



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

www.stromuald.org

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Email: stromuald@bbtel.com

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor, Father Brian Johnson

Email: Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org

Deacon, Tony Anthony

Deacon, Mike Wiedemer

Administrative Asst, Jane Haynes

CRE: Adult, Rosa Hockenberry

CRE: RCIA, Lyvenia Anthony

CRE: 7-12, Gayle Poole

CRE: K-6, Kim Brumfield

Pastoral Council:

Dana Bland, Harry Mattingly,

Janet Bland, David Morton

Christi Brooks, Kevin Oelze

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Jerry Dowell, Gail Pollock

Betty Heavrin, Pam Pollock

St. Romuald

Interparochial School:

Phone: 756-5504

Website:

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

When I was younger, my faith was very important; but lately I don't feel that closeness to God. Is this a crisis of faith?

How has your life changed since childhood? Do you feel, react, and appreciate things today as you did then? Spirituality is an ordinary part of human experience, and I hope you discover that the God of your youth, although remembered fondly, is not the God of your adult experience.

Many adults discover that their understanding, decisions, and behaviors have expanded and matured. In the interplay of the demands of society and culture, we are forced to grow and develop. What worked for us as a child of five is not usually what we would choose today.

In the spiritual journey, we are not so much forced but invited to grow and mature. Some people miss the invitation and get stuck in a rut. They may cling to childlike images of God and still expect such images to serve them well. The consequences of this are not easily recognized until moments of crisis or dramatic change, when the result is often reflected by the question, "Where is God?"

So it's not so much a crisis of faith but a realization of the desire to pursue (again) the spiritual journey. Begin to relate to God as an adult. Use your skills and knowledge to build a new relationship with God, the Church, and the community of believers. You will discover a living faith, an experience of God, that is important and meaningful for you now.

From Dear Padre: Questions People Ask, Liguori, 2003

December 11, 2016 - Third Sunday of Advent

Masses for the Week

December 12th - 18th

Tues	1:00 pm	Harold Beard (RG) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Georganna Rhodes
Thurs	9:00 am	Barbara Roehm (AJ) (School Mass)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning (LH)
Sat	5:00 pm	Tom Priest (TP)
Sun	7:00 am	Geneva Glasscock
	10:00 am	Harold Payne (BP)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Saturdays 4:00 pm

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/
 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36
 Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17
 Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection	\$16,823.50
Building Fund	\$275.00
Children	\$5.35
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$52.75

St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-November, 2016

Total Income	\$215,200
Total Expenses	\$212,600
	\$ 2,600

Thank you for your financial stewardship!



December 17th & 18th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Janet O'Reilly Pat O'Reilly	Youth Classes	C-David Basham* C-Chris Brumfield S-Davy Brumfield S-Davye Duggins	Emma Foran Cameron Geeding Claire O'Donoghue	Minnie Nimmo	Shannon
7:00 am	Anne O'Reilly Cara Wilson	Denise Smith	C-Kevin Oelze* C-Stephen Oelze S-Don Payne S-Scott Wilson	Amber Woods Tabby Woods	Mary Vessels	Pippa
10:00 am	Ort Critchelow Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne Mary Jo Rankin	Barbara Critchelow Mariah Critchelow	C-Raymond Critchelow* C-Alvin Mattingly S-Mack Mattingly S-Zack Payne	Parker Davis Tyler Davis	Barbara Critchelow	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Randy Howard		Children's Liturgy:				
2	Welcome to St. Romuald Catholic Church					

Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

"What you see is what you get!" Or, "the proof is in the pudding!" How many times have we heard those sayings? But, how true it is that credibility is proven by time or the test of actual work. Sometimes just asking another question and taking a better look provides all the proof needed for conviction (in the saying, 'proof is in the pudding'-as you eat and digest it, you know what you have!) Jesus says in Matthew 7:16 "Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? By their fruits you will know them." The testimony is in the tasting! So as John's disciples ask whether Jesus is the 'One-Savior', John says, "Go and see for yourselves."

