



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

September 3, 2017 - Twenty-second 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 in 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

September 4th - 10th

Tues	1:00 pm	Edwina Neel (PJ) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Rita McGary (BM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Frank Neel (PJ) (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning (LH)
Sat	5:00 pm	Anna Brown (DH)
	7:00 am	Margaret Shembari (MB)
	10:00 am	Rosemary Hinton

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$7,367.00
Building Fund.....	\$55.00
Children.....	\$14.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$69.03
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$826.75

Parish Financial Summary July, 2017

Total Income	\$48,600
Total Expenses	\$47,800
	\$ 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 - September 9th & 10th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Shelly Jefferies	Shannon Aldridge Alex Bertschman	C-Tim Aldridge* C-Jim Bland S-Sam Bland S-Will Bland	Ben Aldridge Alaina Taul Madeline Taul	Angie Bertschman	Pippa
7:00 am	Janet Bland Shirley Bland	Buddy Payne	C-Stephen Oelze* C-Bobby Joe Rhodes S-Jeff Rhodes S-Greg Wethington	Benjamin Anthony Madison Anthony	Crystal Greenwell	Pippa
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables Mary Jo Rankin Aulton Richards Rhonda Walz	Jessica Phillips Suzanne Rose	C-Alvin Mattingly* C-Raymond Critchelov S-Jim Sills S-Joey Walz	Luke Walz Shelbey Walz	Susan Arnold	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Joe Hess		Children's Liturgy: Kari & Patrick Critchelov Family				



Peter! Or Satan! Jesus' strong reaction to Peter's suggestion to sidestep the cross, shows how central the cross is to Jesus' mission. Would we be repeating ourselves if we said the cross was 'crucial' or the 'crux' (+) of the matter to Jesus? But the Cross, which means Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, is Christ's mission of salvation. St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:23, "**We preach Christ crucified**" and in Galatians 6:14, he says "As for

me, **may I never boast, except in the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ," see also 1 Cor 2:2). So for we Christians, the cross is everything! Many preachers over the years have proclaimed, 'No Cross, No Crown!' So the intensity of Jesus' condemnation of Peter's 'easy way out' suggestion, reveals just how necessary the 'acceptance of sacrifice' is for our being saved in Jesus' name!

Jesus had been here before, which is also why Satan's name comes so quickly to his lips. Remember back in the desert when the "Devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me" (Matthew 4:8-9). The Devil is suggesting that Jesus skip out on suffering the cross and simply accept the Devil's easy lottery win and demonic self-worship of wealth and power, instead of the Father's selfless, salvific will for us. The biblical link between these two readings is seen when Jesus says today, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?" (Matthew 16: 26). One difference between the Devil, way back in the desert tempting Jesus and then later Peter's temptation is that their motivation is different. The Devil tempts Jesus out of malice, while Peter tempts Jesus out of weakness. Peter just wants it easy, and wants to get out of anything hard (another pun-play on his name because he should be 'rock-tough')! A couple of weeks ago we heard about Peter sinking in the sea because he took his eyes off Jesus and became distracted by challenges of waves and wind, or weighted down by his too-proud self-importance ("Look at me!"). Peter's sinking humbled him. And Peter is humbled again today as he selfishly tries to impose his own comfort and convenience upon Jesus. But Jesus calls him 'back in line', by saying 'get behind me'. Step back in place behind me! Jesus says to Peter, 'Follow Me. Accept my lead, my Way, the Cross!' Jesus calls Peter to keep following Him, 'serving Him as Lord', which means serving sacrificially just as He serves! To follow Jesus means that we not only 'keep our eyes on Him', but we keep our lives like His! We keep His example, as best we can, living as He lived. We might ask, "Just HOW did He Live?" He tells us in Matthew 20:28, that he "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." To follow Him faithfully means we can never forget His type of 'Lordship' and what His Kingdom looks like! In Matthew 23:11, He spells out clearly that His model disciple, above all, **serves:** "the greatest among you must be your **servant**." (Read the same in Matt20:26) Or in today's reading, he says it like this, "Whoever wishes to come after me **must deny himself**, take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt 16:24)

