



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

August 27, 2017 - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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, Kevin Oelze,  
Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly  
Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,  
Gera Jarboe, Gail Pollock  
Harry Mattingly, Pam Pollock  
Joellen McGary, Mark Rhodes

**St. Romuald**

**Interparochial School:**

Phone: 756-5504  
www.stromualdschool.org  
Principal, Rob Cox

**School Board**

**Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,  
Jennifer Payne

**RCIA Inquiry:** If you or someone you know is interested to knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church please contact Father Brian, Deacon Tony (270-617-8032), Deacon Mike (270-756-0120) or fill out and return this form to the parish office or place in the Collection basket.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Masses for the Week

## August 28th - Sept 3rd

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Manning (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Brian Butler (DW)
Thurs	9:30 am	Chester Bruington (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Ruth Hardesty (DP)
Sat	8:00 am	Carroll Anthony (TA)
	5:00 pm	Doris Priest
	7:00 am	Herman Barr (JK)
	10:00 am	Sue Crouch (FR)

# Stewardship of Finance

## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,846.00
Building Fund.....	\$15.00
Children.....	\$0.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$48.50
Radio Ministry.....	\$195.00

## Parish Financial Summary

July, 2017

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$48,600</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,800</b>
	<b>\$ 800</b>

**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 - September 2nd & 3rd

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Amy Flood Kathy Flood	Lynn Tuell Brenda Wheatley	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davey Brumfield S-Carroll Whitfill S-Matthew Whitfill	Claire Flood Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor	Minnie Nimmo	Shannon
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Mike Wiedemer	Cathy Lewis	C-Chuck Hardesty* C-Greg Hardesty S-Kevin Oelze S-Don Payne	Amber Woods Tabby Woods	Lorena Bland	
10:00 am	Lori Carwile Sandy Horsley Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne	Rosa Hockenberry Kathy Kiper	C-Mack Mattingly* C-Griffin Moore S-Zack Payne S-Allen Wheatley	Mary Grace Mattingly Sydney Mattingly	Pat Whitfill	Volunteer
Radio Minister: Ann Tritschler		Children's Liturgy:				



Have you ever been asked, "Can we have a face to face today?" Or ever been told "I need a sit-down with you as soon as possible"? Or maybe spouses have asked each other this question as they go through a stormy patch, "Can we have a talk: I need to know what I mean to you?" Sometimes, such questions can drill to our cores, and almost scare us with their sudden pointedness. Jesus is aware of how such 'defining moments' in our relationships can threaten us, so he eases into this critical conversation with His

apostles by first asking about the 'word on the street'! He asks, "What are people saying about me?" and this leads up to him asking more personally, "Okay they say that, but **where are YOU with this?** How do YOU think of me? Are YOU with me?" His question specifically is "Who do you say that I am?" Faced with such a point-blank 'personal invite' to share, **what would I say?** So, what would you say to Jesus?

Most people thought of Jesus, as fitting into the role of prophet, in line with the Old Testament examples and even the recent appearance of a current prophet like John Baptist. So they said, 'Maybe he is John back from the dead, or Elijah, or Jeremiah'. The Old Testament prophets are usually divided into 'major ones' and 'minor ones'. The Major league consists of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel. The minor league refers to Hosea, Amos, Micah, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, and Zechariah. However, these are only the prophets who have their own books. We know of many other prophets who served God faithfully by delivering His Word to the people. Think of Moses or Samuel, or Elijah! When Jesus came along, the people thought of Him first as being similar to one of these 'servants of God', maybe in the light of their own favorite prophet-figure. Who is your favorite Old Testament Prophet?

