



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

December 10, 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent

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, Marie Rose

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

Especially before Christmas, I appreciate times of silence at Mass but seldom find them. Priests ask the congregation to open their missalettes after Communion to recite the daily antiphon, which seems more trouble to locate and say than to simply remain silent. Please advise.

Before Mass, it's commendable that silence be observed in the church, sacristy, vesting room, and adjacent areas so that all may "carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 45).

During Mass, "Let us pray" is an invitation to observe a moment of silence for the congregation to "place themselves in God's presence and make their personal petitions" (Introduction to the Order of Mass, 35). Communal silence is also observed within the penitential act for people to recollect themselves, at the end of a reading or the homily for all to meditate briefly on what they've heard, then after Communion to praise and pray to God in their hearts (GIRM 45). In other words, there's a silence that reflects shame before God for our sins, a silence that reflects our need to ponder his word, and a deep silence before God that reflects awe and incapacity for words after receiving the Body of Christ!

If there's no singing after Communion, the antiphon "may be recited either by the faithful, or by some of them, or by a reader; otherwise, it is recited by the priest himself after he has received Communion and before he distributes Communion to the faithful" (GIRM 87). Without liturgical silence, "the celebration can become perfunctory in its haste or burdensome in its unrelieved sound and song" (Introduction 48). Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR



Masses for the Week

December 11th - 17th

Tues	1:00 pm	Lorena Bland (JB) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Brenda Monin (BM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Joe Nimmo (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Martha Elder (AH)
Sat	5:00 pm	Tom Priest
Sun	7:00 am	Harold Beard
	10:00 am	Harold Payne (BP)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$20,119.00
Building Fund.....	\$662.00
Children.....	\$0.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$36.47

Parish Financial Summary

July-October, 2017

Total Income	\$180,300
Total Expenses	\$172,500
	\$ 7,800

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 - December 16th & 17th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Mitzi Mattingly Bryan O'Reilly	Youth	C-Eric Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly	Benjamin Barr Cameron Geeding	Brenda Wheatley	Shannon
7:00 am	Tobias Curran Kellee Kennedy	Patty Curran	C-Michael Kennedy* C-Chuck Hardesty S-Cody Mingus S-Kevin Oelze	Joseph Curran Lydia Kennedy	Margie Wethington	
10:00 am	LaDonna Barton Lori Carwile Ort Critchelow Cindy Payne	Ann Tritschler Betsy Anthony	C-Zack Payne* C-Alvin Mattingly S-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary	Tori Barton Justin Brown	Kathryn Ables	Volunteer
Radio Minister: Randy Howard Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



John the Baptist is the 1) **one** crying out in the 2) **desert**! That makes John sound 'doubly lonely'. Both his location and his message contribute to his solitude! This aloneness is seen in Jesus even more so, when we hear him reprimand his apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:40 "Was no one able to keep watch *with Me* for one hour?" and in Mark 14:27 when he mentions that they will all *abandon him* saying, "it is written: 'I will strike

the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed." So John shares with Jesus that 'lonely task' of being prophetic. **His 1) message and 2) location are 'prophetic'**. First, John realizes that his message is not one that people are jumping up and down to celebrate. As a prophet, John was calling down everyone to admit their sins and errors. We know human nature is instinctually defensive, ego-protective and self-justifying. So, reminding people of their error and sin sounds like a recipe for rejection. It almost seems at times the prophet's job is to be rejected, and even be hated, because they point out the 'hard to hear' truths. For example, who wants to listen to "You are wrong! Get your life right!" Or who willingly accepts the dressing down of hearing "Your actions are sinful, convert from them and offer penance"? John's message of 'Repent, the Kingdom is near' amounts to announcing that Judgement Time is eminent and **we all stand judged 'Guilty'**! But if we think about it, we all know that each of us has plenty in our lives and past to be sorry about and for which to offer amends. Romans 3:23 reads, "for **all** have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of God". And Psalm 53:3 says "**There is no one who does good**, not even one." And Jesus himself says in Mark 10:18 "No one is good but God alone." So, John's message is for **all of us to hear and admit**. No matter whether our error and shortcomings are public sins or private sins, whether our guilt is over 'what we have done wrong, or good that we have failed to do' or whether our struggle is over sins of flesh or sins of the heart, John invites us to 1) examine ourselves honestly, 2) to recommit to good and 3) begin again following Jesus!

