

## 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

Tomorrow is Labor Day. You are invited to begin this national holiday with the celebration of the Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. in the Church. In our celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that translates "Thanksgiving" we thank God that we can work. It is an irony since we generally see and understand work to be a burden and not a blessing. We understand this as such because the world is tainted by sin which distorts our vision and understanding. We live in a sinful world and we consider this is normal and thus we are used to our tainted view on everything and most especially the way we view our blessings. This is weird. We do not see with the clarity that God would have us view things. Beyond the veil of sin, viewing with the eyes of faith, the true reality of work is a blessing in which God invites us to participate in His creative and life-giving work. Think of it... God invites us to share in His work sharing in His creative activity that reveals His loving gifts and presence. Work is a gift that helps us to grow closer to God, growing in His *Image and Likeness*. For this we give thanks to God.

We have grown accustomed to thinking that work is a negative thing. However, the whole business of work is something that is an essential part of human life from the very beginning. At no time in the history of humanity has work not been an essential aspect of our existence and development as a race. Work is second nature to humanity. Work is so essential to our human nature that we disapprove of those who refuse to work and expect to receive the benefits of the work of others. (See: 1 Thessalonians 3:10.) We are not comfortable witnessing laziness or indifference to work: unless of course it is our own laziness. We self-justify and make excuses for our laziness. But even the need to justify our laziness indicates that work is good for us and we just refuse it.

We have often heard the saying that "*a man needs to work*." It is true. Human beings need to work. We all need to do something. Without work we begin to believe that there is no purpose to life: it is pointless and empty. We need to accomplish something in this life and that requires work of some sort. We have heard stories about people who have ended their own life for the simple reason that they found life boring and pointless. Or another case in which an individual labored and toiled for no purpose; as if life is only about pointless toil and suffering. If life is only about toil/suffering and then you die; what's the point?

In serious consideration there is no getting around the reality that work is a fundamental part of life. Without reflection on the deeper reality and meaning of work it can be easily misunderstood. As a people of faith, we need to see and understand as God would have us see and understand. We are blessed in this regard because God reveals this in His Divine Word: The Scriptures. Since our world is distorted by sin, we need to look at work before the distorting factor of sin entered creation. Let us look at work in the light of Genesis: "*In the beginning*" looking at God's original intention.

God created the "*heavens and the earth*". When God created the heavens and the earth, he created them "*ex nihilo*". That is to say God created everything "*out of nothing*." Strictly speaking only God can create. Humans strictly speaking cannot create. The human being, who is "*in creation*", can only take what is already created and work with it; for good or for ill.

Genesis tells us that when God was finished with the work of creation, creating the heavens, the earth, the animals and Adam and Eve, he said it was "*very good*". There is an unblemished beauty and goodness about God's creation. We know this to be true since we often marvel at the wonders and beauty of creation. As Creator we can also say that God had a plan in mind: the meaning and purpose of His creation. At this

point God handed creation over to the man (Adam and Eve) to have dominion; discovering the meaning and purpose of creation. God left the further development of His creation to the *laws of nature* that are built into creation and to the ongoing thoughtful work of the man. The man and woman, as intelligent creatures, were invited to have dominion over creation as the stewards/caretakers of God's Creation.

The invitation to share in God's work was given before *the fall* of Adam and Eve. We also know that the man and woman were created in the *image and likeness* of God. The invitation to man and woman was for their work in the world to be a manifestation of the *image and likeness* of God in them: "be fruitful and multiply". It is in the very nature of our humanity that we are compelled to work. It is part of who we are in this world. God thoroughly enjoyed all that he created and invited the man and the woman to share in that enjoyment as they participate in God's ongoing creative activity. There is great joy in sharing in God's work. God blesses this work and makes it fruitful.

Unfortunately, because of Original Sin, our nature is tainted, and our understanding is distorted. The *image and likeness* of God in all of humanity has been dimmed by sin. Work, before the Original Sin, was a joyful part of the big picture. After the Original Sin work became tainted and disoriented: it is now burdensome. Because of sin we even go so far as to reject our role as stewards/caretakers and assume ownership of creation. This changes the meaning and motive for work. The need for work remains. However, work now has a selfish motive: personal gain over a sharing in the ongoing creative activity of God. As we read in Genesis after the sin, God said to the woman... "*I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children*." And to the man... "*cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return*". Gen 3:16 ff.

Even though we must now labor by the sweat of our brow, we still have a need to work. Work is burdensome, the more we place our will before the will of God. Instead of being stewards of God's creation and serve God faithfully, we assume ownership of God's creation. We take God out of the picture and it all becomes about us. The burden of labor is made "heavier" because we never seem to be satisfied with what we have: we want more. We give priority to worldly satisfaction over our ultimate satisfaction in God. In a strange way, if we find that we only seek human rewards for our human work it leaves us wanting because we experience the short-lived limits of human rewards. Our "will" is not satisfied. There is an imperfection and limitation to human rewards. We are left wanting.