I ask why the people gave those three particular names. And I *find significance in the specific prophets named* by the apostles: **John Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah.** Consider **why these three** get special 'name mention'. That people even suggest **John** the Bpt who had died, makes me think that the idea of 'resurrection' was in the air'. Also, mention of John's named first suggests how much he was loved, his positive reception and the popular engagement with his message of conversion/change. John's name was feared by some as Matthew 14:2 says "King Herod told his servants, "This man (Jesus) is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Herod may have been the rumor-starter of Jesus being John Resurrected! Secondly, **Elijah** being named suggests that society was at a 'tipping point' and people felt it lived in an 'explosive apocalyptic atmosphere' or the 'end times were near'. Way back when, Malachi had prophesied that Elijah would appear just "before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes" (Malachi 4:5). And, lastly, I find mention of **Jeremiah** by name *the most interesting* because it reveals and confirms by comparison the actual teaching and lifestyle of Jesus. For example, Jesus matches Jeremiah's homeless, celibate lifestyle (Jeremiah 16:2 compared to Matthew 8:20). Also, Jeremiah, like Jesus, is rejected by his own people (Compare Jer 11:19 to Luke 4:28-29). But not only were they both rejected, they were also persecuted badly (Compare Jer 20:2 to John 15:20). But most thrillingly to me is the similarity of the CONTENT of both Jeremiah and Jesus' teaching. Naming Jeremiah adds the corroborating insight into what Jesus was actually teaching (in addition to the four Evangelists' testimony of their texts). That specific content was Jesus' teaching about the spiritual error of viewing

salvation only through the Temple economy and the accompanying illusion of Jerusalem City as the designated one & only 'Holy Place' (compare Jer 7:4 'Don't put your trust in the words, 'Temple' 'Temple', to Matthew 24:2 "the day is coming when not one Temple stone will rest upon another"). I will leave for another day the comparison of Jeremiah and Jesus when it came to calling out the corruption of the priests and elder-spiritual authorities (compare Matthew 23:13-33 to Jeremiah 2:8). But Jesus becomes so much more than any simple prophet from history, because He enacts and embodies (HE IS) the Word of God! Not just handing it out, but being it Himself personally. So, he turns the conversation to his apostles in person and asks, "Tell me, how do you understand me?" Old Testament prophets were 'messengers' deliverers of God's word to the people, like couriers and runners. They are handed a word and they in turn just deliver it, like announcing "Hear Ye, Hear Ye, the King decrees....." But **Jesus is so much more than a messenger**-delivery boy. Jesus is the WORD of GOD Itself (embodied- John 1:14 Word made flesh). **Jesus is the Message!** In the strongest terms, Jesus establishes Himself as 'The Word of God' when giving the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus says "**it was said** to your ancestors..... **But I say to you,**" (Matt 5:21-22). But in many places He announces the 'Greater' Message of Himself. In Matthew 12:6 "I say to you, something **greater than** the Temple is here." In Matthew 12:8 He says, "For the Son of Man is **Lord of the Sabbath.** Matthew 12:41 has Jesus saying "There is something **greater than** Jonah here", followed by Matthew 12:42 saying, "There is something **greater than** Solomon here." Jesus is that 'greater than' which fulfills and surpasses definitively all that went before. He is the Omega Point! I find the best summary of this identification of Jesus as God's Word Himself in Hebrews 1:1-2 "In times past, God spoke in *partial and various* ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, **God spoke to us through a Son.** So, Jesus is the Word. He's the Answer. **That makes us the question?** What does He mean to me? What is your response?

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

**Sunday:** If I was quizzed about Mass today, what do you remember, what words or message did you receive? Were you challenged to change because of the words?

**Monday:** If you were asked by a stranger, "Who is Jesus?" What would you say?

**Tuesday:** Ask someone to tell you who Jesus is to them. Have you ever told someone that you saw Jesus working through them? Why not?

**Wednesday:** Who was the last prophet who shook me up? How was I affected and how did hearing the prophet's message from God change me?

**Thursday:** Have I read the Old Testament Prophets' writings/books? Try it this week, by picking up Isaiah, Ezekiel or Jeremiah? (Jonah and Hosea are short prophet books).

**Friday:** Embrace the cross and perform an act of sacrifice or penance for someone today.

**Saturday:** Plan to come to mass early and pray the rosary for world peace!

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## **Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:**

Nationally recognized and dynamic Evangelist Mike Cumbie of the Micah Project, will be our Mission Speaker each night October 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

**Altar Society News:** Our first Altar Society meeting took place on Aug 3rd. We met to get us up and running for this year's events. One of our biggest changes that occurred was Kay Payne stepping down as treasurer, thank you Kay for your years of service. Louann Whitworth was voted in as our new treasurer.

