15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” - Mt 13:23

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Fr. Venancio R. Balarote “Jun”
frvb@stnicholasvb.com
Pastor

Lora DiNardo - Pastoral Associate/Business Manager
ldinardo@stnicholasvb.com
James Gardner - Director of Music Ministry
jgardner@stnicholasvb.com
Steve Branning - Director of Christian Formation and Evangelization
sbranning@stnicholasvb.com
Ryan Castro - Youth Minister
rcastro@stnicholasvb.com
Mary Margaret Scott – Social Ministries Coordinator
mmscott@stnicholasvb.com
James K. Throne - Maintenance Manager
jamest@stnicholasvb.com
Charlene Brehl - Administrative Assistant
stnicholasadmin@stnicholasvb.com
Edward Hill, Tom Pannullo - Maintenance Assistants
Denise Foster - Sacramental Records Volunteer
Ken Ingleby - Pastoral Council Chair
Julie Ghassab - Pastoral Council Vice Chair
Paul Battaglia - Finance Council Chair

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Website: www.stnicholasvb.com
Email: stnicholas@stnicholasvb.com
Phone: (757) 340-7231  Fax: (757) 340-2727

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION

Our Families: We pray that today’s families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

VOCATION GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

That the call to serve Christ and His Church in the priesthood and consecrated life will fall on the rich soil of hearts prepared by prayer, hard work, and generous service to others, we pray to the Lord.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

PARISH OFFERTORY & STEWARDSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending Current Month</th>
<th>Offertory Received</th>
<th>ACH &amp; Electronic Giving</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
<th>Offertory Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/7/2020 $6,818</td>
<td>$2,113 $8,931</td>
<td>$13,547</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/14/2020 $8,729</td>
<td>$1,380 $10,109</td>
<td>$13,547</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/21/2020 $4,177</td>
<td>$9,481 $13,658</td>
<td>$13,548</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/28/2020 $8,808</td>
<td>$7,274 $16,082</td>
<td>$13,548</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds $1,412</td>
<td>$1,412</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total $30,124</td>
<td>$20,24 $50,372</td>
<td>$55,990</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May Offertory May Offertory Budget Year to Date Offertory July-May Year to Date Offertory Budget July-May

$56,385 $53,596 $649,789 $659,828

Thank you for your consideration and support of St. Nicholas.

LIVING OUR MISSION, LOVING OUR CHURCH

Capital Improvement Giving
Week: $440
Month: $1975
To Date: $257,136

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We want to thank each and every one of you who have continued to give in this time of crisis whether online, by mail, or by dropping off your envelope. You are a necessary part of our parish and we are thankful for you! Your support is such a blessing and we look forward to being fully reunited in worship and sacraments in the weeks ahead.

WeShare Online Giving
As we prepare for the “summer slump,” we ask that you prayerfully consider signing up for recurring online offertory by visiting the parish website at stnicholasvb.com.
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CALENDAR

**Sunday, July 12**

*The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 a.m.  MASS with Facebook Livestream  
11:00 a.m.  MASS

**Monday, July 13**

10:00 a.m.  DAILY MASS

**Tuesday, July 14**

10:00 a.m.  DAILY MASS  
10:30 a.m.  EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
with Facebook Livestream  
5:30 p.m.  BENEDICTION

**Wednesday, July 15**

10:00 a.m.  DAILY MASS

**Thursday, July 16**

10:00 a.m.  DAILY MASS w/ Facebook Livestream

**Friday, July 17**

10:00 a.m.  DAILY MASS w/ Facebook Livestream

**Saturday, July 18**

4:30 p.m.  RECONCILIATION  
5:30 p.m.  VIGIL MASS

**Sunday, July 19**

8:30 a.m.  MASS with Facebook Livestream  
11:00 a.m.  MASS

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to be entering into phase 3 of our reopening and worshipping together with some of you at daily and weekend Masses. Please review changes to our Mass schedule and plan on arriving 30 minutes early to give us time for screening and ushering you to your seat.

We encourage the vulnerable to COVID, those concerned about the safety of gathering, and those 65 not to attend weekend Masses but rather continue celebrating weekend Masses via Livestream. **Wednesday's Daily Mass is designated specifically for those vulnerable to COVID-19.** Know that our prayers are with you at this time of separation! Bishop Barry Knestout has extended the dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance for those in these categories.

Please take a moment to read the official guidelines from the Diocese of Richmond before attending Mass so you are aware of the new regulations in place. **Note that face coverings are continue to be required by all present at the liturgy (ages 10 and older).** Official guidelines can be found at [https://bit.ly/3fLmsce](https://bit.ly/3fLmsce).

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together for a safe reopening of our Mass celebrations.