Secondly, John is also prophetic in his living: his location, his diet and his clothing. He is staying in the desert, he feeds on locusts and wild honey and he wears simple camel skins and a leather belt. He has chosen the desert as the location of his ministry and that says a lot. Deserts are quiet places, they have few distractions, and there are very few people out there. Also, a person only goes to the desert with the 'essentials'. We go there with the simplest of goods, packing light, to not be weighed down with a lot of baggage. All these desert-details introduce good opportunities for examining closely one's life. With quiet space and no distractions we can prioritize our values and reflect upon what is most important in life. John's diet and clothing also says a lot about him 'living off the land', being content with what the surrounding environment provides. He is embodying Jesus' later mission commands about keeping with us only what is necessary for ministry. Luke 9:3 even says "**Take nothing** for the journey". Why nothing? Because God will provide, God will give all that is needed, **WHEN** it is needed! This is a prophetic witness to 'trusting' God and showing faith in God's providence!

A note for curiosity's sake is that **John's clothing was a signal to everyone** familiar with the Old Testament prophetic tradition that John was dressing just like the great prophet Elijah. For example, **Elijah's ID** was his uniform as

we hear in 2 Kings 1:7-8 "The king asked, "What was the man like who met you and said these things to you?" They replied, "**He wore a hairy garment with a leather belt around his waist.**" Then the King said, "**That is Elijah the Tishbite!**"

For John to look like Elijah is so important because the OT expectation was that before the Saving Messiah came to earth, Elijah was to show up as preparation. The book of Malachi 3:23 (aka 4:5) says that "**I am sending to you, Elijah the prophet, Before the day of the LORD come**" Jesus Himself confirmed this expectation when he said in Matthew 11:14 "if you are willing to accept it, John is Elijah, the one who is to come." (*Another neat similarity between John and Elijah is that just as John trusted God to provide the food of locusts & honey in the desert, so similarly, Elijah trusted God to feed him in the wilderness with whatever was available, and God sent 'ravens to bring him food'-1 Kings 17:4*). The fact that everyone saw John the Baptist as 'Elijah' himself come back or as someone just like Elijah, says that people were looking more for the follow-up appearance of the long-awaited Messiah. And that is what we are doing today: waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus to restore all things in Himself according to the Father's Will. The Messiah will reconcile all things; reconstituting everything, just like back in the Garden of Eden-harmony among all things as our Creator designed! Advent reminds us to actively wait and watch for that coming day. We need to be ready ourselves. Also, like John or Elijah we need to help others ready themselves by showing them our preparedness reflected in our way of living. We know our world is a mess and desperately in need of saving, so we help the world by inviting it along too. May our life-changes and acts of penance inspire others to ready themselves to welcome Jesus' coming again! St Paul says it this way in Romans 12:19 & 22, "**For all creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God.....**We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains [for its change] even until now". So we wait and prepare! A good question to pray over is to ask ourselves, "What changes have I made so far in preparation and what else can I do to help others be ready?"

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

Sunday: What message stayed with me after Mass today form the prayers or readings?

Monday: How is my Advent going? In what ways, am I preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth anew this Christmas? What am I doing different this year?

Tuesday: Am I a patient person? Have I been practicing the virtue of patience with others as we all wait for Christmas?

Wednesday: What lessons does John the Baptist's way of life (lodging, diet and clothing) say to me? Does it call me to simplify my life?

Thursday: Take a moment in your daily prayer and quiet to read a book or chapter from an Old Testament prophet such as Isaiah, Jeremiah or Amos.

