



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

[www.stromuald.org](http://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](mailto:stromuald@bbtel.com)

### **Pastoral Staff:**

*Pastor*, Father Brian Johnson

Email: [Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org](mailto: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](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

### **School Board**

### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

***Are Jesus and God the same person? The Church teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one being, but in the Bible Jesus and God talk to each other. Also, some of our prayers address Jesus, while others address the Father or the Spirit. Explain this, please.***

Trinitarian theology is never simple to explain. Since the time of Christ, we've wrestled with the interrelation of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. With time and the Spirit's guidance, the Church has discovered language we believe reflects some of the mystery we call God, and we've accepted the authority of that language.

When we pray the Creed together every week, we speak of our belief in one God in three persons. However, even as we say these words, we know we have more to discover about the life of the Godhead and the unity and relationships among Father, Son, and Spirit, each of whom we have encountered throughout salvation history.

In believing that the Trinity is one God, we have the freedom to confidently pray to any one or more of the three divine persons. However, when we pray at Mass, you'll notice the most typical formula for prayers is to offer them to the Father, through the Son, and in (or with) the Spirit. Fr.

Matthew Allman, CSsR [sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

March 12, 2017 - Second Sunday of Lent

## Masses for the Week

March 13th - 19th

Tues	1:00 pm	Martha Matthews (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Harold Beard
Thurs	9:30 am	Harold & Shelly Bland (LB) (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Special Intention (WB)
Sat	5:00 pm	St. Romuald Parishioners
Sun	7:00 am	Mary & Fred Barham (GP)
	10:00 am	Sue Crouch (FR)

### CONFESSIONS

**Wednesday** 4:00-5:00pm

**Saturdays** 4:00 pm

## Readings for the Week

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Liturgical Publications Inc

## Stewardship of Finance

### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection .....	\$10,379.00
Building Fund .....	\$395.00
Children .....	\$7.70
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$41.05
Diocese of Mandeville.....	\$1,439.14
Diocesan Administration .....	\$95.00

### St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-December, 2016

**Total Income** **\$320,300**

**Total Expenses** **\$288,000**

**\$ 32,300**

**Thank you for your financial stewardship!**



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## March 18th & 19th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Janet O'Reilly Pat O'Reilly	Youth Classes	C-Danny O'Reilly* C-Mark Rhodes S-Matthew Rhodes S-Matthew Whitfill	Lola Allen Emily Claycomb Preston Flood	Minnie Nimmo	Pippa
7:00 am	Janet Bland Tobias Curran	Patty Curran	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Madison Anthony Darrian Flood	Crystal Greenwell	Pippa
10:00 am	Sandy Horsley Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne Mary Jo Rankin	Nora Dailey Rosa Hockenberry	C-Alvin Mattingly* C-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary S-Zack Payne	Will Lewis Alyssa Shaw	Laura Frank	Deacon Tony

Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins

Children's Liturgy: Jessica Phillips and Danny Shain

## Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

Oh, the places we will go! The desert last week, and the mountain top this week! Where else does Jesus have in mind for us? That is Lent! We go with Jesus where he leads, and with Him, we are certain to be in the right place! Lent calls us to follow Him more faithfully, going wherever He leads! And wherever he leads us will be for our salvation! I like the words of St Peter when Jesus asked him if he wanted to leave him and go his own way, and Peter said, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68).

Last week on the first Sunday of Lent we heard about **Jesus entering the desert** for the purpose of intensifying his relationship to the Father and preparing to enact the Kingdom of God on earth (His Mission). Last week, I pointed out the relation between God in Genesis creating human beings by breathing life-spirit into the dust of us. And in Lent, we are created new as we return to the desert dust of our humble beginning, and allow God to speak in us His Word that makes us over into the image of Christ. God speaks His Word in us and we are changed! Jesus' Word is the Life-giving Breath of God we receive to transform us! So today we find ourselves on the wilderness Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus is in the company of the great 'Word-Speakers' of the Old Testament: **Moses** - the Law Giver, and **Elijah** - the Prophetic Voice. Yet Jesus is so much more than them both together! So what does the Father say about this Holy Assembly of Moses, Elijah and Jesus: In Matthew 17:5, the Father proclaims "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to him.**" We need to listen to Jesus. He is the embodiment of both the eternal commands of God, and at the same time the ever living prophetic application of God's eternal word to every moment in history. God's Word speaks Life 'Yesterday, Today Tomorrow' (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus is the Word of the Father (John 1:1) And what does God speaking that Word do for us? It brings us to Life (John 1:4)! Listening to and receiving the Word of the Father can resurrect us to new Life! With Jesus, we are transfigured, trans-created anew. We only have to hear and remain **open to His Voice**, and be **led by His Spirit**. This second Sunday of Lent's reading clearly tells us what to do: **Listen to Him!**

