

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

Time flies when you are having fun. As we read this on Sunday morning another parish festival has come and gone. It's too early to tell but we are hopeful that it was a financial success. As a parish gathering, I think it was well attended and successful. I know many people have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to make this year's festival a success. There were several new faces (Joe and Jennifer Baker who chaired this year's festival) and the long-term veterans who worked so hard in the past and again this year. We truly appreciate all the gallant efforts for all who stepped-up in this large undertaking. Thank You. Now the last important detail remains: the post-festival clean-up. God bless you for your efforts.

Over the last few weeks we have been reading from Genesis and Exodus for morning mass as well as celebrating several Saints of the Church. We have been reading the stories about the Patriarchs, Joseph and the migration to Egypt, the call of Moses and the great Exodus event: the very beginning and identity of God's Chosen People. We have also had interspersed the celebration of various saints of the Church on their respective feast days. The beauty of the Church calendar is that it is filled with numerous inspirational readings, both scriptural and the "Lives of the Saints" for our reflections for our daily spiritual nourishment. We have a very rich and inspiring history. With the availability of "*The Word Among Us*" booklets available in the church there is easy access to much of this history. These have been a great resource for reflections and nourishment for the soul.

One of the saints we honored this past week (July 31) was the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola: the founder of the Jesuits. In rereading the "Life of St. Ignatius" by Luis Gonzalez I became aware of the background for his insight concerning *meditation and the spiritual life*.

In a very short summary of his life, Ignatius was born into a noble family. He was very intelligent. He was also a courageous and accomplished soldier. He was fond of reading worldly books of fiction, particularly those of the wanderings and the romantic pursuits of adventurous knights: pretty worldly stuff. At one point in his life Ignatius was wounded in a battle and needed time to heal and rehabilitate. (Sometimes God must knock someone down to get their attention, i.e. St. Paul.) As he was feeling better, he was in the mood for some reading. In the location where his rehabilitation was taking place there were no such books that he ordinarily desired. The only books present in the home were the Scriptures and a book about the Life of Christ. So, he went about reading these and found himself very much attracted to Jesus Christ. In his curiosity he desired to expand his reading by acquiring books on the lives of the saints such as St. Francis and St. Dominic.

Here is the key. When reading his worldly books and tales he imagined himself in the middle of the action. He imagined himself there in the story. He could imagine the sights, sounds and feelings of the situation. He also had this same experience when reading the life of Christ and the Scriptures. When reading the lives of the saints he would ask himself... "*what if I should do as Saint Francis or Saint Dominic did?*" In both the worldly stories and the Christian stories, he let his mind dwell on many thoughts until other things took their place. This happened to him for a long time until he was able to gain a greater insight into what was happening to him.

The thing that he noticed was the *kind of thoughts* that he was having and *when* they were occurring. When he read and let his thoughts flow in the Christian readings, he experienced a certain pleasure; it was all very pleasant. Once he moved onto to

some other activity his mind would quickly be filled with the worldly thoughts and the worldly pleasures of errant knights. He discerned a huge *difference between the two* in that he became aware that he had to willfully *focus and work* at his thoughts of Christ and the lives of the Saints. He *did not have to work* at the pleasures and the exploits of knights. Those worldly thoughts came quickly and easily. This happened often. It is something that we can all relate to even to this day. However, this experience moved him to seek a greater insight as he pressed deeper into this experience.

He then noticed a great difference between these kinds of thoughts and their sources. In the words taken from Luis Gonzalez as he wrote about St. Ignatius and this experience, let me quote... "*When Ignatius reflected on worldly thoughts, he felt intense pleasure; but when he gave them up out of weariness, he felt dry and depressed. Yet when he thought of living the rigorous sort of life, he knew the saints had lived, he not only experienced pleasure when he thought about it, but even after he dismissed these thoughts, he still experienced great joy. Yet he did not pay attention to this, nor did he appreciate it until one day, in a moment of insight, he began to marvel at the difference. Then he understood his experience: thoughts of one kind left him sad, the others full of joy. And this was the first time he applied a process of reasoning to his religious experience. Later, when he began to formulate his spiritual exercises, he used this experience as an illustration to explain the doctrine he taught his disciples on the discernment of spirits.*"

