

St. Nicholas News

February/March 2007 – Volume 1 – Issue 1

925 East Main Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
www.stnickparish.org – susand@rroho.com – 453-0597

Pastor's Corner

From Fr. Leo

I am most grateful that we have been able to begin to publish the Saint Nicholas News once again. I am grateful to Susan Davis of our Parish Staff for coordinating this effort.

As in the past, I urge you to consider forwarding items to us to be included in the Newsletter. Maybe you have been involved in a parish sponsored activity that has been meaningful to you and you want to share your reaction. Maybe you have a question that you might want to ask about Catholic life and the answer might interest everyone. Maybe you have a poem or essay that you would like to share. There are all sorts of possibilities. I believe that the success of this publication depends on ALL OF US!

I would appreciate it if anyone has a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other relative serving in the military or government service overseas that you let us know so that we may include each of them in our prayer intentions. Please contact the Parish Office or write down their names, branch of service, and where they are serving, and place it in the offertory basket.

Father Leo Connolly

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First Reconciliation Celebrated!

26 second grade students from Bishop Fenwick and St. Nicholas Parish School of Religion and their parents celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 20, 2007 in St. Nicholas Church. The students participated in a special prayer service. After receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and upon completing their penance, each child lighted a candle in a holder with the inscription, "May the love of Christ shine brightly through you". Each child took their candle and holder home as a reminder of this special day, when for the first time they received the healing love of Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ended with lunch served to all in the St. Nicholas Gathering Space. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they continue to prepare to celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 13 at the 11:30 AM Mass.

Funeral Luncheon Ministry

Sharing Hospitality and Caring

There are never complaints—only appreciation!

What We're About

At a time when families have so many things to take care of, we offer luncheons to help relieve one worry. It is a way for the parish to show their concern and aid them in their bereavement.

What Do We Do?

We are called into action on short notice when a family expresses interest. We rely on our list of volunteers whom we call to bake, cook or serve. They provide a welcoming and comforting atmosphere on behalf of our faith community.

How Can I Help?

If you can bake cookies, make a salad or another dish to share, that's all the talent you need! There is no training necessary. Training is by doing. The number of funerals determines how often this ministry meets. If you are a server, it is about a 4 hour commitment. We appreciate any amount of time that you can give, as your schedule allows.

For More Information

Persons interested in learning more about the Funeral Luncheon Ministry should contact the Parish office.

Rite of Election – St. Matthew in Gahanna

Our RCIA participants-catechumens (*unbaptized*), candidates (*baptized in another Christian church*), and un-catechized adult Catholics (*baptized Catholic who have not received first Communion*), who have been studying about the Catholic faith for many months and their sponsors, will celebrate the Rite of Election on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Gahanna. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus will celebrate the rite, during which they will ask permission to be allowed to participate in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. They will be enrolled in the Book of Elect and will continue their time of preparation here at St. Nicholas and become full members of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday evening, April 7. This high point of the Catholic liturgical year is our opportunity to welcome our new brother and sisters in Christ in our parish family. Please plan to attend this year.

Youth Mass

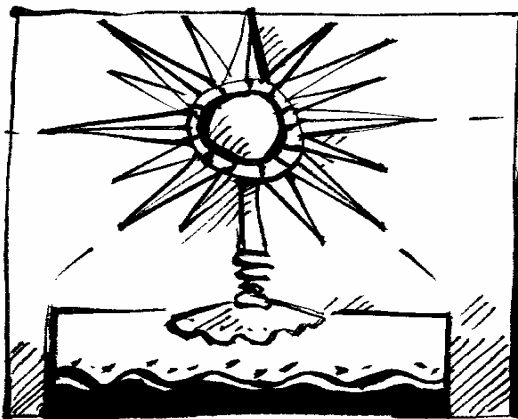
Come and join us for our Youth Mass on Sunday, February 18th at 5:15 PM.

The music will be provided by the Praise Band. Be sure to come and bring a friend. All are Welcome.

Join us for Adoration!

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ Present in the Holy Eucharist. In the many Churches that have this adoration, the Eucharist is displayed in a special holder called a monstrance, and people come to pray and worship Jesus continually throughout the day often the night. Christ's great love for us was shown when he was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. He loves us without limit, and offers himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Can we not give Jesus a few minutes of love and adoration in return?

First Friday Adoration will be held on February 2, 2007 and on March 2, 2007 at St. Nicholas Church beginning at 8:00 AM with Exposition, Morning Prayer and Benediction. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until Mass at 5:15 PM. Please come for a time of prayer.



"When I said 'Fish on Fridays', Bob, I didn't mean during Lent you skip work on Fridays and go fishing."

Parish Festival News

It's never too early to be thinking about the St. Nicholas Parish Festival. It will be here before you know it. The dates for the Festival are **August 1, 2,3rd, and 4th**. The Festival committee will begin holding monthly meetings in February to discuss new and exciting ideas for this year's Festival. All members of St. Nicholas Parish and families at Bishop Fenwick School are invited to attend these meetings. Watch the bulletin and school communication for dates and times.