How many times have we said, 'Talk to me?' I think that by us going into the quiet of the desert, we are saying to Jesus, 'Talk to me, I am listening!' Like the young Samuel, we say to God, "Speak Lord, we are listening!" (1 Samuel 3:10). His word gives us meaning, purpose, life, relation, direction and ultimately PEACE! When I hear the following Old Testament passages, I think God designed even back then for the place of a desert season for His Church. Do you agree that these passages scream 'Lent'? Psalm 63:2 "O God, you are my God— it is you I seek.... for you my soul thirsts, In a land parched, lifeless, and without water." Or Habakkuk 2:1 "I will stand at my guard post..... I will keep watch to see what he will say to me." Or how much clearer could God have described the Church season of Lent in the Old Testament as He does in Hosea 2:16 "Therefore, I will allure her now; I will lead her into the desert wilderness and speak persuasively to her." God wants to speak in our hearts if we give Him the time. So what do we do? We start by taking a minute and opening the bible. Start with a gospel (Mark is the shortest!). Or maybe just sit down with one of the gospels and just read the red words if you have one of those Old Bible

Copies that printed Jesus' own words in red, and everything else in black. Or maybe flip through the psalms reading them over until one of them speaks just how you feel at that moment in your life. Or turn to one of your favorite Jesus parable teaching stories (Luke has the most!) Or any favorite saying of Jesus or any one of a thousand or more proverbs in the Bible. When you pick the passage, re-read it and sit with it a while, praying over it as if God is speaking just that word to you right then, and ask yourself what action God is calling you to take up as a response to Him speaking to you! Or take an extra minute to talk to someone else about your reading and share with them what you think God said for you to do as a result of encountering his life-changing Word! Again, Jesus wants to speak to our hearts or whisper into our ears what God alone can to lift us up, change us and deepen His life in us!

One of my special readings for Lent has been to pick up again Pope Benedict's study book of the life and teaching of Christ titled "Jesus of Nazareth" (Ignatius Press, 2007). Pope Benedict's writing is so filled with scripture. He always references the Bible to demonstrate a point or illustrate a comment. He wrote this work to familiarize us again with the life details and the specific teaching of Jesus in a current world that doubts anything absolute, transcendent or religious. Pope Benedict wants everyone to get to know Jesus by getting to know the gospel. How does one grow in a relationship unless you learn more about the other person and take the time to talk frequently with them (speaking and listening). So Pope Benedict echoes the words of Jesus in John's gospel when Jesus invited the crowds to 'Search the scriptures, as you look for eternal life through them; they testify on my behalf'. As if Jesus tells us, 'you want to get to know me, then read my word, study my actions, listen to my teaching, and follow my example!' I leave for the last word this week, Pope Benedict's great response when he was asked in a culture of doubt and skepticism about '**What to believe or rely on** in finding out the 'real truth' about Jesus. Pope Benedict answered '**I trust the Gospels!**' (pg xxi).

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

**Sunday:** What is the life-giving, life creating word I heard at Mass today? Talk to someone about it and ask what they heard at Mass or what stayed with them after Mass?

**Monday:** In what ways can I share the word of God I have heard with someone today? Maybe bring up a bible story or some favorite words of Jesus!

**Tuesday:** Give some extra time today to read the Bible at least 25 minutes in silence.

**Wednesday:** Ask someone you meet or talk to today if they read the Bible and what is their favorite book, Jesus story or psalm.

**Thursday:** What do I hope to change or have changed within me this Lent? How am I doing?

**Friday:** Perform an act of penance or sacrifice for the good of someone today.

**Saturday:** What am I offering to God in my worship time this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

# Picnic News

## **Picnic Time is here again, well in 3 ½ months.**

We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth and The Memory Wagon. This year we will be debuting our new booths thanks to T.G.H.