As part of St. Ignatius Loyola's spiritual advice and guidance on meditation he teaches us to use our imagination. A path to meditation is the use of imagination. One can use analysis and cognitive activity, but the imagination is a good way to engage the individual. He would ask that you imagine being with Jesus. Imagine his words being spoken to you. Imagine being the recipient of a miracle. Use your imagination. However, you should be aware that at a certain point it takes a little work and maybe even a great deal of work to remain focused. It is a curious thing to note that *it takes work*. It does not always come easy to remain focused on these things. Yet this makes sense when we consider the flip-side. It takes almost *no effort* whatsoever to dwell on and engage the imagination when it comes to worldly and sinful things. These worldly thoughts come so easily and spontaneously because of our fallen human nature. They are easily entertained, and we tend to go along with them. We claim them to be normal. It is easier to go along rather than to resist them. Nevertheless, the phenomenon is that the thoughts of the imagination tend to be pleasurable no matter how enduring, fleeting or superficial.

Ironically the *discernment part* of St. Ignatius' thought can be found *in the pleasure*. He noticed that the pleasures of the worldly thoughts lasted only if the worldly thoughts were present. When the thoughts became boring and faded, the pleasures associated with the thoughts faded as well. When it came to the pleasures associated with the thoughts of the life of Christ, the saints and the rigors of living the Christian life, there was a lasting joy and pleasure that endured long after the presence of the thoughts.

This was a noticeable experience and led to a great insight for St. Ignatius. This is also an insight that is affirmed in our Christian experience. All things in this world come to an end. The world is a passing reality. Yet the things of God are eternal. "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*" (Mt 24:35) Ah yes, God's Eternal Word.

Great joy is found in the Word of God. Our Christian teachings tell us that we only find true and lasting joy in Christ. Christ must reign in our hearts; our lives. This is offered to us in

so many ways. As Catholic Christians we find our true and lasting joy in *Word and Sacrament*.

We look around our world and we see many sorrowful things. We also see people living worldly and hedonistic lives. They appear to be happy and on top of the world. However, when their situations come to an end so does the pleasure. Therefore, we are tempted to chase after many things thinking they will bring us real happiness, pleasure or joy. Our fallen human nature moves us to travel this easy road for seeking worldly pleasures. The "fun" is appealing. But it only appeals to our fallen human nature. It eventually leaves us empty and dry.

The spiritual life is hard work because it moves in the opposite direction of our fallen human nature. The Spiritual Life does not appeal to the least common denominator but rather to our *greatest possible aspiration*: union with God. This is reaffirmed in the experience and the writing of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius inspires and encourages us to spend time reading and imagining ourselves somewhere in the Gospel stories. He encourages us to place ourselves in the stories of Salvation History from Abraham to Moses to David to Jesus. He encourages us to use our imagination while reading the lives of the saints. We can do this. It may not be easy at first, but this is something that we can do. It is practical and beneficial. We should also notice and take encouragement that the joy of living the Christian life is not a momentary and passing fancy. The Joy of Christian living is enduring and makes itself consistently present during the seemingly ordinary moments of our daily lives.

Have a great week.
Father Ralko

Next weekend we will have our annual Mission Appeal. This year we will welcome a missionary from the Apostles of Jesus. The Reverend Richard O'Nyamwaro from the Apostles of Jesus (AJ) will visit our parish and will speak at all the masses about the missionary work of the Church and that of his congregation. This visit is part of a national program whereby annually a representative for one of the many missionary groups visits parishes of the Diocese to enlist support for the mission work of the Church. More on this will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Church Support

JULY 28, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$7,152.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,262.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	\$1,855.00
Weekly deficit	\$(3,598.00)

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

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

2019 St. Nicholas Parish Festival



To our Sponsors, to ALL who attended and especially to everyone who volunteered their time

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a conversion process for those who want to deepen their relationship with God and learn more about the Catholic tradition. Some who come to RCIA are unbaptized and have little or no formal religious training; others have been baptized in other Christian denominations but seek information about the Roman Catholic Church and are considering membership. Still others were baptized but never raised Catholic or were not confirmed in the faith. RCIA at St. Nicholas will begin on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Building, 955 East Main St. (enter on the Silliman St. side). Those seeking information about RCIA, please call Mary Lou Staker at 740-453-7141.