Our card ministry report was given by Sheila Sills who sent out well over 100 cards to various parish members and their families. We are going to try to do a card signing meeting to help Sheila out with the cards she has to address, sign and send.

We are currently selling nuts at a discounted price of \$8.00 per bag or buy one get one half price (2/\$12), that includes all nuts. Also on sale are tickets for our annual quilt raffle at \$1 per chance. You may purchase nuts or tickets from Altar Society members or the office, we will be sitting out at various masses over the next few months.

Our annual membership drive will take place the weekend of Aug 26th & 27th. Dues are still only \$5, our next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 7th at 5 pm, come join us.

**St. Romuald Picnic Meeting** took place on Tuesday, August 8th. Deacon Mike talked to Mark Richards about possibly getting him to set up one of his carnival rides as a new attraction for the picnic. Road signs are still a big topic for us as to whether or not purchase smaller yard signs or maybe just several big ones to set up at various mainstream locations throughout the county. We have several new booth ideas in the works. Next Meeting is Sept 12th at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome, bring your ideas.

**Divorce Survival Session** are now being offered upon request throughout the year. Deacon Mike & Rosa Hockenberry are available to talk to you one on one or as a family if you like, at a time which might be best for you and your loved ones. We would also like to change this into a 6 week program instead of the 12 weeks we offered in the past. We are here for you and are making this a more personalized program to fit your needs. Contact Deacon Mike 270-756-0120 or Rosa 270-863-0117 anytime. Our sessions are strictly confidential and open to anyone.

**Catholic Faith Information:** Please check out and pick up any of the free pamphlets and booklets in the back of church about Catholic teaching and practices. They are excellent resources from the Knights of Columbus about our faith beliefs!

**FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN INQUIRING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 270-756-2356 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**Deacon Mike ready to watch the eclipse**



## 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)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass

### UPCOMING:

Sept 4                      Labor Day (Office Closed)

## PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

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

"We do not put our trust in horoscopes and fortune telling rather than Christ. Jesus is the only true security that gets us through times of trial and darkness. Notice how Peter sinks even when walking toward Jesus, as he turned away from Jesus to consult the winds and look to the waves. The same thing can happen to us when we put our trust in false securities. When we do not cling to the Word of the Lord, but consult horoscopes and fortune planners, we begin to sink. The Word of God may not take away the storm, but it guides us through it. Our faith in the Lord and in His Word does not open a path where everything is just calm and easy, but such faith gives us the security of God's presence that pushes us to overcome the storms, the certainty of a hand that grabs us in order to help us in difficulties, showing the way even when it's dark. Faith, then, is not an escape from life's problems, but it supports us on the journey." (Homily 08-13-2017)

### **August 20, 2017 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"O woman, great is your faith!"*

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel teaches us about the kind of faith needed to be healed by Jesus and to receive God's gift of salvation. May we imitate her faith as we respond to our vocation and follow God's call. If you feel that God might be calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources and support. 270-683-1545, [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org), [www.owensborovocations.com](http://www.owensborovocations.com).

**Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month:** Father Brian will begin offering on a monthly basis the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the first Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm). The first offering will be August 2nd. The Catechism specifies that those who can be anointed include 'anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age' yet also includes anyone 'prior to a serious operation', or 'for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced' (Catechism #1514-1515).

**St Vincent DePaul July Report:** St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. Their monthly report for July included the following services and help given: Assistance was provided to a total of 27 families amounting to 75 persons (of which were 34 children). The aid totaled just over \$2470.01 given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

## Readings for the Week

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
- Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mk 6:17-29
- Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
- Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
- Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
- Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
- Sunday: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27



## Knights of Columbus News

**Stewards of Appalachia:** Brother Knights the Stewards of Appalachia is a Kentucky nonprofit company dedicated to assisting needy families with necessary home repairs located in the Appalachia Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. If you would like to help out contact Glenn Greenwell at 502-345-9782. They need volunteers from Wednesday-Friday, Oct 11th-14th.