"Lights on, main stage!" What happens in this exchange between John and his disciples is a shift and move from John's ministry to Jesus' ministry, from the opener to the main event. Imagine John as the preview to the movie and Jesus **is** the movie! So now it begins. John's disciples go to Jesus looking for signs of the Kingdom, and they find them! Similar to Jesus' own statement of introduction in his home synagogue when he rolled out his mission by quoting Isaiah 61 that his anointing meant '**bringing glad tidings to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, setting free the oppressed and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord**' (Luke 4:18), here John says 'go see the Kingdom Live in Jesus'. The Mission begins!

Often questions are asked about John seeming to be in the dark about Jesus: "Doesn't John already know Jesus is the Messiah? Why does he need to send his followers to ask? Is it a moment of weakness for John, doubting, or depressed in jail wondering if his ministry was in vain?" The answer to all of these is "Absolutely, John knows Jesus." He has pointed Jesus out before to his disciples (Behold the Lamb of God' John 1:29), he actually baptized Jesus and has a blood relation to Jesus through his mother Elizabeth. So, no doubt, John knows Jesus. BUT, apparently his disciples were slower to accept Jesus, so John arranges personal meetings. He sends his own disciples to go see for themselves the Kingdom signs with Jesus. This is the transfer of mission and the joining up of forces—John's followers teaming up in the company of Jesus now. Sometimes we humans are resistant or hesitant to embrace a new direction or accept a new face, so John was helping his followers jump on board with Jesus. Just being in Jesus' presence, seeing his work, any follower of John would instantly find 'kingdom credibility' and join Jesus. So conviction and acceptance come natural in Jesus' presence!

Jesus reinforces John's message to the crowds about genuine credentials, testifying to John's faithfulness by living what he taught, to the point of great self-sacrifice. John and Jesus say about each other, "He is the real deal!" Talking about John's integrity, Jesus says, "John is a political prisoner in jail, and Herod is a pampered palace dweller, doesn't that say something?" In Jesus' own words, he says, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing?" (Matthew 11:7-8). What sways in the winds, and lives in luxurious clothing? It is King Herod the politician whose beliefs change with the winds of polls and self-gain, and who lives soft and plush off other people's work. Jesus is saying 'Watch! Strength

and sacrifice prove the message'. John is in jail, and Herod is in the palace. Who is living and leading with integrity? Herod was willing to corrupt, even deny his faith by collaborating with the exploitative Romans to the point of even killing his own people (John is case in point—John called out Herod on Herod's politically convenient marriage entered for the increase of his power and dynasty, and Herod jailed and killed him for it). So Jesus takes right up where John left off, continuing to stand for truth and justice to the point of death to **save** his people (John 18:37 "For this reason I was born, to testify to the truth.") Jesus invites John's followers to stay on board the Kingdom Train, and through conversion to works of justice & mercy to bring in the New Covenant. Jesus lays it on the line, like saying "John is gone, so who are you going to follow? Do you want Herod's kingdom or God's kingdom?" Herod brings a good show and nice parade, but the Messiah brings true justice and peace to the earth." Those who sign on and stay with Jesus to the end, will see the Kingdom Revealed and find their place in it! Jesus says in Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Time and work reveal the truth. Similar to Jesus reminding us that we will know others by their fruit, he also says in Luke 7:35 "Wisdom is vindicated by all her children." All of this and more, is what Jesus means when he simply says "Come and See" (John 1:46).

A word of Gratitude: What a blessed and blessing response the parish (YOU) have given through the Angel Tree Gifts (Charmaine Priest & Brenda Elder), Thanksgiving Baskets (Deacon Tony), and the Jail Ministry Care Packages (Deacon Mike) . I just want to recognize and commend **all the generous souls who contributed toward these collections**, and their distributions. Blessings are abundant for everyone involved in giving and receiving. Both giver and receiver are rewarded through the grace and action of God working through the lives of His People. God absolutely blesses me to be able to serve as a priest in St Romuald Parish! I am so grateful to witness the generosity of so many parishioners who give to various charitable efforts throughout the year. I thank God and you for such blessings!

Here are some daily questions to consider in our prayer time!

Sunday: Was I stirred by some word or thought in today's mass? The scripture, a song or some word shared by a neighbor? What am I going to do about it?

Monday: How can I keep my faith alive today as I go back to work or school?

Tuesday: What will I do today to better prepare for Christmas coming?

Wednesday: Who is a prophet for our time, or in our society? Who stirs us to turn to God?

