



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 16, 2017 - Easter Sunday

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

Hours: Monday - Friday

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

Email: stromuald@bbtel.com

www.stromuald.org

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

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

*Why do Catholics teach Christ rose on the third day?
Given a Friday crucifixion and Sunday's resurrection, I
barely count two days.*

There are a couple of issues to consider here. To begin with, Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an event that happened both in and out of time. Theologians say it was a transcendental event with historical consequences. Because Jesus' resurrection is not like anything we have ever seen before and bears little or no resemblance to any other historical event, our concepts of time falter when trying to express exactly what happened.

To put it another way, the length of time that Jesus spent in the tomb is much less important than what he did there. What really matters is that he conquered death, vacated the tomb, and entered into his risen and glorified state.

We must also remember that the Jews of Jesus' day were not as precise in their measurement of time as we are today. We tend to measure time in terms of hours, minutes, and seconds. They thought in terms of sunrises and sunsets. When seen in this light, the typical explanation given to the three-day time frame of Jesus' death and resurrection is that it took place in the course of three separate days: Good Friday (when Jesus was condemned to death and crucified), Holy Saturday (when Jesus lay in the tomb), and Easter (Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead).

Dennis J. Billy, CSsR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

ALLELUIA!

Masses for the Week

April 17TH - 23RD

| | | |
|-------|----------|--|
| Tues | 1:00 pm | Special Intention (DW) (Extended Care) |
| Wed | 5:00 pm | In Thanksgiving (SA) |
| Thurs | 9:30 am | Marvin Manning (Medco) |
| Fri | 9:00 am | Jenny Whittaker |
| Sat | 5:00 pm | Sonny Burch |
| Sun | 7:00 am | Pat Wheatley |
| | 10:00 am | Earl O'Donoghue |
| | 3:00 pm | Edwina Neel |

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Sunday Collection | \$ |
| Building Fund | \$ |
| Children | \$ |
| Loose change for the Poor | \$ |

Parish Financial Summary

July-March, 2017

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Total Income | \$397,400 |
| Total Expenses | \$363,800 |
| | \$ 33,800 |

Thank you for your financial stewardship!

Worship and Sacrament

Anointing of the Sick: Anointing of the Sick is celebrated with the parish community every first Wednesday at 5:00 pm Mass. Yet, anytime, anointing is available for illness, preparation for surgery or for recovery, by calling Fr Brian.

Baptism: Congratulations on the birth of your child! Your Church Family is excited about your family growing and our family growing! We look forward to celebrating your child's baptism! Preparation for new parents or those new to the parish is held by appointment. Call Fr Brian.

Marriage: Congratulations on your engagement! Your Church Family wishes to help you fully prepare spiritually and walk with you into this lifetime commitment to each other. In order to allow sufficient time, couples must contact the parish office at least 6 months before the anticipated wedding date.

Confession/Reconciliation: Every Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm; every Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm, every first Saturday after 8:00 am Mass, or anytime by simply asking or calling Fr Brian for appointment.

Visitation of the Sick: Please notify Father or the office upon admission of a family member into nursing homes or hospital. Often we rely upon word from the family about illnesses of a member. Please call.

RCIA: Interested in the Catholic Faith? The RCIA process is a "spiritual journey" that fully initiates those who are not baptized or who have baptism from another tradition and wish to join fully the Catholic Church. Classes are offered through the year culminating at Easter! Please call the office for details!

Membership in the Parish: Welcome to all new families or persons moving into our parish. We are glad that you are joining the parish community. We want to visit with you and help you settle into the church. Please register in the parish office as soon as possible.

Ministers of the Liturgy - April 22nd & 23rd

| | Eucharistic Ministers | Lectors | Ushers | Servers | Rosary Leaders | Music Ministers |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5:00 pm | Amy Flood Bryan O'Reilly | Stefan Cesarz Lynn Tuell | C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Davye Duggins S-Joey Flood | Claire Flood Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor | Dayle Riley | Pippa |
| 7:00 am | Shirley Bland Faye Glasscock | Denise Smith | C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Tim Glasscock | Amber Woods Tabby Woods | Crystal Greenwell | Pippa |
| 10:00 am | LaDonna Barton Ort Critchelow Sharon Hale Rhonda Walz | Barbara Critchelow Suzanne Rose | C-Mack Mattingly* C-Chuck McGary S-Griffin Moore S-Joey Walz | Luke Walz Shelbey Walz | Barbara Critchelow | P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos |
| Radio Minister: Randy Howard Children's Liturgy: Jennifer Payne & Jessica Phillips | | | | | | |