**NFL Slam Sweepstake Tickets:** Parishioners: the Knights of Columbus are selling NFL Slam Sweepstake tickets. They are \$10.00 each (buy two and get the third one free). There are 32 football teams, Sweepstake tickets have 4 teams each week and the 4 teams change weekly. No teams have the same 4 teams each week. Prizes are awarded weekly to the ticket holders with 4 teams that score the most or least number of points. These 4-team totals are called the "Highest 4-Team Totals" and the "Lowest 4-Team Totals". The prize of these winners are listed on the tickets. A total of \$700 will be paid to the ticket holders with the Highest and Lowest 4-Team totals each week. Total prizes will be \$7000. You can check results on line. Ticket sale monies support the Kentucky State Council Charities (Stewards of Appalachia, the Wheelchair Program and Food for the Poor. Deadline for ticket sales are Oct 1st so I can get them in to the Knights of Columbus Charities. Contact me at 1-270-617-0754 for ticket purchases and more info. Pat O'Reilly, Grand Knight

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Becky Brown, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Cindy Cashen, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Jenny Ginn, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, Janet Hallway, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Danny Herdt, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Dorothy Morris, Emma Nottingham, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Bob Rankin, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberrry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Tessa Wadsworth, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rebecca Wilson, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zalone. **Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Ryan Critchelow, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Christian Hansen, Jack Hayes, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



### Celebration

**BIRTHDAY:** Libby Osborne, Sept. 3rd and Linda Rhodes, September 6th.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Robert & Jenny Jackey will be celebrating 54 years of marriage on August 31st and Joe & David Ann Priest will be celebrating 52 years of marriage on September 4th.

### In Sympathy

Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Bobby Potts (Tracy Shirley's brother) and Anna Lee Henning (mother of Kitty Himmelhaver and Barbara

Brown) who passed away last week. Please keep the families in your prayers.

The family of Joseph Stoy Priest would like to thank everyone for the cards, visits and expressions of sympathy shown to us during the loss of our father and brother. It is greatly appreciated.  
Donna Aubrey and Shirley Priest Hale



## AROUND AND ABOUT

### Not a full-scale picnic, but Mount St Joseph still having a Craft and Raffle Bazaar:

At Mount Saint Joseph Gymnasium from 1-3 p.m. Sept. 10. We'll have quilts, craft items and jelly made by the Ursuline Sisters for sale. Old Hickory Bar-B-Que will sell a variety of food to eat there or take home. Come visit with the Ursuline Sisters, and the day will culminate with the raffle drawing at 3 p.m. Nothing has changed with the raffle – for just \$5 a ticket, you can have a chance to win \$10,000! There are also cash prizes of \$3,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250 and \$100. A handmade quilt valued at \$1,000 will also be raffled. The raffle is the biggest fundraiser of the year to support our retired Ursuline Sisters, so get your tickets today! See any Ursuline Sister, or contact Maggie Matsko at 270-229-2009, or [maggie.matsko@maplemount.org](mailto:maggie.matsko@maplemount.org).

**"Spicing Up Married Life"** 6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 16 at Saint James Catholic School, Elizabethtown, KY. The famous EWTN TV personality, Fr. Leo Patalinghug (The creator-host of the Food and Faith movement called, "Grace Before Meals") will give a cooking demonstration during his conference. Tickets include dinner prepared & served by Tony York and are on sale now for \$25/each at [stjames-etown.org](http://stjames-etown.org). Limited seating is available. Father Leo Patalinghug is featured on many shows, including "Throw Down with Bobby Flay" on The Food Network where he beat Bobby Flay with his Fusion Fajitas! Call office 270-765-7011 for more info.

**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 57 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.

### SRIS Scrip Office Hours:

Monday 8-2  
Friday 8-2

**Holy Guardian Angel Parish Picnic,** Saturday, August 26th. Dinners will be served for 3-7ET. Car Show, Games Raffles, Live Entertainment, Food, & Auction. Fun for everyone!!!



