

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

From the Pastor's Desk



Mary Lou Staker August 16, 1940 – August 19, 2019

This past week we have experienced a great sorrow with the news of Mary Lou Staker's death. Dear Mary Lou sacrificed and suffered a great deal over the last few years: starting around the time of her husband, Deacon Gene's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and eventual death after many years of suffering the disease's effect. During Deacon Gene's last days Mary Lou herself was diagnosed with breast cancer and had major surgery on March 1, 2017. The day after her surgery she was discharged from the hospital whereupon she insisted on going to Morrison House where Gene was temporarily staying while Mary Lou was in the hospital. She had one thing in mind and that was to be at Deacon Gene's bedside no matter how she felt physically. She spent the following day, Friday, March 3 recovering at home. On Saturday morning, March 4, Deacon Gene died.

The following week, while still recovering from her surgery, Mary Lou graciously and with incredible strength received visitors at home, at the funeral home then in the church for Deacon Gene's funeral. Mary Lou was indeed a woman of great inner strength, love and faith. She remained calm and unwavering throughout. The theological virtue of hope, confident assurance of the loving presence of God's Divine Providence, was at work in her. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul: "*So faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*" (1Cor: 13:13). In other words: God always abides. For Mary Lou and Gene, it was always a love for the Lord first, foremost and always.

Following the death of Deacon Gene, Mary Lou was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and shortly thereafter, a recurrence of cancer that metastasized into her spine. Crushed by these diagnoses Mary Lou remained unflinching in her faith. One of the beautiful things hidden in this new reality was a deepening of her faith. We have a saying in our Christian tradition: "*Your greatest cross is your greatest blessing and your greatest blessing is your greatest cross.*" Mary Lou believed in redemptive suffering. She had a greater appreciation for the frustrations and sufferings Gene physically endured. In her sufferings she also found a door through which she had a genuine appreciation of the sufferings of our Blessed Lord. The Blessing for Mary Lou was an ongoing conversion and configuration to Christ. Her patience was challenged. She grew through this challenge; Virtue is its own reward. I found her to be very patient in her work in the parish, her listening to others and her prayerful persistence. For Mary Lou this was a difficult transformation because anyone who knew her knew that her greatest strength was her strong will and determination to get things on her terms. A great strength can be

a great cross. Redemption and conversion are ongoing with the constant calling to greater humility and trustingly putting oneself in the hands of God. She did put it all in God's hands last Monday.

During it all Mary Lou never lost her sense of humor in the face of her mortality. Her favorite sayings come from the saints. She would often repeat the words of the great contemplative St. Teresa of Avila speaking to God in prayer: "*If this is the way you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few!*"

Along with Deacon Gene, Mary Lou had a great love for the Lord and his Church. Mary Lou added so much to the Church, here at St. Nicholas and in Montgomery, Alabama where she and Gene moved in 1985 because of Gene's employment. After his retirement they returned and played a very important pastoral role in the parish: Gene in his role as Deacon and Mary Lou as Faith Formation director and Sacramental preparation programs. As we felt with Deacon Gene, Mary Lou will be greatly missed. God Bless you Mary Lou.

Let us continue to keep her in our prayers. She would insist on that because, as she would say, she needed them more than anything else. "Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on her. May she rest in peace. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

Two weekends ago we experienced *déjà vu* all over again. Last year we were to have a missionary from India to be here for our annual mission appeal. The missionary was not able to be here to preach the annual mission appeal because of a monsoon in India and the airport from which he was to fly the previous week was closed because of flooding. Last year at this time I referred to the principles of "Murphy's Law" as the reason for his not being able to be here. This year the story repeats itself when our missionary had unwittingly double booked his weekend with St. Nicholas and another parish. Again, Murphy was in play.

Now the last two mission appeals were *strategically planned* to my benefit. Both years I had scheduled the Mission Appeal to coincide with a scheduled wedding for those Saturdays. (This only makes "Murphy's Law" more likely to occur.) Like last year my plans were for a smoothly moving weekend with extra help. This year Fr. Dreese, who would have had a free weekend with a visiting priest here, had graciously offered to take the Saturday evening mass so that I would be able to celebrate the wedding and the missionary would do the Sunday preaching. With Saturday evening covered I would have had an easier schedule with a "homily-free" weekend. It is the next best thing to an actual vacation. With all the clever planning it was bound to fall apart for a second year in a row. "Tell God your plans!"

Now we are flirting with another theory: *If something happens once or twice it is an accident. If it happens a third time it is a habit.* I am holding my breath for next summer.

This past week our new school year began. Things are good even if it is a little warm. Nevertheless, the new school year has commenced, and we are off and running. Enrollment is up from last year and good things are happening.

Have a blessed Week  
Father Ralko

**NOTE WELL:** Since school is now in session, starting next Wednesday the Morning Mass will be at 8:10 am.

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

*We pray for those who have died recently:  
Mary Lou Staker*

### RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- Are you in search of a deeper relationship with God?
- Are you interested in learning about Christian initiation, Christianity, the Catholic faith?
- Have you been attending the Catholic Church, Mass, for years but just never ‘got around’ to joining?
- Would you like to be baptized?

RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is an opportunity to learn about the tradition and history of the Catholic Church, while experiencing our beliefs and worship. RCIA at St. Nicholas begins on **Wed. September 11 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office Building meeting room, upper level. Call Patty Boggs at 453-0597 for more information.

### SURVIVING DIVORCE

Divorced? The twelve-week Surviving Divorce program begins on **Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. The cost of the program for participants includes the Surviving Divorce Personal Guide and all program materials. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic Church teachings. Call Patty at (740) 453-0597 to register.