Jesus' 'servant lifestyle' reveals to us the 'seed' of his 'salvation mission', that God's glory is revealed in 'selfless love'. The power of divine love is relentless resurrection and lasting life. John 12:24 "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." If we think only of ourselves, we die away. Yet, if we place others before ourselves, eternity is opened to us! Jesus reveals Kingdom-Living to be the gift our lives in service to others, serving the glory of God and building up our brothers and sisters. This is Resurrection as Jesus says, "I have power to lay down my life, and power to take it up again" (John 10:18).

We may pull back when we hear the words 'deny self' and 'cross' because they mean 'death and dying'. But, it is no revelation that as humans we are going to die, so a wise question to ask is 'How much good am I serving before death comes?' Or in other words, 'Before dying, how was my living?' Use death! Let death awaken us fully to living! Many people advise us to keep human frailty and our mortality always in mind, to live the most worthwhile lives! The monk St Benedict tells in his Rule "Day by day, remind yourself that you are going to die" (RB 4.47), or the Roman Stoic Philosopher Seneca wrote in a letter to a student, "No man can have a peaceful life who thinks too much about lengthening it,.... most men ebb and flow in wretchedness, between the fear of death and the hardships of life; unwilling to live, and yet not knowing how to die." Jesus is the 'resurrection and life' (John 11:25), so we are not being 'hung up on death-talk', we are actually embracing LIFE, trusting Him in our every moment. Discipleship is so much more than just how or what one dies for. Following Jesus becomes **more what one chooses to live for**, how a person directs their living. I am reminded of the scene in Salinger's Catcher in the Rye when the young Holden Caulfield is told by Mr Antolini, "**The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for a cause.**" Or from the recent popular song by the group Shinedown, what might be our answer to God when we meet at life's darkening moment and are asked by Him, "How did you love, how did you love?" How do we spend our lives? For today or for eternity? For God, or ourselves?

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

Sunday: What word or words stayed with me from Mass today? What do I carry into the week?

Monday: No pain, no gain, they say. How do I practice discipline and work toward worthy goals?

Tuesday: Like Peter, am I trying to get out of some hard task or duty? Pray for the grace and strength to accept and work into the responsibility.

Wednesday: Do I take time to run my plans and agenda by God in my daily prayer. Maybe our time praying, sharing our plans with God can short-cut out a lot of grief before we are too far into our own selfish program and not living his Will.

Thursday: Ask someone today if you can help them with anything. God may have a job for you through them. That's one way to keep our own self-wills in check!

Friday: Perform a random act of charity for someone else's benefit today!

Saturday: For what I am going to especially thanks God for at Mass tonight or tomorrow?

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 15-17th. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

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.

Sophia Award Recipients: Congratulations to Chuck & Joellen McGary, recognized by Bishop Medley with the Sophia Award from the diocese for St Romuald Parish. The award celebrates someone from each parish who exemplifies faithful stewardship in their life, and devoted participation over time within the parish community. Thank you Chuck & Joellen for your dedication to St Romuald!

St. Romuald Altar Society Meeting, September 7th at 5:00 pm. Everyone welcome!

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.

Senior Day, Thursday, September 14, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will be looking into the lives of St. Pius of Pietrelcina, St. John Chrysostom, and Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Champions. Millie Whitler and Mildred Mattingly will be doing a presentation for us, also on the agenda is further discussion of our trip to "Our Lady of Snows" in December. We will serve fried chicken and ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. So, come on and join us for a wonderful day of fellowship.

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.

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.

Coffee Mugs: We are collecting coffee mugs for the parents and caregivers at Children's Hospital in Louisville. If you have any mugs you would like to donate please put them in the basket at the front door of the church. Thank you!

Picnic Meeting: Our next Picnic Meeting will be held September 12 at 5:00 pm in the parish hall. Please bring your ideas!!!!