SADIE CORRY PILGRIMAGE TO CAREY, OHIO

Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Cost is \$35.00. You may purchase your lunch at the cafeteria. Paid reservations needed by Wednesday, September 4th. Bus departure from K of C, Zanesville Sunrise Center, 7:50 a.m. and return about 6:45 p.m. For information call Mary Murphy at 452-4454 or Margaret Kronenbitter at 453-7657. Make checks payable and send to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd., Zanesville, OH. 43701.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Kevin Dooley will hold a Protecting God's Children class on Monday, August 19th at 6:00 p.m. The class will be held at the St. Nicholas Parish office, lower level. This class is mandatory for those who would like to volunteer in any capacity at Bishop Fenwick School, Bishop Rosecrans High School or St. Nicholas Parish. Please register in advance at www.virtus.org.

Men of The East - Traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection

St. Leonard's Catholic Church, 57 Dorsey Mill Rd., Heath, OH 43056 will host the Men of The East for a traveling Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Reflection on Thursday, August 8th starting at 7:00 p.m. 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 visit www.MenOfTheEast.com

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

August 4, 2019

19th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 10 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable
Lectors: Sharon Coen, Nancy Susa
Servers: Luke Pratt, Libby Pratt
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Don Susa
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Margaret Kronenbitter, Scott Peterson
Eucharistic Ministers: Larry Denbow, Philip Kocoloski, Paula Peterson, Karen Robinson

Sunday, August 11 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lector: Diane Hoffer, Susan Thompson
Servers: David Eppley, Caiden Hogue
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Dan Sylvester
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: John Haswell, Dodi Sealock
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Haswell, Tim Hoffer, Robert LaPrad, Cheryl Sylvester

Sunday, August 11 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy, Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Keena Hansel, Sam Palleschi
Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Mason Harmon
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Carolyn Arnold
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Laurie Harmon, Erin Roush
Eucharistic Ministers: Susie Altier, Jennifer Bernett, Mike Musselman, Jim Pottmeyer

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, August 15 @ 8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky
Lector: Nichole Hannahs
Servers: Thomas Bernath, Will Bernath
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Paul Ritchey
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Molly Ritchey, Claire Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers: Gerald Tiberio

Thursday, August 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Cantor: Sandy Black
Lector: Nancy Susa
Servers: Caiden Hogue, Wesley Wilson
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Charlotte Snider
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Marvin Paul, Dan Snider
Eucharistic Ministers: Don Susa

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.

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, August 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome

8:00 a.m., Mass: Michael E. Nestor, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
6:00 p.m., Summer Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:00 a.m., Mass: Emma Barry, Church

WEDNESDAY, August 7, St. Sixtus II and Companions

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

THURSDAY, August 8, St. Dominic

NO MASS

FRIDAY, August 9, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

8:00 a.m., Mass: Minh Nguyen, Church

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, August 10, St. Lawrence

2:30 p.m., Wedding, Danielle Barry and Kolby Knox, Church
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Raymond L. Hecker, Church

SUNDAY, August 11

8:15 a.m., Mass: Barbara Miller, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of August 5, 2019

Mon.	Nm 11:4b-15	Mt 14:13-21
Tues.	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14	Lk 9:28b-36
Wed	Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26- 29a, 34-35	Mt 15:21-28
Thurs.	Nm 20:1-13	Lk 9:57-62
Fri.	Dt 4:32-40	Mt 16:24-28
Sat.	2 Cor 9:6-10	Jn 12:24-26
Sun	Wis 18:6-9	Lk 12:32-48

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

Please join us each Monday at St. Nicholas Church 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.