Happy Easter! Have you ever done this? Something BIG just happened. You phone a friend, and it then occurs to you that its 3:30 am! They answer, saying hello, but then adding 'give me a minute, my hand moved to grab the phone receiver, but my mind is not awake yet!' I did that back about 9-10 years ago after a tremor-earthquake hit the area about 4:00 am. Don't know

why I did other than that I felt I had to connect to the wider world of other people out there after such an event! Fortunately, my friend was already awakened by the tremor too! But I have taken many calls in the deepest of sleeps and had to say to the caller, "I hear you, but let me write that down" to give my mind a minute to catch up! I think that is the feeling of everyone in the gospel story of Easter morning. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple all have a surprising early morning (before light) shock and catch-up moment upon receiving the call or word of Jesus' **empty tomb!** The last line of our reading today says "**For they did not yet understand** the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (John 20:9). Two things at least they do not understand: **1) The Work of Scripture**-how Jesus fulfills His Word. **2) The Work of Resurrection**- how Jesus raises us to new life! In two weeks we will hear about the Appearance of Jesus story to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and then we will explore understanding more of scripture's fulfillment in Jesus. But for today, we can explore understanding more the resurrection of Jesus and us: what it means to 'rise from the dead'.

Interestingly, in each of the gospels, Jesus predicted his death and resurrection **three times**. I think he is preparing his disciples. He is laying the foundation of His path-His Way for them. He gives to them the word of belief they will later see Him manifest in His own death-resurrection. He consistently taught his disciples the way to eternal life through sacrificially loving others and the giving of one's self for them. Eternal life comes to us, when we humble ourselves, to raise up others. Easter reveals that our fullest living is in giving to others. The 'kernel' of resurrection teaching is sown when Jesus says in John 12:24-25 "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains **just a grain of wheat**, but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world **will preserve it for eternal life.**" Jesus is marking the row for his disciples to follow, thereby allowing us to receive Him, and to 'rise with Him' for others (even more!) Again, Jesus predicted his death/resurrection and taught His disciples this 'living plan' in three places in each of the gospels. You can find this 'trifecta' of predictions in Mark

8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34, Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 21:18-19 and Luke 9:22; 9:43b-44; 18:31-33. Yet today's reading is from **John's gospel** so let's look at John's version of Jesus triply predicting His death and resurrection. In John 3:14, Jesus says, "Just as Moses **lifted up** the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up". In John 8:28 Jesus says, "When you **lift up** the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM." And in John 12:32, Jesus says "When I am **lifted up** from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." Think of Jesus' "lifting up" as both the glory of giving life on the cross and the glory of giving life in the resurrection. Two 'raisings'! God's Love and our having Life in Him never ends! Nothing overcomes it! God's love overcomes all. No Defeat! God's love triumphs. It cannot be buried and put down! Love finds a way! It rises above! Love breaks through! St Paul describes it like this in 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love never fails.**" And 1 John 4:8-9 tells us that "God is love, and **in this way**, the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that **we might have life** through him." We have no life apart from Christ. Yet, in Him, life eternally comes to us! How do we receive this love? Go with Jesus. Stay by Him. Mark 8:34 reads "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." And where does the following lead? To Eternal Life! So, Divine Love rises again, and again, and Happy Easter!

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

Sunday: Easter New Life abounds! Yet, every Sunday celebrates the Resurrection. How does Mass each week 'lift me' and 'raise me up for God's Purpose'? What did God ask of me today at Mass?

Monday: The disciples don't seem to understand fully what is going on, with Jesus supposedly 'not with them'. Yet what do they do? They turn to each other as fellow Christians. When I don't feel Jesus, who do I turn to?

Tuesday: Where are my Lenten sacrifices? Have I continued 'offering up' sacrifices because they have now become part of my life? If not, could I?

Wednesday: Have I felt the resurrection of Jesus in me? Have I witnessed the 'new life' of Christ in others? Share the story with someone.

Thursday: Mary Magdalene's evangelization begins with a simple good deed. Respecting the dead and offering a fitting burial, complete with aromatic oils and vigil prayers for Jesus. How do I evangelize? What simple act can begin my evangelization?

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

Saturday: For what, am I going to be offering thanks for this weekend at Mass? Who needs my prayer most, and am I faithfully praying for them?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again, well in 3 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.

