

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk

This Wednesday evening, July 31st, marks the beginning of our Annual Parish Festival. Please join us in this major parish fundraiser. Visit with friends, enjoy good food and refreshments. We have entertainment, raffles, games of chance and activities for the kids. Oh yes, did I mention good food and refreshments, most notably the Chicken Dinner Saturday?

I said it once before and I think it is worth repeating at this point. The sale of the raffle tickets for the Grand Prize is directly connected with the success of our festival. This is true for all parish festivals. So, I encourage you to help make our festival successful in this aspect by buying/selling your raffle tickets. Besides... who wouldn't take a chance to win \$5,000.00? Good luck.

The benefits from the festival are a great asset to our parish as well as our school. The funds generated from this event are only one part of the overall benefits. Working together, visiting with family and friends, enjoying a good time all build relationships. People gathering and working together for a good and common cause always builds up community. There is a twofold benefit, the building of relationships of our parish community and the necessary funds for our parish and school. Please plan on attending.

A thought which comes to mind from today's gospel is the idea of the *habit of prayer* found in St. Luke's account of Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray. The Disciples made their request during a relatively calm time. They observed Jesus at prayer and were curious about prayer, most notable his prayer. "Lord, teach us how to pray". Jesus responded with what we rightly call the "Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father". The prayer is a reflection on his relationship with God, His Father. It is a prayer given to us that challenges and directs our relationship with God.

As mentioned, the request was made during a relatively calm time as opposed to a time of crisis. It is usually during an emergency or a crisis that many find themselves lost in the moment. Many do not even think about prayer apart from a spontaneous "Oh, my God!" Then when pressed further a need to pray arises but they find themselves at a loss about prayer. There is a need to turn to God, but what do I say apart from help me...

This tends to be true unless the individual had developed a relationship with God and a dialogue with God that we call a *habit of prayer*. It is usually during an emergency that we discover whether we have a relationship with God and the good *habit of prayer*. We rarely realize how a good habit of prayer can spontaneously help us in a crisis providing a firm foundation to deal with the situation. For good or for ill, our good habits or sadly our bad habits, surface during difficult times as well as during our unguarded moments.

For good or for ill, our habits say a great deal about ourselves. There are a couple of ways in which habits are developed. Our habits are formed voluntarily or involuntarily. Learning to play the piano is a deliberate choice. Part of that choice is to commit oneself to practice every day. It is in practicing that we create a habit. The individual commits to the study of music in theory and in the mechanics. But all the study and theory do little unless there are hours of actual practice by playing every day. Thus, playing the piano becomes "second nature" to the individual. Once created the individual can play spontaneously and with greater ease. This can give us an insight into our prayer life.

This is done deliberately. However, there are also habits that we acquire involuntarily. These habits tend to take root in our lives because of the environment we live in. Growing up in a

thoughtless and lazy environment has a way of forming thoughtless, lazy attitudes and actions for those living in such an environment. Living in an environment that values hard work and virtuous living instills these values to all in that environment. These habits, by merely being continuously exposed to them have a way of shaping and forming one's life. We can use the word "osmosis".

This is true for the development of both good and bad habits. Involuntarily we can say that some of these habits, both good and bad, are just the outcome of our surroundings. On the other hand, we voluntarily choose the habits we desire to have in our lives because we consider them to be good and helpful. When we consider the good habits, we desire in our lives we also must consider the environment in which we live. Will this environment help or hinder my desire to develop a good habit? Ironically it always seems that the development of a good habit takes serious work since bad habits seem to develop with no effort at all.

Without discussing how our habits manifest themselves in the ordinary moments of our lives let me get to my point. When I mentioned that Jesus taught his disciples how to pray during a relatively calm time, this is the time in which one consciously sets about creating a habit. It is during a relatively calm time that good habits are decided upon and can be developed. A calm period provides the opportunity to have clarity with all things being equal. With a good habit of prayer, we are then able to pray spontaneously. We will know where to turn and how to pray. Many things happen in the fog of an emergency or a crisis. There is no real time to learn to pray or even to understand that it is the right and important.

When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, he gives them a prayer. During a time of calm the prayer Jesus gives us sounds nice and has some pious devout statements. However, it is only in a time of crisis we begin to discover how important those elements of the "Lord's Prayer" truly are. These elements of the Lord's Prayer remind us of our proper place and relationship with God. The Prayer is necessary for our focus and the faith we need in difficult times. The prayer is taught by Jesus therefore we consider it necessary for our lives.

We know the Lord's Prayer by heart. Hopefully it is "second nature" to us. We have habitually repeated it over and over. It is so automatic that we pray it unconsciously. It would do us well to occasionally give a slow, thoughtful praying of the Lord's Prayer. The continuous praying the "Our Father" consciously or not, has in fact shapes our lives on a deeper level. This is all the grace of God. The "Our Father" provides the context or environment in which our lives are continually being formed. The praying of the "Our Father" is a good habit that will spontaneously surface at a time when we need it most.

In a time when we need it most, the "Our Father" reveals important element that we need as a people of faith. With an extended reflection on all the elements of the prayer we are made aware of who we are and where to turn: we are beloved children of God who turn to "Our Father". We acknowledge and praise God's greatness and gracious fatherly care. We are his beloved children. We know that God in his wisdom knows exactly what we need daily. We reaffirm God mercy and forgiveness. We acknowledge that as his children we need to do the same for others. Lastly, we know that we seek his divine protection from all that will tempt and harm us. In times of crisis or emergency we spontaneously renew our faith in God.