The invitation to share in God's creation still holds true. God wants us to be good stewards of his creation and to find His blessings in His creation and our work. We accept the invitation to work in God's creation out of our love for God trusting in His goodness. When we prayerfully accept his invitation to work, we will find meaning in our labor. We persevere in faith and endure all things in hope of sharing the fullness of joy that only God can provide.

When it comes to work there are many ways in which the human person participates. There is physical, intellectual, spiritual and artistic work. Work takes on all kinds of manifestations that benefit our world and the people who occupy it. All work is good. What is important is that we do some sort of work and view it as God's invitation to share in his creative activity: to do all things for the greater honor and glory of God.

Have a great holiday weekend and week. Father Ralko

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

All are invited to join the students for breakfast, next Sunday, **September 8** in the St. Nicholas Church basement following all Masses.

### **RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

RCIA is a process by which adults become Catholic. Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Are you unbaptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life/ Are you a baptized Catholic or baptized into another religion but never received any formal religious education? Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass but just don't know what the next step is to become one of the Catholic faithful? Were you baptized as a Catholic but not raised in the faith? RCIA is the place for you! RCIA begins on **Wed. September 11 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Office Building, upper level, 955 East Main St. 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.

**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.

### **89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LABOR DAY HOMECOMING PICNIC**

St. Mary's, Fulda will hold their annual picnic on **Monday, September 2**. Our day starts with Mass at 9:00 a.m. Dinner will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Carry-out dinners are available. A refreshment stand will be available all afternoon.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

Classes for the 2019-2020 Saint Nicholas Religious Education year begin **Sunday, September 15, 2018**. Classes are from 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and are held in the Bishop Fenwick building at 955 E. Main St. For more information call Suzanne or Kevin Dooley at 740-319-2170.

### **“MUM” Is THE WORD!**

Announcing The Eastside Community Ministry  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual MUM Sale!

Mums provided by “McDonald's Greenhouse”  
(Orders & payment due to ECM by **Tuesday, Sept. 3 at Noon**)

Decorate your home and/or business for the upcoming  
Fall Season & support the work of ECM!

Have a question, call Jamie or Melissa at ECM (740) 452-7519.

**Order forms are available in the front pews in the church.**



The Parish Office  
will be closed  
**Monday, September  
2nd for the  
Labor Day Holiday.**

**Mt. Olive Cemetery** has a part time position available. Duties would include mowing, weed eating, helping to open and close graves, help pouring footers for headstones and snow removal. If interested, please call the Parish Office at 740-453-0597.

### **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.

### **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.

**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.

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.

## 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

It is your responsibility to find a substitute if needed.

**September 8, 2019**

**23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

#### Saturday, September 7 @ 5:15 p.m.

Cantor: Kevin McCarthy  
Lectors: Nicole Hannahs, Nancy Susa  
Servers: Justin Ewart, Luke Pratt  
Eucharistic Minister – Coord: Don Susa  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Molly Ritchey, Paul Ritchey  
Eucharistic Ministers: Vicki Burns, Al Burns, Dottie Durant,  
Judy Hamilton

#### Sunday, September 8 @ 8:15 a.m.

Cantor: Ryan Teti  
Lector: Peggy Hill, Susan Thompson  
Servers: Caiden Hogue, J. D. Wilson  
Eucharistic Minister- Coord: Jim Hillis  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Linda Haswell,  
John Haswell  
Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Hillis, Tim Hoffer, Philip Kocoloski,  
Larry Taylor

#### Sunday, September 8 @ 10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Laura DeCoy  
Lectors: Patti Logan, Rocky Rowe  
Servers: Will Bernath, Nathan Hart  
Eucharistic Minister - Coord: Mary Mirgon  
Eucharistic Ministers - Wash Vessel: Carolyn Arnold,  
Diana Dunn  
Eucharistic Ministers: Sandy Black, Karen Hardman,  
Jim Pottmeyer, Erin Roush

*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	\$6,062.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$2,173.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	<u>\$(4,687.00)</u>

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

## What's Happening in Our Parish

### MONDAY, September 2

8:00 a.m., Mass: L/D Members of the Nader Family, Church

### TUESDAY, September 3, St. Gregory the Great

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

### WEDNESDAY, September 4

8:10 a.m., School Mass: Mary Antoinette Ha Nguyen, birthday, Church

### THURSDAY, September 5

NO MASS

### FRIDAY, September 6

All day until 4:00 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration  
8:00 a.m., Mass: Cecil Mary Soller, Church

## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### SATURDAY, September 7

4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Confessions, Church  
5:15 p.m., Mass: Anna Mary Glaub, Church

### SUNDAY, September 8

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church  
10:45 a.m., Mass: John & Ada McKeown, Church  
10:45 a.m., Mass: Ellen Baker & Mary Lou Roessler, Church

## Readings for Week of September 2

Mon. . . . .	1 Thes 4:13-18	Lk 4:16-30
Tues. . . . .	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11	Lk 4:31-37
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