Senior Day—Hop on over to the parish hall on Thursday, April 20, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for a day of senior fellowship. We will come together to celebrate the Easter holiday and enjoy a day of faith and knowledge of the saints. Saints of the month are St. Isadore, St. Fedelis and St. Louis Grignon, we will also discuss Our Lady of Fatima. A short dvd on the history of Fatima will be shown, and discussion of the pilgrimage to Bowling Green to visit the Fatima shrine. Fried chicken will be served and we ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. Invite your friends or other loved ones and let's make it a day of heartwarming friendships, hope to see you there.

Operation Rice Bowl: Traditionally, Rice Bowl donations are turned in at the end of Lent. They can be dropped in any time during the Easter Season.

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

ANNIVERSARY: Lee Gale & Shelly Jefferies will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on April 17 and Pete & Amelia Anthony will be celebrating 10 years of marriage on April 20th.

BIRTHDAYS: Patsy Whitfill April 20th

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!

Family Information: If you have a new address or phone number, please call the office at 270-756-2356 to update your information. Thank you.



Thanks to all who supported Autumn Siler with her service project for the Brescia Theology class. All donations were taken to the Good Samaritan Center.



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This Week at St. Romuald

| | | |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 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) |
| Wed | 4:00 pm | Confessions |
| | 5:00 pm | Mass |
| Thur | 9:30 am | Mass (Medco) |
| | 10:00 am | Senior Day |
| | 6:00 pm | Finance Committee |
| | 6:00 pm | Family Holy Hour |
| Fri | 9:00 am | School Mass |
| Sat | 2:00 pm | Tiffany Whitfill/Clint Board Wedding |
| Sun | 8:30 am | K-6 Religious Ed Classes |

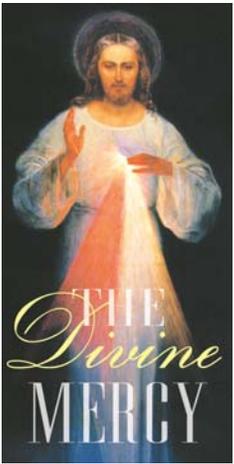
UPCOMING:

| | | |
|--------|---------|------------------|
| Apr 25 | 6:00 pm | Pastoral Council |
| Apr 29 | 5:00 pm | Youth Mass |

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The Cross is not only a symbol of belonging, but it is the memory of God who was made sin for love. As Saint Paul says: "For our sake God made him to be sin who did not know sin". Jesus took upon Himself all the filth of humanity, and He was lifted up so that all men wounded by sin would be able to see Him. Salvation comes only from His Cross, from this Cross that is God made flesh. There is no salvation merely in ideas, there is no salvation in good will, or only the desire to be good ... The only salvation is in the crucified Christ, who took on in His Body the price of our sins, to heal us. What is the Cross for you? Yes, it is the Christian symbol. But it is so much more than mere jewelry or decoration. We need to reflect upon how we make the cross, and how we show the cross to others. Only as a badge or as a way of living?" (Daily Homily 4-4-2017)



Divine Mercy Sunday:

Plan to celebrate God's Mercy towards us on the Sunday following Easter. We will be having a special celebration of divine forgiveness on April 23, with a 3:00 pm Mass. We will begin at 2:00 with Holy Hour and praying of the Chaplet,

and confession will be available through the hour. Mass will begin at 3:00 (the Mercy Hour-Jesus' death on cross for us!) Plan to come!

Mass Etiquette Column

To hold hands or not to hold hands during the Our Father? You might want to hold hands to pray, others may not. Do not make any unnecessary judgment because they worship differently. This is a personal gesture and not part of the rubrics of the Church. For this reason, people may hold hands during the Our Father, but no one is required to hold hands. Be aware and respectful of how others wish to pray.

