we gather to celebrate this Solemn Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity on this Sunday.

As we all know, throughout the liturgical year we have several solemn celebrations focusing on the events of our salvation. The two main highlights are Christmas and Easter. These celebrations are preceded by a penitential season, Advent and Lent, for us to be prepared to celebrate these Solemnities. We need these times of penance since the presence of unrepentant sin in our lives prevents, distorts and inhibits the grace that invites us into a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Incarnation and Resurrection. These two focal points are then followed by a prolonged joyful season that accentuates their respective Solemnity and gives us time to be immersed in the mystery: the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

During the liturgical year we also celebrate various Solemnities that are manifestations of God's loving plan. The Solemnity of the *Most Holy Trinity* is one of those celebrations. With the celebration of the *Most Holy Trinity* we find ourselves celebrating what may appear to the secular world an abstract Dogma: it has nothing to do with real life. In celebrating this mystery, we are drawn into the inner life or nature of God: which is real life itself! Without this celebration we would rarely consider this Sacred Mystery on our own. Without much thought we would eventually give little importance to this doctrine of faith. Then, if perchance we were ever asked about the Holy Trinity we would not be able to give enough answer about this central mystery or our Christian faith. Without a modicum understanding, we would find ourselves drifting away from the Faith: we rarely commit our lives to things that are not central to our lives; much less our faith life.

There is a short answer to the inquiry... “*What is the teaching of the Holy Trinity?*” Our response is that we believe there are “three persons in one God: *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*”. There are not three Gods! There is only One God within whom there are *three persons*.

The shortcoming of our human language is that we use human categories in a feeble attempt to express an infinite mystery. We use categories to define things, but God cannot be put into a human category. God is not a thing nor is God part of creation. Categories deal with created things. Our language proves to be woefully inadequate. But it is the best we can do.

Firstly, we speak in terms of *Persons*. A *Person* is not a thing. Persons have bodies, but the body is not the totality of the person. *Person* is manifested in various ways: in thoughts, feelings, passions, relationships, personality as well as the physical manifestations. The word “*person*” is the better, although inadequate, way to express the three manifestations and relationships within the Godhead. So, we say that within the Godhead we have revealed to us a *Trinity of Persons*. Most notably this is revealed by Jesus himself at the end of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus tells the disciples to go and baptize in the “*Name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*” Jesus reveals the three persons in the one Godhead and he *Names* them.

We also know that Jesus spoke of the relationship within God by calling God his “*Father.*” He also described this relationship with the “*Father*” as a relationship of *love*. In doing so Jesus reveals two things. One, if the relationship is one of love than it is a *personal* relationship. Love is proper for persons. And two, in calling God his “*Father*” he has revealed that he has a *personal* relationship in that he shares the same nature as God: Divinity. God is a *personal* God who loves and is loved. The love between the Father and the Son is so absolute and personal, it is a *person* itself: The *Holy Spirit*: The Spirit of love. What we have is a God who is a personal God, composed of persons who are united in absolute, perfect love. Unlike other religions, this is unique unto itself. God is *Personal*. That means that all relationships with God are personal relationships. The Judeo/Christian God is a personal God. This is not the case in other religions. In fact, this is a serious heresy for some religions.

However, God is *absolutely other*. God is described as a “Supreme Being”, “Absolute Mystery” and far beyond our capacity to fully know. Not in a million years could we wrap our finite limited minds around the infinite eternal God. Thus, we have two mutually exclusive realities coming together. A Transcendent God who is intimately personal.

In the eternal wisdom of God, we have this wonderful coming together, these two extremes, in the mystery of the *Incarnation*. Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is God and Man. In the incarnation we have in the person of Jesus two natures, Divinity and humanity in perfect communion: the transcendent and the immanent. When we turn to Jesus we are reminded of the words of St. John Paul II: when we meditate on the face of Jesus...” We *see the human face of God and the Divine face of man.*” The Incarnation reveals the Most Holy Trinity and the Holy Trinity affirms the Incarnation.

“*God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son.*” It is in the person of Jesus Christ that God reveals His great intention. God wants us to *know* Him and *love* Him just as Jesus knows and loves the Father. God wants us to know his great, unconditional love for us as it is lived and revealed in Jesus. In knowing God's great love for us we are invited to love God as Jesus loved the Father. This love for God is the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. In contemplating this mystery, we come to know the meaning of life: “*To know, love and serve God in this world so that we may be happy with Him in heaven.*” It is all about communion with God; from the beginning to the end.

After Jesus' Death, Resurrection and Ascension, the *Father* and the *Son* sent us the *Holy Spirit*, the Spirit of love: the enduring presence of God in the Church and in the lives of Jesus' disciples. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us into communion with God and each other. The *Third Person* of the Holy Trinity draws us into this personal relationship with God: a relationship of faithful love. Again, God is personal yet transcendent. The transcendent God wants to be in a personal relationship with humanity.

In our Christian Faith we know *that if* there is no Holy Trinity there is no Incarnation. Without the Incarnation we would never know about the Holy Trinity. Jesus Christ reveals the inner life of the Holy Trinity as life-giving love to which we are invited to share. This is our origin, our living in this world and our final destination in heaven. We are always invited to share in the inner life of God: most notably celebrated in the Sacraments.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity we are to come to a greater awareness of God not only as Divine Mystery but also a personally intimate God. The plan of salvation is found in God and flows from a personal God who invites us to share in His life in this world and perfectly in heaven. God invites us to know, love and serve Him in this life. This is a great joy that God offers us here and now. The more we know God the more we love God; which is a foretaste of eternal life in His loving embrace.