Thursday: Have I been willing to sacrifice for the truth or to stand strong for justice?

Friday: Perform some act of mercy or anonymous act of kindness for someone today.

Saturday: What am I going to thank God for at Mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Marriage Help – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 13, 2017, call 270-852-8346, or email: flelliot@audubon-area.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

Al-Anon Meeting: Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Hubert Greenwood, December 19th and Bill Monin, December 20th.

Anniversaries: Jerry & Kathy Carwile will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on December 16th and Randall & Doris Priest will be celebrating 55 years of marriage on December 16th.



The Living Christmas Tree, a musical celebration looking forward to Christ's birth again is Saturday December 10, at 7:00 pm and Sunday December 11 at 6:00 pm. at Hardinsburg Baptist Church. Come celebrate our Savior's Coming!

Pro-Life Articles, an organization, whose objective is to help stop legal abortions, emails Pro-Life information to twelve thousand catholic churches each month, at no cost to the churches. Some of these email messages are returned to us, because the church has changed their email address and forgot to notify us of such change. When this happens, we must either telephone the church office to obtain the correct email address or look it up on the church's website using the internet. This requires the use Excel on a computer.

We need volunteers to assist in this effort. It takes about two hours per month for each volunteer. This can be done from your home.

If you would like to help, please contact: Martin Reiser @ respectlife@respectlife1.org or 214-364-5767.



Veterans' Memorial: The new flags flying over the Veterans' Memorial in Saint Romuald Cemetery were donated by Paul J. O'Donoghue in memory of 1st Lt F. Emmett O'Donoghue, 1903-1976 U.S. Army .

Anointing of the Sick Offered at Weekend Mass on December 10-11. We look forward to praying with and anointing any ill or suffering parishioners at masses the weekend of December 10-11, as we offer the anointing sacrament of the sick.

Sometimes people ask who can be anointed, and the Church teaches that those who are seriously ill or suffering a chronic illness, preparing for surgery or recovering from surgery can be anointed for healing and comfort.

Men's Discernment Retreat:

Any young man ages 18-25 seriously thinking about a possible vocation to priesthood is invited to a free discernment weekend retreat. This is an opportunity to set some time out in silence to listen to the voice of God in your life; listen to inspiring talks and guidance for discernment process; learn the tools of discernment, sharpen your discerning skills and have a one-on-one visit/spiritual direction with a priest. Retreat held December 16-17 at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Registration deadline is December 12th. For more information, contact the vocations office: 270-683-1545 or jason.mcclure@pastoral.org

Can we build a home for Jesus at Christmas? Fr Gus, priest from Food for the Poor, when he visited last month asked us to consider raising the money to build a home for a family in Haiti (solidly reinforced structure with water). He said currently a Columbian Bank is promising to match funds for any donated homes, which means if we finance building one home, they will provide the second. TWO Homes, two families will be housed! So we will be offering a second collection to meet this need at next Sunday's mass December 18. Please be generous. Some brochures and info can be found on the tables by church doors.

Knights of Columbus Members: Our Annual "Light Up for Christ" Christmas Dinner is on December 13th at 6:00 pm in the St. Romuald's Parish Hall. Please bring a covered dish and dessert. Meats will be provided by the Council.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Some people stood apart and kept their distance, watching as Jesus was crucified. We too can be tempted to keep our distance from Jesus' kingship, to not accept completely the scandal of his humble love, which unsettles and disturbs us. We prefer to remain at the window, to stand apart, rather than draw near and be with him. A people who are holy, however, who have Jesus as their King, are called to follow his way of tangible love; they are called to ask themselves, each day: "What does love ask of me, where is it urging me to go? What answer am I giving Jesus with my life?" (Homily 11-20-2016)

THIS WEEK:

Sun	7/10 am	Anointing of the Sick at Mass
Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	5:30 pm	Altar Society Meeting
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
	6:00 pm	Family Movie Night
Sat	5:00 pm	Youth Mass
	6:15 pm	K-6 Religious Ed Activities

UPCOMING:

Dec 20	6:00 pm	Penance Service (St. Mary of the Woods)
Dec 21	6:00 pm	Penance Service (St. Anthony, Axtel)
Dec 22	6:00 pm	Penance Service (St. Romuald)