### MEN OF THE EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RETREAT DAY

Catholic Men from Knox, Licking or Muskingum counties are cordially invited to Men of The East 1st Annual Retreat Day, **August 24** at St. Mary Catholic Church. St. Mary’s Mattingly Settlement will be our host for this first of its kind retreat. Tickets are now available for this FREE event.

- We will start the day with Adoration and Confession.
- Breakfast and Lunch will be available.
- We will enjoy some Armor building talks and activities.
- We will end the day with Mass

Register TODAY at [www.menoftheeast.com/annualretreat](http://www.menoftheeast.com/annualretreat)  
After you've printed your ticket be sure to invite your friends, relatives and those in need of a ride to join you at this special day.

### BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

MUM SALE forms are available at the Knights of Columbus Hall or at Bishop Rosecrans High School. Pick up will be **Wednesday, September 11** at the Knights of Columbus at 6:30 p.m. Contact Marvin Paul at 819-3429 with questions.

### BISHOP ROSECRANS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

will be having their booster mania on **September 11** at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 6:30 p.m. You may purchase your numbers for the next year and enjoy food and drink compliments of the boosters. Contact Marvin Paul at 819-3429 with questions.

CANTORS - there are many good voices in our St. Nicholas congregation! If you are interested and able to be a cantor, please call Sr. Bernadette (740-455-8511) in the evenings or weekends. You'll be glad you did! This is a marvelous ministry.

In the spirit of friendship, the **Daughters of Isabella, Circle #586 Fidelis Regina**, is sponsoring a reception for the Franciscan sisters of Christian Charity in honor of their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please join us in the St. Nicholas Church Social Hall on **Sunday, September 29** from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the many years of dedicated service which the sisters have provided to our community. Light refreshment will be served.

The Women’s Spirituality Group will resume meeting **Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**, at the parish office from 3:30 p.m. until around 5:00 p.m. We meet on the last Monday of the month from September through April except for December. We will be using the book, *Becoming More Than A Good Bible Girl*. We invite the women of the parish to join us for an exercise in deepening our faith. If you can join us or have any questions, please call Judi Peterson at 740-453-5288.

### Post-abortion Healing Retreat -September 13-15, 2019

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for women who have experienced an abortion. The retreat includes private room, all meals, time of Spiritual connection and personal reflection in a lovely retreat setting. For more information call or text Abortion Recovery CareLine at 614-721-2100.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – The Holy Spirit a 12-week bible study by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, will begin Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Office, upper level. Participants will need the book The Holy Spirit, a Bible and a notebook. Please call the parish office to register and so that we may order your book. Registration deadline is Friday, September 6. Books will be available for pick up September 11 in order to allow participants to complete the “Introduction” prior to the first meeting. The cost of the book is \$10.95. Scholarships available.

### 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 4. 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.

### ATTENTION ALL LECTORS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, AND SERVERS

**Please pick up the new schedule at Church if you did not receive it via email.**

**Thanks, and God Bless!**

**21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**September 1, 2019**

**22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 31 @ 5:15 p.m.**

Cantor: Sr. Bernadette Selinsky  
Lectors: Mike LaPlante, Sylvia Norris  
Servers: Nicholas Bernath, Charles Peterson  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Charlotte Snider  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Philip Kocoloski, Karen Robinson  
Eucharistic Ministers: Mike Musselman, Paula Peterson, Scott Peterson, Dan Snider

**Sunday, September 1 @ 8:15 a.m.**

Cantor: Janet Moses  
Lector: Stephanie Bridwell, Diane Hoffer  
Servers: David Eppley, Nathan Hustey  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Cheryl Sylvester  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Marvin Paul, Dodi Sealock  
Eucharistic Ministers: Larry Denbow, Tim Hoffer, Dan Sylvester, Joshua Wright

**Sunday, September 1 @ 10:45 a.m.**

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy  
Lectors: Sam Palleschi, Othello Repuyan  
Servers: Rex Hankinson, Mason Harmon  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Jim McKee  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Susie Altier, Jeff Shawger  
Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Bennett, Karen Hardman, Laurie Harmon, Margaret Kronenbitter

*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 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.*

**Church Support**

AUGUST 18, 2019

OFFERTORY	\$12,826.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$8,937.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$2,077.00</u>

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

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

**MONDAY, August 26**

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Tam Nguyen**, Church  
2:00 p.m., Pray the Rosary, St. Nicholas Chapel, Parish Office

**TUESDAY, August 27, St. Monica**

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Ann Arnold**, Church

**WEDNESDAY, August 28, St. Augustine**

8:10 a.m., School Mass: **Roger Eppley**, Church  
7:00 p.m., Cantor practice (church choir loft)

**THURSDAY, August 29, The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

NO MASS

**FRIDAY, August 30**

8:00 a.m., Mass: **Rita Hecker**, Church

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**SATURDAY, August 31**

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: **Sara Reichart**, Church

**SUNDAY, September 1**

8:15 a.m., Mass: **St. Nicholas Parishioners**, Church  
10:45 a.m., Mass: **Camillus Sullivan**, Church

***Readings for Week of August 26, 2019***

Mon. . . . .	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10	Mt 23:13-22
Tues. . . . .	1 Thes 2:1-8	Mt 23:23-26
Wed . . . . .	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:27-32
Thurs. . . . .	1 Thes 3:7-13	Mk 6:17-29
Fri. . . . .	1 Thes 4:1-8	Mt 25:1-13
Sat. . . . .	1 Thes 4:9-11	Mt 25:14-30
Sun . . . . .	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29	Lk 14:1, 7-14