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice for the good of someone you have hurt in the past.

Saturday: What special blessings, will I be thanking God for at mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Practices for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday Dec 14 3:00 - 4:00 pm
 Thursday Dec 21 3:00 - 5:00 pm

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

Gift of Joy The Blessing of a Child in the Womb

On Dec 9th & 10th, Father Brian will be offering a special blessing to any expectant mother who would like to participate. We invite the mother to stand, if you want the father, or any other family member may stand with you, to experience the "Gift of Joy. The blessing is bestowed upon you, and you will receive a booklet as a point of reference to read during the time you carry your child.

All expectant mothers are welcome to receive the blessing at any of the Masses during this weekend.

Senior Day: HO-HO-HO Merry Christmas! Come join us for our annual Senior Day Christmas Luncheon. We will be gathering on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 10 am till 1 pm for our holiday festivities. Once again we will be serving turkey and all the trimmings, and ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. Our Saints of the month are St. Damasus, St. John of Kinty and St. Peter Canisius. Bring a family member, a friend or neighbor and join us at the table of plenty. We will be entertained by the pre-school children of St. Romuald as they sing Christmas carols to us.

Family Movie Night: Friday, Dec. 22nd, we will be viewing the movie "The Case For Christ." This is the story of one man's journey to solve the greatest mystery of all time... is the story of Jesus real. Working to disprove the Christian faith of his wife, this journalist chases down the biggest story ever, with unexpected, life changing results. The Case for Christ is based on the true life story of Lee Strobel, author of the best-selling book. Join us for a night of movie going entertainment, we'll be serving popcorn and a drink and maybe even a candy cane. The movie starts at 6 pm sharp, hope you can make it.

Parish Council & Finance Committee Reports: At their last meeting, parish council discussed how best to communicate with the parish matters that are discussed at meetings. Please find multiple copies of their meeting minutes in addition to the detailed monthly financial reports posted on the bulletin boards. They will be always be available there or just take a copy with you.

Celebration

BIRTHDAY: Hubert Greenwood, December 19th.



Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming a Catholic???

If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!

Advent Blue Books: Pick up a blue book to guide your prayer and preparations for Christmas. Make ready our world to receive anew the Prince of Peace.

New Missalettes With Mass Prayers in Front Cover: Please note that the missalettes now contain on the inside front cover the longer prayers we offer at Mass, similar to the old Mass cards that were in the pew holders. The company beginning to offer those prayers in a more accessible place conveniently replaces now those older cards that were showing so much wear and tear. But like a good Rosary, Bible or Prayer Book that shows tattered edges and wearing, it is a good sign of them being used so much! More Prayer, More Grace, More Good!

Ministry Schedule: If you would like to volunteer for any of the Christmas Eve (4pm, 8pm & 12am), Christmas Day (9am), New Years Day (9am) Masses please call the office or email stromuald@bbtel.com.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	AI-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	SRIS Christmas Program
Thur	9:30 am	Mass at Medco
	3:00 pm	Practice for 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
	6:00 pm	Men's Jail Ministry
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	Youth Mass

UPCOMING:

Dec 21 6:00 pm St. Romuald Advent Penance Service

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

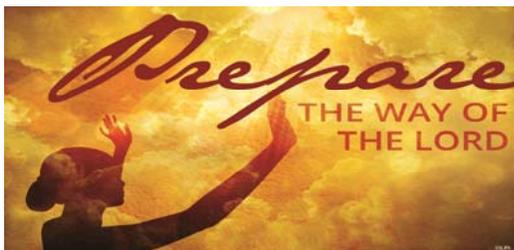
"At the end of our life we will be judged on love, that is, on our concrete commitment to love and serve Jesus in the least of our brothers and the needy. Yet before Jesus comes at the end of time to judge all the nations, but he (also) comes to us every day, in so many ways, and asks us to welcome him. To be welcomed into His Kingdom, we need to have received Him through acts of care toward our brothers and sisters, because Jesus says "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you dressed me, sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to see me." This word never ceases to hit us, because it reveals to what extent God's love comes to us: to the point of being identified with us, but not when we are well, healthy and happy, no, but when we are in need. The decisive criterion of His judgment is concrete love for neighbor in their distress." (Homily 11-26-17).