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Joe Ammons, Jim Ball, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Bradley Berry, Ronnie Bruner, Juanita Burch, Joann Butler, Waylon Carman, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Janet Chambliss, Diane Charlebois, Sharon Church, Joan Clark, Mary Crook, Vonda Decker, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Davye Duggins, Mary Catherine Edge, Shelby Elder, Rodney Elliott, Michael Ernest, Carroll Ferguson, Rhett Flener, Donny Flood, Ginny Flood, Shannon Ford, Andrea Fuqua, Barnard Gagel, Henrietta Gibson, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Jerry Grimes, Sr., Laura Beavin Hawley, Davy Haycraft, Jessica Henderson, Dale Henning, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Janet Hodson, Steve Hodson, David Horsley, Daniel Hoskins, Rick Hurley, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Don Jerrell, Kiara Jo, Jerry Johnson, Jim Johnson, Mary Ann Johnson, Jack Jolly, Lovel King, Faith Klingsmith, David Lane, Angie Lawrence, Linda Ledford, **Annette Lucas**, Jennie Maiden, Mark Masterson, Keith McDaniel, Ann Medlen, Kevin McHugh, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Ian Moore, John Moore, Barbara O'Connell, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Rowan Palmer, Peggy Phillips, Judy Popham, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Tracy Ralston, Jamie Riley, Rita Roach, Julie Robbins, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Annelise Sebastian, **Judy Seelye**, **Terri Shiffer**, Colleen Simmons, Jerry Sosh, Lucye Stupak, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Dorothy Tillberg, Paul Tucker, Brook Tyler, Bobby Upchurch, Gil Urban, Johnny Vessels, Nancy Vincent, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Weise, Greg Wethington, **Raymond Wethington**, Millie Whittler, Judy Whitley, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, Shaun Winstead, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone. **Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Jack Hayes, Stevie Higgs, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, SSgt Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Cody Simmons, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Practices for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday Dec 5	3:00 - 4:00
Monday Dec 12	3:00 - 4:00
Monday Dec 19	3:00 - 5:00

All children are invited to participate. For more information please call Patty Curran at 270-945-8155

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm, 8:00 pm, & 12:00pm
Midnight-----Christmas Morning 7:00 am and 10:00 am

Attention All Ministers: We need volunteers to for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Please call the office if you are able to volunteer for any of the Masses. Thank You!

Have your best Advent Ever! and Christmas!

All it takes is 3 minutes a day. Sign up for "Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Christmas", from Dynamic Catholic.com, a free email program that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Check out <http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/> to sign up!



Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marian Cooper (sister of Martha Cashen). Please keep the family in your prayers.



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Family Movie Night: In a town not so long ago and a time not so long ago, baby Rose was left in an orphanage. Under the tender care of Mrs. Stafford the children seemed to become her family. But then tragedy strikes and Rose loses the only home she ever knew, and shipped to Irongates, a place as cold as a winter chill and just as cruel. The head master seems to dislike Rose from the very beginning and her life at Irongates is anything but loving. Christmas comes around and Rose hears that every child will receive an orange but once again the headmaster steps in to punish Rose by not giving her a Christmas Orange. Share a slice of Christmas and come and enjoy this movie that is sweetened with friendship and love. Join us in the parish hall Friday, Dec 16 at 6pm for an evening of Christmas fellowship and a few Christmas snacks!



7-12 Religious Education:

*Any youth interested in a service project on Dec. 19 we will be traveling to St. Anthony's to help prepare and serve meals to shut-ins/widows for the Christmas Season. We will leave St. Romuald at 8am that Monday morning. If you plan to attend you will need to let Gayle know at 270-617-1308 so we can make sure we have enough seat belts. Also if you know of a parishioner/someone in our community that would love to see our youth on their doorstep with a meal please call me.

What a great group of K-6th students we have who meet on Sunday mornings to learn more about their Faith & God! Love seeing their precious faces & the excitement they have for our Faith! God is good!



Senior Day: It's time again for us to come together and enjoy the Christmas Holiday. Bring your friends and a dish to pass as we enjoy our holiday feast. We again will be supplying a turkey and all the fixins (turkey, dressing, gravy, and mashed potatoes). Our topic of discussion will be St. Nicholas, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin and Our Lady of Guadalupe also St. Lucy. Come and sing a few Christmas carols together as we once again enjoy the fellowship of the holiday spirit. Santa may be dropping off a few holiday treats...HOHOHOHO.