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

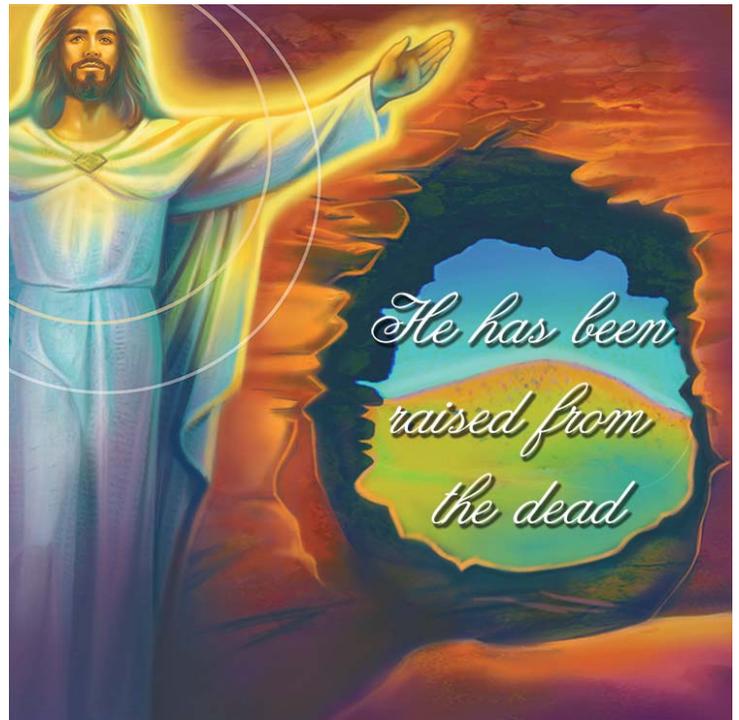
- Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
- Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
- Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
- Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
- Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14
- Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15
- Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Sunday, April 16th Easter Sunday

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

Easter is when we celebrate the most earth shattering event in the history of humanity, when Christ destroyed sin and death and rose from the dead. This glorious mystery of our faith calls us to the greatest hope, eternal life with God.

Our vocation is God's plan to get us from earth to heaven. If you have ever felt that God is calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy 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, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Eric Severs, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. 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, Rebecca Wilson, 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



SRIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Grandparents and Parents: 2017 Spring SRIS Tuition Raffle is going on now and will be until March 31st. Winning ticket will receive 1 year K-8th Grade Tuition Valued at \$2,800, and the winning ticket has control over when and who the paid tuition is given to. Only 250 Tickets will be sold at \$40 each so see a faculty member of SRIS or purchase one at our fish fries. If you have questions please feel free to call 270-756-5504.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

St. Romuald Interparochial School and Pre-school are now accepting applications for anyone wanting to pre-register their children for next year. We welcome your inquiries about an education at St. Romuald Interparochial School. A quality education at SRIS is truly a family experience. We have a proud "tradition of excellence." Call 756-5504, email Lori Carwile lcarwile@hotmail.com for pre-school or Sheila Drane srissecretary@hotmail.com, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

Thank you to our advertisers for making the bulletin possible! Please let them know that you are thankful for support of our parish bulletin.

Advertiser of the week
Mountain Laurel Lake
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AROUND AND ABOUT

The Maryland to Kentucky & Beyond 2017 Genealogy Reunion/Conference will be June 22-25, 2017 at Brescia University in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. For more information, please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/mdtoky3> and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/MDtoKYandBeyondInc/> Phone 502-366-4962/ email: marylandtokentucky@gmail.com

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!

Most Reverend John Jeremiah McRaith

Born: December 6, 1934

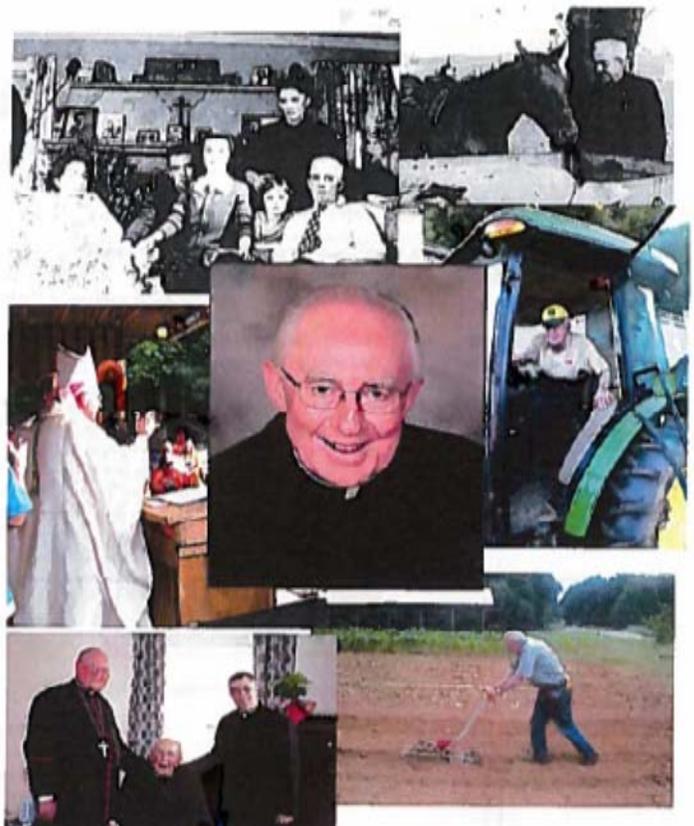
Ordained as Priest of New Ulm, MN: Feb 21, 1960