Men's Discernment Retreat: A retreat for men ages 18-25 who are seriously thinking about their vocation and who have the desire to courageously give their lives to Christ. This retreat is an opportunity to set some time out in silence to listen to the voice of God in your life; receive guidance for the discernment process; learn the tools of discernment, and sharpen your discerning skills. It will be held on December 8-10 at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. There is no cost to participate and to register before deadline of December 6th. For more information and to register online, contact the vocations office: 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, www.owensborovocations.com

February Men's Conference: Mark your calendars- February 17th at RiverPark Center, Owensboro 8:30-4:30. Speakers will be national catholic evangelists Christopher West and Doug Barry, to order tickets visit www.kycatholic.com or email msullivan@smsmlaw.com

Rediscover the joy in preparing for Christmas: Sign up for a free daily meditation in Advent from Dynamic Catholic at www.BestAdventEver.com/ Youreinvited

 Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Angie Medley, sister of Steve Metcalfe, who passed away last week, and for Sr Marian Powers, OSU who was buried at Mt St Joseph this past week. Please keep all of the family in your prayers, too, for their comfort and strength.



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Abortion Update: Last week 56 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

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

DRF Update for St. Romuald, Hardinsburg: Thank you for your generosity toward our parish goal target:
St Romuald Parish Target Amount: \$12,069.67
Pledged for year: \$8,492
Contributions so far: \$3,732

Funeral Meal Dishes: We are very grateful to all the ladies of the parish who provide food for the funeral meals. There are several dishes that have not been picked up. The parish hall is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm daily for you to pick up any dishes you may have left. Thank You!

Parish Hall Keys: If you have rented the parish hall in the last few months and still have not returned the key, please return as soon as possible.

St Vincent DePaul November 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. In November, a total of 30 families amounting to 88 persons (of which were 34 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$2,355.56 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

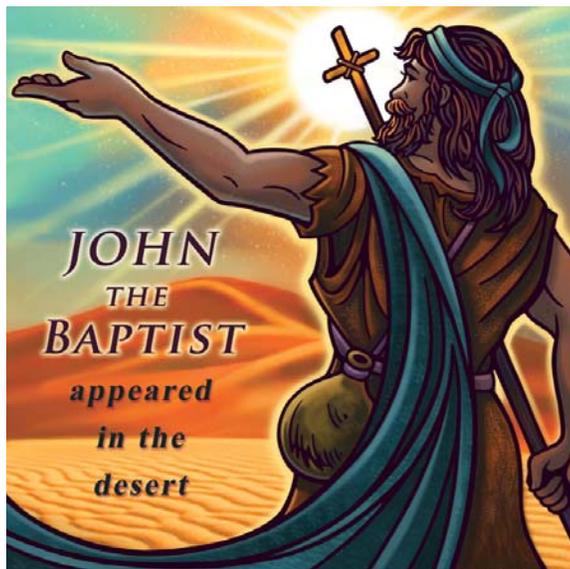
PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Baby Barr, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Roy Bennett, Lorena Bland, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Kayla Christian, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Rick Dale, Vonda Decker, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Cindy Getz, Jenny Ginn, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Janet Hallway, Kay Harris, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Joe Hess, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Johnny Howard, Lori Howard, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Brenda Kelly, Louise Kennedy, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Junior Lucas, Margaret Lyons, **Walter Manning**, Bevan Michael Miller, Elaine Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Emma Nottingham, Don 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, Stella Prewitt, **Jack Purcell**, Kay Ray, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, Beth Smith, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Calla Stiith, Tessa Wadsworth, Fallon Wen, 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, 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



Kick the new year off right with a public reading of God's word on the Court House lawn! January 1-4, there will be teams to recite the Word of God, over 90 straight hours. Teams from different churches will take on a three hour watch shift (a total of 30 watches) to ensure the proclamation of the Bible starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation. If you are interested in taking a reading shift or being a 3hour team captain, please let Fr Brian know as we try to assemble a reading team.