The 2006 Parish Festival was very successful. Because of the many volunteers from the Parish, School, and Zanesville community, the Festival committee was able to present St. Nicholas Parish with a check for \$43,000.00. We want to do even better this year, but we will need your help. Please set aside the dates listed above so you will be available to volunteer, volunteer, volunteer!!!!

Bus Pilgrimage to Dayton

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, 27 adults and 2 junior high youths went on the pilgrimage, sponsored by the St. Nicholas Adult Faith Formation Committee, to Dayton, Ohio to experience the Rembrandt collection at the Dayton Art Institute. Six paintings and many, many etchings by Rembrandt van Rijn as well as works from other Dutch masters – long housed in the Netherlands' national Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam – hung in the Dayton Art Institute on the first stop of a US tour. The decision to part with the paintings temporarily came when it was determined that the renovation and modernization of the Rijksmuseum, expected to continue until 2009. Born in 1606, Rembrandt won acclaim from an early age, and his work was always in demand. But his life was marked with hard times. His wife died at 29 and he went bankrupt in 1658, died in 1669 and was buried in an unmarked grave. Rembrandt's skills as a painter and etcher and his ability to capture the essence of his subjects' characters with compassion for their humanity have made him enduringly popular. The exhibit was phenomenal! The only complaint was that we didn't stay long enough!!

After viewing the Rembrandt exhibit we went to the University of Dayton to view the crèche exhibit. We began our time at the university with lunch at the cafeteria. What should have been an ordinary lunch became a memorable experience when the fire alarm sounded and we spent 15 minutes outside waiting for the false alarm to be affirmed! After our lunch we met Fr. Johann Roten, S.M., Director at the International Marian Research Institute/Marian Library, for a guided tour of the library and the crèche exhibit. The Marian Library at the University of Dayton has the world's largest collection of Marian literature and the International Marian Research Institute is a Pontifical Institute for Marian Studies. Everyone loved the royal treatment we received and enjoyed the crèche exhibits from around

the world. The library has more than 1500 creches, many of which we viewed and many that are placed on loan at different locations during the Christmas season. If you would like to know more about the Marian Library, please visit their web site at <http://www.udayton.edu/mary>. And for the future, consider joining us on our next pilgrimage! We had a great time together! We hope to plan a trip during late spring or early summer. If you have an idea of a place we might visit, please let us know. We are always open to ideas!!! Call Mary Lou Staker, Director of Faith Formation 453-7141.

Ministry to the Homebound

If you or someone you love wishes to receive the Eucharist or have Pastoral visits, please call Jim Cope at 453-0597

Vacation Bible School Notes...

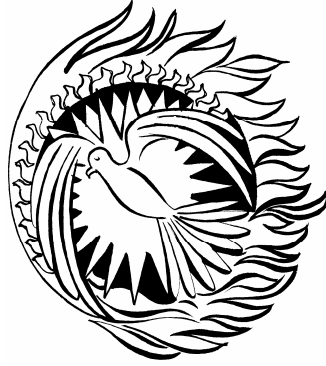
It's not too early to start praying for our 2007 Vacation Bible School!! We are already looking at programs and themes for this year. The dates have been set, so mark your calendars for the week of June 25th through the 29th. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Kevin Dooley.

*"The things, good Lord,
that we pray for, give
us the grace to labor
for."*

*Thomas More
16th Century*

Confirmation Preparation Continues

Our Confirmation class, 2007, consists of 24 8th graders from Bishop Fenwick School and St.



Nicholas Parish School of Religion. These candidates began their preparation with meetings with parents and sponsors and in February and March will attend two mini retreats 'for teens only.' At these retreats they will play some fun ice breakers, get to know each other better through small group discussion, have supper, listen to a short talk on the topic of the night – Feb. "Teen Spirituality" and Mar. "Ministry and Mission". On Saturday, March 24 candidates, sponsors, and parents will visit St. Joseph Cathedral. Fr. Leo Connolly will lead the tour through the cathedral and even into the undercroft to see the crypts of deceased Bishops of the Columbus Diocese. This is a great way to learn more about the heritage of our faith. They will have the opportunity to visit the Cathedral Gift Shop on Gay Street before leaving for lunch with family and friends. If you have never visited the cathedral, stop in some time when you are in the Columbus area. It is conveniently located at 198 East Broad St., close to High Street.

The candidates, parents, and sponsors will also attend their Confirmation Retreat on Friday evening and Saturday, April 20 and 21. This will be a special time of reflecting on their Catholic faith and to hear others share about their experience of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, as listed in chapter 11 of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Please continue to pray for them as they await their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 7 PM at St. Nicholas. Check out their pictures in the St. Nicholas Gathering Space.

LENT

Lenten Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross; in Latin, *Vai cruces*; also called the *Via Dolorosa* or Way of Sorrows, or simply, The Way) refers to the depiction of the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus, and the devotion commemorating the Passion.

The Stations of the Cross may be done at any time, but is most commonly done during the Season of Lent, especially on Good Friday and on Friday evenings during Lent.