Journeying Together in Christ,  
Fr. Jun Balarote

FAREWELL TO ONE OF OUR OWN

Please pray for **Grace Russell** as she steps down from her role as Administrative Assistant. We are so thankful for all the help that she has provided for our parish for these past three and half years. She worked with us to establish and sustain new procedures for “all media” - Facebook, email blasts, website, parish bulletin and virtual usher during our live streams in recent months. She will truly be missed by all of us on the parish staff. We wish her all the best with her growing family!

FOOD PANTRY

We are currently in need of the following items for our food pantry: pancake syrup, pancake mix, old fashion rolled oatmeal, grits, 2# canned ham, canned chicken, canned beef stew, tuna fish, baked beans, jars of apple sauce, canned pineapple, fruit cocktail, pears/raisins/peaches, hamburger helper (any type), jelly, peanut butter (smooth), instant mashed potatoes, Rice-A-Roni, meaty soups/ cooking sauce soups, laundry detergents, bar soap, stuffing mix, saltine crackers, jello, 2# sugar/salt/ground pepper

**We are no longer in need of food cards at this time. Thank you for your generosity!**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.
**PHASE THREE UPDATES**

**Reception of Holy Communion by the Faithful**
During phase 3 of reopening, Holy Communion may be distributed to the faithful outside of Mass with permission from the pastor. Communion to the Homebound has inherent risks to vulnerable individuals. Caution must be considered when taking communion to someone’s home.

Those bringing communion are strongly encouraged to exercise caution when bringing communion to the infirm, elderly homebound, or nursing homebound (e.g., wearing a face covering and gloves; maintaining social distancing; disinfecting the pyx following distribution; following any other recommendations from the CDC). If those bringing communion are making multiple communion visits in a given day, they may wish to consider a separate pyx.

**Dispensation from Sunday Mass Obligation**
The vulnerable to COVID, those concerned about the safety of gathering, and those 65 and over are encouraged not to attend weekend Masses but rather continue celebrating weekend Masses via Livestream. Wednesday’s Daily Mass is designated specifically for those vulnerable to COVID-19. Bishop Barry Knestout has extended the dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance for those in this category.

**Mass Livestreaming**
Due to COVID-19, Mass is being livestreamed for use on various Diocesan and parish digital media accounts including, but not limited to, the parish website and The Catholic Virginian, and social media platforms. If you do not wish to be captured by live streaming, please refrain from attending that particular Mass time.

*If you have an urgent pastoral need, such as last rites, confession, funeral Masses, or more, please contact the parish emergency number at 757-286-7256.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 14</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(†) Marion Foshay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 15</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(†) Felicia Smigielski</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 16</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(†) Theresa Heard R/B The Cassiglias</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, July 17</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>(†) Catherine Smith R/B Cindy Merchant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 18</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>(†) Vito Furio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 19</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>(†) Patricia Brown R/B Meghan &amp; Eddie Spearman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, July 19</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**
Wis 12:13, 16-19/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30 (106) Pss IV

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Using the best seeds doesn’t always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn’t wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn’t even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn’t the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn’t work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God’s Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God’s seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God’s Word could produce in us! ©LPi
**15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### HOLY ROSARY

Saint Padre Pio once said, “The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.” In these times we want to pray this powerful prayer as much as possible. If you would like to lead the Rosary 30 minutes before Mass starts for the intentions of those affected by COVID-19 and for healing in our country please sign up in the signup genius below or contact Steve in the office to sign up or for further questions. You can sign up at any of the Masses for the month of July.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA5A82BA1F94-rosary](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA5A82BA1F94-rosary)

### STEUBENVILLE LIVE

Since we can’t all gather in person this summer, Steubenville Conferences are moving online! Join me for Steubenville Live, the first virtual Steubenville Youth Conference, on July 17-18, 2020. If you’re over Zoom classes, don’t worry – you won’t just be staring at a screen the whole time or watching a bunch of pre-recorded talks. #SteubieLive will be live streamed from #SteubieFL and completely interactive. With tens of thousands of teens and their families tuning in to encounter the life-changing love of Christ, this could be the biggest Steubenville Conference ever!!

If you would like to experience this event together with the youth group, contact Ryan Castro or email rcastro@stnicholasvb.com for more information.

I’m looking forward to an amazing weekend!

### RCIA

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

R.C.I.A. is a program for those interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church. With the gift of Jesus’ Precious Blood on the Cross and the Eucharist, let us reflect on the freedom given to us through our Baptism into Him – to be heirs of the promise and liberated from sin. The RCIA process is THE WAY by which persons become “citizens of the Kingdom” through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Inquiry sessions will begin in September, but for more information and any questions contact Steve Branning in the office.

### VBS

Vacation Bible School is happening! It will take place the last week of July. Currently, we are putting together an awesome modified version where families can safely join in on all of the fun through our live stream. As the details come together we will give you more information!

### FLEA MARKET COLLECTION

Donations are now being accepted for our flea market in the Social Hall. We could use your unwanted furniture, housewares, toys, books, sporting goods, etc. Please call Peggy Rose or Janet McCarraher for large items or with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!