## Sunday, Aug 27, 2017 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Rock-solid faith

Peter got a lot of things wrong in his dealings with Christ, but on the day when Jesus asked him, “Who do you say I am?” Peter got it right and proved himself an astute and faithful disciple.

Jesus’ response to Peter’s confession: “You are the Rock and upon this rock I will build my church.” Jesus chose Peter—despite his many instances of flawed thinking—to care for his faith community because Peter’s spiritual core was rock solid. The lesson here for all Christians is that it is our commitment to follow Jesus, not our perfect understanding, that creates a sturdy foundation of faith.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 (121)* “*You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.*”

## Monday, Aug 28, 2017 MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Unsinkable Saint Augustine

While some famous people may have amazing rags-to-riches stories to tell, the drama that launched Saint Augustine (354-430) to greatness went from reprobate to repentant. A brilliant young man who indulged in earthly pleasures to excess (dismaying his mom, Saint Monica), he became “born again” and embraced the opposite extreme, condemning everything appealing to the senses. Thankfully, this champion of church teaching finally chose a more forgiving path, admitting, “Our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee!”

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425)* “*One who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it.*”

## Tuesday, Aug 29, 2017 MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Takes criticism well

It’s human to feel pain and anger, especially at times when you’ve made a mistake and have been soundly called on the carpet for it. King Herod’s wife Herodias wanted to get even with John the Baptist after he spoke out about something she was involved in that was morally wrong. Herodias got revenge, but not a better life. Although hers is an example of extreme vengeance, the moral of her story is one worth remembering. When you make mistakes that others rightfully point out, you can punish the messenger or take the message to heart, but only by doing the latter can you make things right.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (426); Mark 6:17-29 (634)* “*Herodias harbored a grudge against [John the Baptist] and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so.*”

## Wednesday, Aug 30, 2017 Do what you say

The word hypocrite comes from the Greek for “one who acts on a stage” and means “a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion.” Hypocrisy was one of Jesus’ frequent targets, and the criticism of hypocrisy has played a major role in Christian moral life ever since. Those who say one thing and do another, who want people to think they are something different than what they really are, or who hold others to standards they themselves don’t keep fall under this ignominious title. The simple antidote to hypocrisy comes from integrity: consistency between your thoughts and actions and between those actions and what you expect of others.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427)* “*On the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing.*”

## Thursday, Aug 31, 2017 Ready or not, here I come

On this day in 1886, America recorded its first major earthquake, in Charleston, South Carolina. Forty-one people were killed. We never know when tragedy may strike. Our faith keeps us moving forward. We can’t freeze up terrified of what might come. Living as good a life as we can is the best preparation for whatever happens. So put today in God’s hands and live well and fully. That is the way to make it through anything.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428)* “*Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*”

## Friday, Sep 01, 2017 Keeping vigil

Years ago a cartoon appeared in which a monk is standing on a golf course flying a kite. In the distance, two astonished golfers are staring up at the kite, on which is written the word “repent.” This cartoon was a gentler version of the stereotypical wild-eyed, long-haired prophet roaming the streets holding a sign calling on all to mend their ways because Jesus is about to come back. While these figures may seem a little ridiculous, they have a point. We don’t know when the Lord will return, so it’s best to be ready at all times. But we do not wait for him out of fear. If we live in Christ’s presence now, we will have nothing to be afraid of when we meet him again.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13 (429)* “*Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*”

## Saturday, Sep 02, 2017 MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY A prayer for one and all

Saturdays are not only the traditional day to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary but also the day of the week to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the preeminent “Marian” prayer. In prayerfully meditating on the events of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, the Birth of Jesus, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, we “weave our intentions, thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desire for union with Christ,” says Alice Camille in her award-winning article for VISION Vocation Network, “Full of grace: Reclaiming the Rosary.” The Rosary is a prayer that speaks to everyone as the church but also to each person as an individual. What is it saying to you today?

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430)* “*Well done, my good and faithful servant.*”

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