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon		Labor Day (Office Closed)
	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
	6:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	5:00 pm	Altar Society Meeting
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass

UPCOMING:

Sept 12	5:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
Sept 14	10:00 am	Senior Day
Sept 16	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Our world faces a lamentable situation of many migrants and refugees fleeing war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty in their homelands. The Christian heart must respond to these needs. Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age. The Church in particular is asked to show solidarity with those who leave their countries in search of safety and a better life. Our solidarity with them must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through journey to arrival and return. Part of this involves a four-step response to the crisis which can be summed up with four verbs: 'to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate.' When duly recognized and valued, the potential and skills of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are a true resource for the communities that welcome them. This is why I hope that, in countries of arrival, migrants may be offered freedom of movement, work opportunities, and access to means of communication, out of respect for their dignity" (Papal Address 8-21-2017)

Family Movie Night: "Silence" tells the stunning story of 17th century Christian missionaries who travel to Japan in search of their missing mentor, at a time when Christianity was outlawed. They are captured and imprisoned, their faith and sanity are challenged as they risk their very lives. Movie night will be a little bit different this month. Due to the violence inflicted upon Christians in Japan during the 17th century, we ask that you be at least 14 years of age and be accompanied by an adult. Join us on Saturday, September 16th, at 6:15 pm for an unforgettable movie of faith, hope and belief. Refreshments will be served.

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).



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

"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. 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.

Knights of Columbus News

"BBQ Chickens: The Knights of Columbus is planning on selling barbeque chickens on the 10th of September (pending getting chickens) at St Romuald's, St Mary's and St. Anthony's after Sunday Mass. Knight of Columbus Members: Cooking starts at 3:30 am at St Romuald's Pit.

Pancake Breakfast: The Knights of Columbus will do a pancake breakfast for the Religious Education Class on 17th of September at the St Romuald's Parish Hall beginning at 7 AM, will need volunteers to help cook.

If you can help cook chickens or help with the pancake breakfast please call, text or email me @ 270-617-0754 or jpat_oreilly@yahoo.com respectively. Thank You, Grand Knight Pat O'Reilly

K of C Meeting Change: Our meeting for the 12th of September @ 7 PM has been change to the following Tuesday, 19th of September, same time, due to Confirmation.

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, **Dorothy Greenwell**, 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, 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 Thornsberry, 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 Zanone. **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



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.

September 3rd: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cost of discipleship may seem intimidating and even scary. However, we know that the cross which Jesus calls us to take up ultimately leads us to the empty tomb and the glory of the Resurrection. 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, www.owensborovocations.com.

AROUND AND ABOUT

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

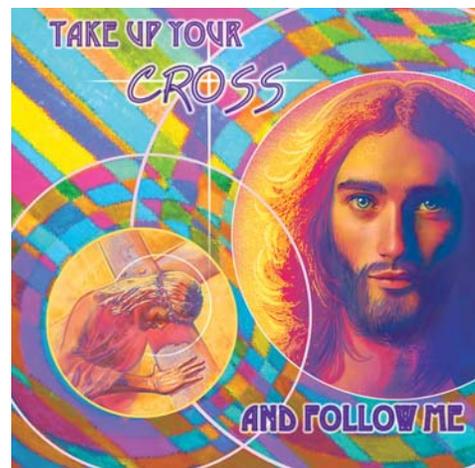
At Mount Saint Joseph Gymnasium from 1-3 p.m. Sept. 10. We'll have quilts, craft items and jelly made by the Ursuline Sisters for sale. Old Hickory Bar-B-Que will sell a variety of food to eat there or take home. Come visit with the Ursuline Sisters, and the day will culminate with the raffle drawing 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.

Celebration

BIRTHDAY: Jenny Jackey, Sept. 7th and Rita Williams, Sept. 8th

Hurricane Harvey Collection:

Next weekend September 9-10, we will conduct a second collection to benefit the victims and evacuees of Houston and the surrounding areas affected by the devastating floods after the hurricane. The funds will be routed through Catholic Relief Services on the ground in Houston in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. They already have open and operating shelters and aid distribution centers. Please be generous.