Drop off items at the parish office.  
Thanks and God Bless.

**Picnic Raffle:** Anyone who would like to donate \$25 or more for the picnic raffle, contact Ann Denton at 270-668-9629 or 270-756-2172 before March 24th.



**Senior Day:** Come join us on Thursday, March 16, 2017 for Senior Day as we celebrate a day filled with "blarney" and the luck of the Irish. Our day will start with a

review of the saints, St. Patrick, St. Turibius, St. Perpetua and St. Felicity. Fried chicken will be served and as always, we ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. So, bring a friend or maybe even someone new to the area as your guest, we welcome everyone. Don't forget to wear green that day so those pesky leprechauns don't pinch you!

**Family Movie Night:** "Angel in Our Midst" is a story about a boy, a girl, and an angel. After the death of his parents during 9/11, Tobey Marshall finds comfort in his faith and his only confidant, a guardian angel. Despite his unusual behavior, Tobey becomes friends with a kind classmate named Suzy. The more time they spend together the more they realize just how much they have in common, much to the dismay of the star basketball player Jim Doder, who wants to date Suzy. After Suzy rejects Jim, Jim sets Tobey up for a robbery attempt. Tobey must face reality as he pushes to prove his innocence to Suzy and his classmates. Join us on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 6:15 pm, for popcorn and a drink and a great movie to watch.

**WREATHS:** We are in need of new spring/summer wreaths for our church doors. If you are crafty and like making wreaths, would you be willing to give some of your time and talent to help your church? Please call the office at 270-756-2356 or Dolores Mattingly at 270-756-5219. Need to get started soon so will be ready to decorate our outside doors for Easter.

## **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide:**

A program that brings about healing and reconciliation for individuals with themselves, their families and the Church. The program is complete with DVD teachings, personal survival guide and Leader Guides (Deacon Mike Wiedemer and Rosa Hockenberry). Join us on **Monday, March 20** from 6 pm to 8 pm.

**Matthew 25:36 "I was sick and you cared for me..." Are you being called to be a Communion Minister to the Sick?** If you are interested in joining this caring ministry to the sick and administering Holy Communion please contact Deacon Mike 270- 756-0120 or Fr Brian 270-756-2356.

## **A Word from Pope Francis:**

"The parable of poor Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But the parable also shows us how sin blinds us from seeing others as precious gifts. In the parable the rich man reveals how sin grows into, infecting us greater and greater from the blurring view of a small monetary comfort to the total blindness of prideful display of wealth. There are three successive stages: love of money, leads to vanity, leading to pride. Money can dominate us, and instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good to others, money can chain us to a selfish logic, leaving no room for love of others." (Homily 3-1-17)

### **Celebration**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Bob Rhodes, March 17 and Minnie Nimmo, March 19.

### **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:**

**Trent-Dowell Funeral Home**  
**270-756-2172**

**Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!**

## THIS WEEK:

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	6:00 pm	Divorce Group
	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	12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross with the School
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	Journey through Lent Study Group
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	4:00 pm	Fish Fry
	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	5:00 pm	Youth Mass
		Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive
Sun		Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive

## UPCOMING:

Mar 23 6:00 pm 1st Communion Parents Meeting

**Rosary Leaders:** We are in need of Rosary Leaders at all the Masses. Please volunteer for this ministry. Call the church office if you would like to volunteer!

## We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Cindy Cashen, Martha Cashen, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Mary Lois Irwin, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, **Margaret Lyons**, Dorothy Manning, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Peggy Phillips, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, **David Walz**, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, 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



## Journey through Lent:

Beginning, **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**, weekly scripture reflections for Lent will be offered. "Journey through Lent" by Art Zannoni will be offered as a study group during the Lenten season by Father Brian and Deacon Mike. Everyone is encouraged to join in as we journey through Lent every Wednesday

from March 8th through April 12th. Sessions will start at 6:00 pm with light refreshments being served. So make it a family affair during Lent or come with your friends, this is a chance to give of yourself during this 40 days and 40 nights as we walk with our Lord.