Appointed Bishop of Owensboro, KY: October 23, 1982

Ordained Bishop: December 15, 1982

Retired as 3rd Bishop of Owensboro: January 5, 2009

Died as Bishop Emeritus of Owensboro: 19 March 19, 2017





SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017
SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

Your Easter best is good enough

It used to be that on Easter everyone would put on their best clothes, new ones if they could afford them. It was a sign of new beginnings and a fresh start. No matter what had happened in people's lives, Easter remained a sign of hope. And so it remains, regardless of what you wear. Today we are an Easter people. Jesus has conquered sin and death. The rules are rewritten. What will you put on to be a new and better person?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10 (42, 41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). "He saw and believed."

MONDAY, APRIL 17
MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

All depends on how you look at it

If you grew up with siblings, chances are you've had the experience of your side of the story being far different from the one your brother or sister told. That's because our perceptions are based on self-interest. The soldiers in Matthew's Resurrection story witnessed the same thing the women did, yet their account was a lot different because the empty tomb meant trouble for them. For the women, on the other hand, the empty tomb awakened hope, and the message of the angel filled them with joy. They had a whole different story to tell, one that we hear being told to this day.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!'"

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Look and you will see

When Mary Magdalene meets Jesus near the tomb, he asks her an important question: "Whom are you looking for?" Not Jesus himself, obviously, because she stood not long ago at the cross where he died. She imagines the man to whom she is speaking is the gardener—who else would be in a cemetery at dawn? Only those who are actually looking for Jesus will be sure to recognize him when they see him, whether in the face of a stranger or a friend. Jesus isn't hiding. He wants to be revealed!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:36-41; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); John 20:11-18 (262). "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

All fired up

What makes your heart come alive with the true fire of passion? Is it when you hear a story about a noble and courageous act? Or read an article about injustice that makes you burn with indignation? Does the sight of human suffering on a street corner arouse your compassion to the brim? Does the innocence in a child's face melt your heart with love? Our hearts were made for the richness of such passion, and our lives are given to us to experience life to the fullest. Avoid activities that deaden and suppress your passion. Follow the fire!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:1-10; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); Luke 24:13-35 (263). "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking?"

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Keep it real

"Flesh and blood" we say, referring to the people we love to whom we're related. "Body and soul" we say to describe the depth of our love, our commitment, our joy. This is the way God reaches out to us, as beloved children: flesh and blood, body and soul—healing a lame man who dances with delight, sending a risen Christ we can see and touch. The love God gives us—and asks in return—isn't the ethereal love of "dreams," wrote Dorothy Day, cofounder of the Catholic Worker movement, but a hands-on and sometimes "dreadful love" that clothes the naked and feeds the starving. The works of mercy show that real love is real concrete. Let's be real.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:11-26; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); Luke 24:35-48 (264). "A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Get over it

Despite knowing that he had hurt Jesus deeply and forsaken him in his hour of need, Peter does not cower in Jesus' presence. In fact, he is thrilled to hear that the risen Jesus has come to break bread with the disciples. Peter's joy at the coming of the Lord is a signature Christian trait. Peter truly believes he is forgiven and that nothing can keep him from the love of God, so he is not afraid. Yet many of us have not reached that level of faith. We are ashamed of our failings and try to run from God's gaze. It's time to acknowledge your sins and move on. Don't keep Jesus waiting.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); John 21:1-14 (265). "Jesus said to them, 'Come, have breakfast.'"

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

See the light

The expression "seeing is believing" may come from the most famous doubter of all, the Apostle Thomas, who insisted on touching the wounds of the risen Jesus before he would accept the fact of Christ's Resurrection. Thomas, though, wasn't alone. Others among the first disciples wouldn't at first give credence to the incredible news. Throughout his earthly ministry Christ's main request was to believe in him and his message, and after he was raised that did not—and has not—changed. With an eye toward generations of Christians to come, Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:13-21; Victimae Paschali Laudes (42); Mark 16:9-15 (266). "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

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