Eucharistic First Friday 24-hour Adoration:



Adoration

Following the 9:00 am Mass on January 6, we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Abortion Update: Last week 60 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

Pray to end abortion: Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support. With God, all things are possible! Archbishop Kurtz is known to show up and pray with everyone too!

We thank our advertiser for making the bulletin possible! Please take a moment to read the back of the bulletin and note the generous advertisers from the business community who provide our bulletin each week! Each time you visit their business, let them know you are thankful for their support of our parish's weekly bulletin!

Advertiser of the week:
Crume's Monuments
800-928-4111

Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; GAUDETE SUNDAY Joyful anticipation

Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice!” The church tells us to rejoice, but not in a be-happy-on-demand kind of way. Advent gives you a *reason* to be joyful, as you are when you know that someone who deeply loves you is on her or his way. It is anticipation; it

is hope that comes from trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled. Is there a promise you need to fulfill, someone who is waiting for your visit, a phone call, a letter? Don’t wait until Christmas to bring someone joy—not with a material gift, but with a simple reminder that God is good.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (Z)*. “*They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.*”

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Am I not here?

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego on Tepeyak Hill on the outskirts of present-day Mexico City, she said to him, “Don’t be afraid. Am I, who am your Mother, not here?” She also said, “Know for certain that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God,” and she called him, “my little one.” Juan Diego was not a little boy—he was a grown man. Still he was Mary’s “little one.” Mary is our Mother. And if she is our Mother, why are we afraid? Seems so simple, yet for many it is a profound realization. And no matter how old we are, we are still Mary’s “little ones.” Spend some time with your Mother Mary and thank her for being with us.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A)*. “*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!*”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Let your light shine

In the darkness of these Advent days, Saint Lucy stands as a shining example of the gift of faith in this world. Martyred in fourth-century Italy after being outed as a Christian by a disappointed suitor, Lucy is one of only seven women included in the original Eucharistic Prayer. Said to have worn a crown of candles into the dark catacombs of Rome to serve the poor, Lucy reminds us that bringing light into the darkness of the world is a costly venture. Faith, though, calls us to shine bright, no matter the cost.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188)*. “*I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord.*”

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Respect reformers

John of the Cross is revered with one of the highest honors possible, named a “Doctor of the church” as a saint of particularly high importance. Yet during his life, a group of superiors from his own order who opposed his visionary reforms forcibly imprisoned him and subjected him to cruel treatment and public lashings in front of his community. Perhaps as John sat in his cold, dark jail cell, Jesus’ line about prophets being honored except in their home town came to

mind. Be slow to criticize modern-day reformers; perhaps they have a message we need to hear.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189)*. “*Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Prophet-able thoughts

Do you think about prophets like you do about fortune-tellers? Prophets predict the future, right? Well, not in God’s world they don’t. God’s prophets have the job of making people aware that God wants to be first in everyone’s life. God has a call and an invitation for everyone. Today, when the temptation is to focus on the 10 shopping days until Christmas, what do you think John the Baptist would say to call your attention to God’s presence in your daily life? In the eyes of God, what really matters on this Advent day? Ask today for the grace to see God’s presence around you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30 (190)*. “*I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you.*”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Let your light shine

Jesus told his followers not to hide their “lamp under a bushel.” But why would anyone shield their inner light? Perhaps we fear that we’re not worthy of the greatness of being a child of God, says author Marianne Williamson. “Your playing small doesn’t serve the world,” she writes. “There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you.” In her book, *A Return to Love*, she urges everyone to “make manifest the glory of God that is within us” and “give other people permission to do the same.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36 (191)*. “*John was a burning and shining lamp.*”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Cue the Magi

The Magi begin their long trek across the East, and we’re glad to honor these Wise Men of old. But we need even more the wisdom of men and women of this generation, and every generation, to show us how to build a better world. The genealogy of Jesus contains a surprising list of who might contribute to history’s rescue from the ways of death. As we begin the days of the O Antiphons of the church, we pray: “*O Wisdom of our God Most High, teach us the path of knowledge!*”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193)* “*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*”

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