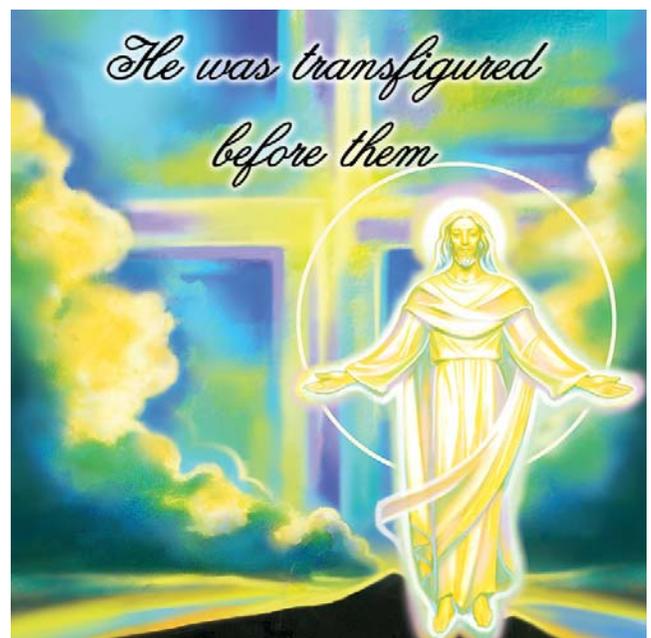


**Sympathy:** Please pray for the repose of the souls Mary Beth Ford (grandmother of Rhonda Walz) and Dorothy Manning (Marcella Miller's mother). Please keep the families in your prayers.

**Community Blood Drive:** Tuesday, March 14, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Hardinsburg Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

## St Romuald Interparochial School Fish Fry:

Come enjoy a great dinner and support the school every Friday 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in SRIS Gym!



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**St. Romuald Altar Society** will be meeting on Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 pm due to Spring Break and Holy Week in April. Please plan on being here as we come to the close of our meeting time for this business year. We will resume our meeting time the first Thursday in August.

**Nuts, Nuts, Nuts:** The Altar Society has bags of Light Walnuts, Black Walnuts, pralines, trail mix, almonds and more. Nuts are available at the parish office. Beginning the weekend of April 1st we will be selling after all the Masses. Make sure to stop by for all your baking needs. With Easter and Mother's Day coming soon it's always good to have them handy for your favorite cakes or candy.

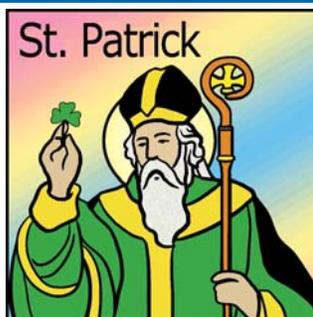
**Contemplative Living: St. Meinrad Retreat** Friday, March 17- Sunday, March 19, 2017 This retreat explores deep prayer, gleaned from the mystical tradition of the Church. Contemplation is a mode of prayer rooted in one's inmost self - the simple and quiet sanctuary with God. Retreat led by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB For more info or to register, email mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu

**Marriage Enrichment Retreat:** The Family Life Office is pleased to bring Mario Sacasa, to our Diocese for a "Married Couple's Retreat-Living the Gift of Marriage" on March 25-26, 2017 at Lake Barkley Lodge in Cadiz, Kentucky. TO register or for more info, please call the Family Life office 270-683-1545

**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!

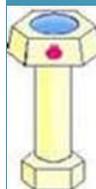
**Abortion Update:** Last week 88 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

**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.

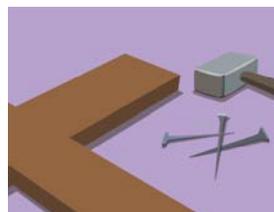


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# Mass Etiquette Column



**How do I show respect for Jesus' presence in the tabernacle?** As one enters into the Church it is our custom to genuflect/bow toward the Blessed Sacrament reserved inside the tabernacle **and bless ourselves with holy water** making the Sign of the Cross. These are gestures of adoration and reverence. This ritual is also repeated upon leaving the Church. When making the sign of the cross, ensure that you are attentive to the act. Do it carefully, deliberately and with reverence. Every time one passes by the tabernacle, reverence should be shown by genuflecting or bowing.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every one is invited to join the SRIS students on Wednesday at 12 Noon for the Rosary and the

**Stations of the Cross and every Friday come retrace the steps of Jesus to the cross, by praying the stations with others and meditating on our Lord's Passion at 6:30 pm.**

**Passion Play:** We will begin rehearsals for the passion play on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the church starting March 13th. We'd love to have any middle school through adult who would like to participate for the Good Friday service. Contact Deacon Tony 270-617-8032 or Patty Curran 270-945-8155.