Jesus teaches his followers this prayer. Therefore, it is the most important prayer for us. We pray it often. We are creatures of habit. Let us make this prayer the foundation for our lives as a good *habit of prayer*.

Have a great week and see you at the Festival, Father Ralko

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

We pray for those who have died recently:
✠ *Emma Marie Barry* ✠



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 next to activity center for easy access and convenience to dinner! Tickets are available after Mass in the Church basement and at the Parish Office. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

The EdChoice Scholarship application period has been reopened until the end of July and our parish school, Bishop Fenwick K-8, accepts these state scholarships. Once your child is awarded, you will receive priority status to renew their scholarship each year through their 12th grade year. This is a tuition scholarship of up to \$4650 through 8th grade and \$6000 through 12th. **If your child attended 8th grade at Zanesville Middle School last year, they are eligible to apply for Bishop Rosecrans High School. New families moving into the area whose children would be assigned to the schools listed below, are also eligible to apply.** This is **NOT** a need-based scholarship, so financials are not necessary. Timing is important as it is first come, first serve so contact Susan Swackhammer 740-454-9731 or email sswackha@cdeducation.org as soon as possible.
**Crooksville Elementary K – 4, Duncan Falls Elementary K – 5
 Maysville Elementary K – 5, Roseville Elementary K – 6
 Zanesville School District K-8**

BISHOP FENWICK PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



**Are you looking for a wonderful
 Preschool experience for your child?
 BISHOP PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
 TUESDAY, JULY 30- 6:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.**

PRE-JORDAN CLASS

St. Nicholas will hold a Pre-Jordan class on Tuesday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office building for parents and Godparents of infants and small children who will be baptized. Please call Mary Lou Staker at (740) 453-7141 to register for the class.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH FESTIVAL NEWS



**CALLING ALL ST. NICHOLAS
 PARISHIONERS!**

We are still in need of volunteers for this years' parish festival. Please consider giving a little of your time to your parish! Please help this tradition carry on for many more years to come! Call Jen at 740-607-0618 to sign up.

SET UP NIGHTS PLANNED

Festival set up will begin at **5:30p.m.** on the following days:
 Monday, **July 29th** & Tuesday, **July 30th.**

Please consider donating 2 liters of Pepsi products for the festival. We would like to have a pop toss for the teen/kid's games. Thank you!



CAKE STAND: ATTENTION BAKERS!

We need cakes, cookies, pies, candies, breads & more. We will need new items every day of the festival. **HUNDREDS** of people will take home baked goods made by our wonderful St. Nicholas parishioners. Please drop off items in the St. Nicholas cafeteria before festival hours and at the booth anytime during the festival. If you have any questions, please call Brandie Scott at 740-225-1961. Thanks & Happy Baking!

2019 FESTIVAL QUILT

A lovely vintage, queen size scrap quilt has been donated by Mary & Jim McKee for the 2019 raffle. The hand piecing is exceptional and in very good condition. Thank you to the McKee's for their beautiful and generous donation!



**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.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

July 28, 2019

18th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 3 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy
Lectors: Nicole Hannahs, Mike LaPlante
Servers: Justin Ewart, Charles Peterson
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Jennifer Bernett
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Paul Ritchey, Molly Ritchey
Eucharistic Ministers: Alan Burns, Charlotte Snider, Dan Snider, Larry Taylor

Sunday, August 4 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Jim Gable
Lector: Peggy Hill, Bill Sullivan
Servers: David Eppley, Nathan Hustey
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Joshua Wright
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Gerald Tiberio, Claire Tiberio
Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Hillis, Marvin Paul, Jim Pottmeyer, Dodi Sealock

Sunday, August 5 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy, Rachel Taylor
Lectors: Othello Repuyan, Rocky Rowe
Servers: Nathan Hart, Justin Hart
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Dottie Durant
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: John Haswell, Linda Haswell
Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Arnold, Diana Dunn, Jim McKee, Jeff Shawger

Church Support

JULY 21, 2019	
OFFERTORY	\$9,940.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$6,051.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	\$(890.00)
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$(809.00)</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, July 29, St. Martha

8:00 a.m., Mass: Irene & Richard Dillon, Church
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office
6:00 p.m., Summer Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus

8:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Dozer, Church

WEDNESDAY, July 31, St. Ignatius of Loyola

8:00 a.m., Mass: Marie A. Nestor, Church

THURSDAY, August 1, St. Alphonsus Liguori

NO MASS

FRIDAY, August 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli

8:00 a.m., Mass: Mary Hupp, birthday, Church

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, August 3

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church
5:15 p.m., Mass: Mathilda Clark, Church

SUNDAY, August 4

8:15 a.m., Mass: Chuck Durant, Sr., Church
Mass: Kathy Shawger, birthday, Church
10:45 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

Readings for Week of July 29, 2019

Mon.	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34	1 Jn 4:7-16
Tues.	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28	Mt 13:36-43
Wed	Ex 34:29-35	Lk14:25-33
Thurs.	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38	Mt 5:13-19
Fri.	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37	Mt 13:54-58
Sat.	Lv 25:1, 8-17	Mt 14:1-12
Sun	Ecc1 1:2; 2:21- 23	Lk 12:13-21

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.