Stations of the Cross at St. Nicholas will begin on Friday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to come and pray with us.

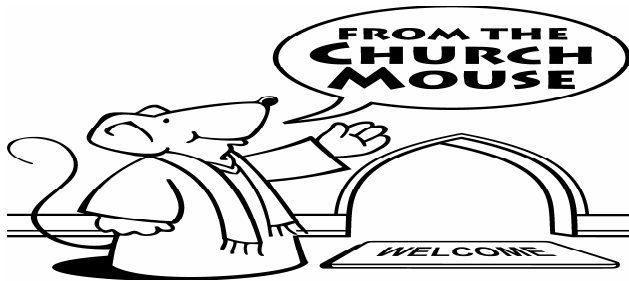
Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM – Mass

12:00 Noon – Mass

5:15 PM – Mass

7:00 PM – Combined Prayer
service with Confessions



Greetings to all! I just wanted to let you know that I have been watching what's been going on at St. Nicholas. During the Christmas Season things were very exciting. There were many people cleaning and decorating and I thought you should know who they were. I saw Margaret Noll cleaning all the beautiful candle sticks and just making them shine like a new penny. Decorating St. Nicholas takes a lot of people. This mouse had to really watch his tail, Larry and Patrick Denbow, Joe Davis, Janie and Bud Miller, and Dan and Leigh Ann Amspaugh were working on these trees that lined the walls. I tried to move to the balcony, but Don Susa and Terri Herron were decorating up there. So I headed back down to the sanctuary and Nikki Herron, Carly, Nicholas and Josie Andrews were decorating with these flowers and lights. I thought it might be safer around the Altar, but to my distress, Betsy Mahaffey, Joanne, Beth and Colleen Andrews, were arranging all those lovely poinsettias. There was just so much action I moved into one of the pews and just watched as Kay Denbow, Judy Amspaugh and some very good looking young men decorated all the windows. Then the most wonderful thing started to take place, Patrick Mahaffey, Tim and Tom Andrews, started bringing down all the beautiful figurines for the Nativity. I have to confess I did brag to the other mice in the area that we had the most beautiful decorations ever!! Thanks to all!!

Religious Education News...

From Kevin Dooley

St. Nicholas Religious Education finished 2006 busier than expected. Raffle tickets were sold on a \$50.00 gift card to Reisbeck's Pick-n-Save to help purchase new and current tapes and DVD's for our library. The winner of the gift card, Chris Paisley, asked that we donate it to Eastside Ministries for the food bank. This gift, combined with three van loads of clothes and food gave all our students the opportunity to live the Gospel.

We are preparing for Sacramental reception, first Eucharist and Confirmation. We have been able to present a check to Our Lady of Lourdes in Slydell to purchase all of the tapes they lost during Katrina. We continue to collect change for our mission support and we are hoping to purchase a new DVD player for them.

We invite all parent and grandparents to join us in prayer before classes every Sunday at 9:30 AM.



St. Nicholas News

“One Way” Youth Rally

Attention all High School Students!

We are very excited to announce the Diocesan High School Youth Rally coming up on March 3rd and 4th! This highly anticipated annual two-day event is a powerful opportunity to gather together hundreds of high school students from around the Columbus Diocese. The Youth Rally will take place at the Salesian Center Boys and Girls Club in downtown, Columbus. The weekend will include keynote presentations from keynote Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB, local Catholic musical group, Station 14, teen break-out sessions, prayer and worship, social events, new friends, recreation, song, and sacramental celebrations. This year's theme is: “One Way” which will help young people recognize that life is “one way” journey to God.

Want to join the group going from St. Nicholas Parish at this amazing event? See Ron Westerheide (740) 849-0244 or Patty Boggs (740) 453-5173 for more information as well as the registration form.



IT'S YOUR MASS!

All are invited to join us for Mass on **Sunday, February 18th** at 5:15 p.m. This Mass will be prepared for and by Teens. Teens will be lectors, ushers, greeters, and altar servers. Teens will also prepare the Prayer of the Faithful and choose the Music for the Mass. All are invited!!!

JOIN US AFTER MASS as we greet Deacon Eiden from Columbus. Deacon Eiden will share his story as a prison minister and explain the challenges he has faced and blessings he has received as a result of this special ministry.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN...

This is your chance! Sunday February 11th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Teen Center. Join us as we plan for the Teen Mass to be held on Sunday, February 18th. Bring your ideas as we open God's Word, prepare our own Prayers of the Faithful and learn more about the mystery and beauty of the Mass. Ever wonder “why we do that?” Join us and find answers!

MAKE IT YOUR OWN, AGAIN!

Sunday, March 25th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will have another Teen Mass on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2006. Once again this Mass will be planned by our Local Teens. Join us as we learn about Christ's Passion and what it takes to prepare the church for Palm Sunday. We need lectors, ushers, greeters, altar servers, and yes, liturgical dancers. If you can dance, bring your ideas and dancing shoes, **WE NEED YOU!**