**Receive a Daily Email** Lenten Video Message delivered to your inbox: Visit <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/#signup> to register!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **You look divine**

Extreme makeovers are all the rage. Some of us sense that a more beautiful person is hiding inside, and with a lot of help and loads of money, we try to make our dreams come true. Well, we're half right—something beautiful is hiding inside of us, but plastic surgery and a new wardrobe won't bring it shining forth. All we need is a pure heart—which comes when we realize we are God's beloved children and we each have God's exquisite grace within us. We can help others see us in this heavenly light simply by being true to ourselves and our divine origins.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9 (25). "He was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun."*

**MONDAY, MARCH 13**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

### **Let's give it up for Lent**

If you grew up Catholic, you probably heard the question (perhaps more often than you would have liked!): "What are you giving up for Lent?" Often enough it was about forgoing goodies such as chocolate or your favorite television show. Good enough as far as it goes, if it taught you something about healthy self-denial. But there is another, more interior way to give things up for Lent—things such as judgmental comments that come from a secret sense of superiority or condemning attitudes that are nothing more than self-righteousness dressed up in sharp clothes. The real action in the spiritual life, we learn as we age, is interior. So—what will you give up this Lent?

*TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

### **Don't underestimate her**

The Bible seems overpopulated by widows. Widows were a social problem in a world owned and operated by men. Without outside help, such women and their children were vulnerable. Yet widows assist prophets in the Old Testament and support Jesus in the gospels. Widows are active in the early church, and a woman named Tabitha was so indispensable, Peter is obliged to raise her from the dead. Helping others can help heal a mourning heart. Invite the widowed to be a contributing force in your community.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). "Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow."*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

### **Aim low to go high places**

"Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your Kingdom," the mother of the apostles James and John was telling Jesus—as if to say, "This Kingdom of yours, I want my boys in on it from the get-go." Everyone, it seemed, was telling Jesus what to do. Jesus, though, had a very different take on who comes first and last: "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant." To follow Jesus is to imitate him, to do as he would have us do, and that includes serving others.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232). "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

### **Give the gift of love**

One of the keys to Lenten conversion is *almsgiving*, a word seldom heard except in church, which might be apt because while altruism can often be found among all good people, there is something more here than acts of charity. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says, "If I give away everything I own . . . but do not have love, I gain nothing." It is the love, your attitude toward the other, not the thing given or even the sacrifice in giving that matters; it is the love that must motivate the gesture. It's not only, "Shall I give this person a few dollars?" but also, "Shall I—*can I*—love them?"

*TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). "I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart, to reward everyone according to his ways."*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17**

**MEMORIAL OF PATRICK**

### **Larger than legend**

Saint Patrick is often pictured with crozier, shamrock, and snake in hand. Tales of him using the shamrock to explain the Trinity or miraculously expelling snakes from Ireland are products of a later piety. But there's plenty about the historical Patrick to inspire admiration. Captured from his native England by raiders and enslaved in Ireland, after his escape Patrick deliberately returned to the land of his misfortune to bring the gospel. The crozier symbol is accurate: Patrick served as bishop and apostle to Ireland. Today he reminds us of our moral obligations even to those who trespass against us.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

**MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

### **Doing good**

We all want, even need, to feel God's presence, don't we? If not, what would be the point of believing? One way to feel the closeness of God is to live as God wants us to. As long as we give of ourselves and do good, we can be sure that God is with us. For inspiration we can look to Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, remembered today, a bishop who worked hard for the people in his care, even while he was engaged in an intense struggle with those who subscribed to Arianism, the major heresy of the time. He even sold church property during a famine to relieve the sufferings of the poor. Give yourself to a good cause.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

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