Have a great week.

Father Ralko

BAA update: The Bishop's Annual Appeal is still taking place. Returns are still coming in. To date we have pledged \$29,305.00 with the total numbers of contributors at 146. We can do better. The BAA envelopes are still at the ends of the pews. Please pick one up today and make a response. Thank you.

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Patrick A. Lyon*

The Saturday Night Parish Dinner is this **Saturday, June 15th** immediately following the 5:15 p.m. Mass in the Parish Social Hall (church basement). Taco Night! The event is free, all are welcome.

Summer Bible Study – St. Paul on the Power of The Cross The Bible study begins **Monday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office, upper level.

The Daughters of Isabella seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings and rules of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship and charity. All women age 16 and up are welcome to join us. The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 18th** at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Parish Office.

The next **St. Nicholas Festival** meeting is **Wed., June 19 at 6:30 p.m.** at the St Nicholas Parish office. All committee chairs as well as those interested in helping make this year's festival a success are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

2019 NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE – **“BLESSED BROKEN GIVEN”** The event is to be held Nov. 21-23, 2019 - A 3-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!!!!**



Neighbor Helping Neighbor - **Saturday, June 22nd** 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Volunteers will be available to help with summer projects, yard work and minor home repair. In the past volunteers have washed fences, painted, washed windows, cleaned garages, cut up downed trees and helped with minor home repairs. If you have a job for our volunteers, please call the parish office. We will be happy to put you on the list.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Students will help with minor home repairs, housework, yard work, etc. Students meet at St. Nicholas Teen Center at 8:30 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/zanescathteens>

THE FESTIVAL DINNER IS BACK! **Saturday, August 3rd** from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (school gym). \$10.00 for adults. Meal includes Baked chicken quarter, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and butter, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and dessert. \$5.00 for 12 and under – substitutes chicken nuggets or chicken strips for the chicken quarter. **TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE** and include a reserved parking pass. Tickets are available after Mass in the Church basement and at the Parish Office.

Knights of Columbus Council 505 News

Council 505 will be hosting 2nd and 3rd Degrees at our council hall on **Sunday, June 23** starting at noon. Candidate call is at 11:30 a.m. The State Degree Team will be in town to conduct the ceremonies, which will last about 3 hours total. All 1st or 2nd Degree council members are strongly urged to attend. We try to hold these degrees at least once a year, so you won't have to travel out of town to take them. Plan your Sunday afternoon to take this opportunity to reach full Knighthood by becoming a 3rd Degree member of the order. Contact Financial Secretary Tom Baughman if you have any questions at 740-450-2885 daytime or 740-260-8655 evenings.

We are excited to partner with the **American Red Cross** to launch the first of what we hope will be many blood drives. Each donation we collect can save up to 3 lives. There are many ways you can help, but most importantly we hope you come out to donate. We need at least 30 people before we can begin. To sign up to give blood or to volunteer, please contact Denis Swierz at (740) 819-5726.

Solemn high mass in the Dominican Rite celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the First Catholic Mass in Zanesville, Ohio on Sunday July 14, 2019 at 11 a.m. Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Reception follows in the Activity Center



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

June 23, 2019

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Saturday, June 22 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti

Lectors: Nicole Hannahs, Sylvia Norris

Servers: Rex Hankinson, Scott Peterson

Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Larry Denbow

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Susie Altier, Jim McKee

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Mirgon, Paula Peterson, Molly

Ritchey, Paul Ritchey

Sunday, June 23 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky

Lector: Peggy Hill, Rocky Rowe

Servers: David Eppley, Caiden Hogue

Eucharistic Minister- Coord: John Haswell

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Diana Dunn, Linda Haswell

Eucharistic Ministers: Marvin Paul, Gerald Tiberio, Claire Tiberio

Sunday, June 23 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kay Denbow

Lectors: Othello Repuyan, Bill Sullivan

Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart

Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Carolyn Arnold

Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Don Susa

Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Bernett, Kevin McCarthy, Dodi

Sealock, Larry Taylor

Church Support

JUNE 9, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$7,094.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,205.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly surplus	<u>\$(3,655.00)</u>

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

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.

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

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, June 17

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Pastor's intention*, Church

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

6:00 p.m., *Summer Bible Study*, Parish Office

TUESDAY, June 18

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Cecil Mary Soller*, Church

6:00 p.m., *Daughters of Isabella*, Parish Office

WEDNESDAY, June 19, St. Romuald

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

6:30 p.m., *Festival Meeting*, Parish Office

THURSDAY, June 20

NO MASS

FRIDAY, June 21, St. Aloysius Gonzaga

NO MASS

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

SATURDAY, June 22, St. Paulinus of Nola

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

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sullivan*, Church

Mass: *Fred & Norma Davis & family*, Church

SUNDAY, June 23

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Joy Larson*, Church

10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners*, Church

Readings for Week of June 17, 2019

Mon.	2 Cor 6:1-10	Mt 5:38-42
Tues.	2 Cor 8:1-9	Mt 5:43-48
Wed	2 Cor 9:6-11	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thurs.	2 Cor 11:1-11	Mt 6:7-15
Fri.	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30	Mt 6:19-23
Sat.	2 Cor 12:1-10	Mt 6:24-34
Sun	Gn 14:18-20	Lk9:11b-17

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 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.