Sunday, Sep 03, 2017

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The high cost of love

It must have stung Peter to have Jesus call him *Satan*, especially because Jesus had already chosen him to be the foundation rock of his community of believers. Peter, in his bullheadedness, seems a good stand-in for many of us, taking the heat for what we ourselves might have done or said (“What’s in it for us, Lord?”). Here he is merely expressing his care for Jesus by saying, as any of us would to someone we love, “God forbid that any tragedy should fall upon you.” Yet Jesus reprimands him because Peter cannot see beyond his desire to protect his Lord (and perhaps himself) from the terrible fate Jesus foresees. Peter does not yet see how great a cost a “wondrous love” will pay to accomplish good. Remember, by God’s standard no price is too high.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27 (124).* “Get behind me, Satan! You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Monday, Sep 04, 2017

MASS FOR LABOR DAY

Work with God

Our work—whether paid or volunteer, inside or outside the home, part-time or full-time, a career or a job—is sacred and worthy of attention and respect. How we labor every day matters, and how we are treated and treat others in our work is an essential concern of Christians. Your daily toil should be life-giving, not stultifying for yourself and others. Don’t lose the spirit of God’s justice and mercy in your work as the Pharisees did. Remember Saint Paul’s advice as you labor each day: “Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431).* “Is he not the carpenter’s son?”

Tuesday, Sep 05, 2017

The power within

Pity the poor substitute teacher who feels insecure. When a nervous sub enters a classroom the students will sense it, and chaos is likely to break out. On the other hand, pity the students when a teacher is authoritarian, lording it over them just because he or she can. What students are looking for is someone with true authority, whose authority comes from an inner certainty rather than a need to look good. If you have that kind of authority you can be 4 feet 11 inches, and big, burly football players will pay attention. Jesus spoke with that kind of authority, and even the demons within obeyed. That kind of authority flows from the inner security that comes from prayer and union with God.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432).* “With authority he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!”

Wednesday, Sep 06, 2017

Decipher the holiness code

The presence of holiness seems obvious to demons—they knew Jesus on sight. But the rest of us have a hard time recognizing the holiness all around us. Like Bill Murray’s character in *Ghostbusters*, we seem to have trouble with the “good-bad thing.” That makes for dangerous living, at least spiritually speaking. Consider where you encounter holiness in your daily life. If you don’t feel you do very often, you may be in need of help. Who you gonna call? Try Jesus.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433).*

“Demons came out of many, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’”

Thursday, Sep 07, 2017

Champion freedom of worship

The symbol of the fish has a rich history in Christian tradition. The letters of the Greek word for fish (ICTYS, pronounced ich-thoos) contain the first letters of the following phrase in Greek: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. During periods of persecution in the early church, Christians marked their secret meeting places and tombs with the symbol. Living out one’s beliefs, especially minority beliefs, can still bring persecution in many parts of the world. Stand for freedom of worship around the world.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434).* “They caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.”

Friday, Sep 08, 2017

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The least of these

Only the “birthdays” of Jesus at Christmas, John the Baptist in June, and the Blessed Virgin Mary today get a special day in the church year, so when a “nativity” comes up, it’s something to notice. Mary’s birth is the dawn of our salvation. And that salvation comes through humble vessels like Mary, who in her Magnificat praises God, “For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Or like Jesus, born in the town of Bethlehem, of which the prophet Micah said, “You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel.” Mary shows us how to become “more” by becoming “less.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 (636).* “All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet.”

Saturday, Sep 09, 2017

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

Stop traffic

Peter Claver (1581-1654) is called the “saint of the slaves,” because he cared for the well-being of some 300,000 slaves arriving in Colombia. We can follow his lead. Today, slavery is alive and well in the form of human trafficking, the exploitation of immigrants through fraud, coercion, and violence. It’s a lucrative form of international crime, ruining hundreds of thousands of lives and generating more than \$7 billion annually in the “human cargo” business. Saint Peter Claver can inspire us to take action. Learn more at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ page on and refugees.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436).* “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!”

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