AROUND AND ABOUT

Knights of Columbus News

K of C Raffle Drawing, December 12, 2017: Up to \$3000 in cash (\$1,500—1st Prize, \$1,000—2nd Prize, and \$500—3rd Prize); haven't got your ticket, contact a K of C member or GK Pat O'Reilly 270-617-0754. Tickets are going fast; only 300 will be sold. \$20 per ticket.

Our Annual Light Up for Christ Christmas Dinner is on the 12th of December @ 6 pm, St Romuald's Parish Hall. Please bring a cover dish and desert. Meats will be provided by the Council. In support of the Angel Tree we will be asking for a small monetary donation. We will also be drawing the winners of our Raffle.

Called by Name Program: Every young Catholic man should consider all vocations, including whether or not God is calling him to priesthood. However, if not invited or encouraged to think about priesthood, it may never be considered. Many young men may have the burning question within of God calling them to priesthood, but they may be waiting for a confirmation from someone else, to nudge them into seriously pursuing God's priestly call for them. Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students and older. Any man you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation, as well as invitations to discernment retreats and other events. Tell Fr Brian, Deacon Mike or Deacon Tony, to approach them or to invite the vocation director to reach out to them.

"Set Apart: Our Identity in Christ" at the Dec. 11 Theology on Tap. Owensboro's Theology on Tap will host Wade Gaynor, former professional baseball player, on Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Los Cabos Mexican Restaurant at 2845 W. Parrish Ave., Owensboro. The theme of Wade's talk is "Set Apart: Our Identity in Christ" and will explore our identity found in Christ and how Wade's faith led him to the Catholic Church. Theology on Tap is open to all faith traditions and welcomes young adults ages 18-39. Sponsored by the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. To learn more: charlie.hardesty@pastoral.org.

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



Sunday, Dec 10, 2017 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Might makes right?

Strength is good; weakness is bad. These are primary lessons of the playground and if we don't embrace them, we may live to suffer their effects. Yet even a fighter like Saint Paul would come to appreciate the opposite lesson: that power reaches perfection only in weakness. John the Baptist would frame it another way: "Jesus must increase, and I must decrease." It turns out that might rarely makes right, and more often seeks as much wrong as it can get away with. Jesus wields divine might *for* right. When you have the upper hand, consider laying it down.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5). "And this is what John proclaimed: 'One mightier than I is coming after me.'"*

Monday, Dec 11, 2017 MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE Good bookkeeping helps

The pontificate of Damasus (366-384) occurred during a stormy time in the early church, with controversies and divisions on all sides. Perhaps Damasus' greatest contribution was his insight that a standardized version of the Bible was desperately needed to clear the air. In 382 he commissioned a highly respected scholar named Jerome to revise the Bible into a more accurate and updated Latin version, working directly from the original Greek and Hebrew. Saint Jerome's monumental effort came to be known as the *Vulgate*, meaning "translated into a native language." Even though Latin long ago stopped being a language of everyday use, the Vulgate still holds an honored position in the church. Be grateful for the Good Book and open it up today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk?'"*

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2017 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Viva Guadalupe!

Mexican Catholics have long revered the Virgin of Guadalupe as a symbol of God's compassionate presence among the people. She is also an important symbol of Mexican nationalism. In 1810, when Father Miguel Hidalgo initiated the movement that led to Mexican independence, he and his followers carried a banner of Guadalupe and shouted, "Death to bad government, long live the Virgin of Guadalupe!" Guadalupe was proclaimed "Patroness of the Americas"—including the United States—by Pope Pius XII in 1946. She continues to serve as an apt symbol of loving care for all God's people. Perhaps you can attend a celebration of her feast day today, or find your own personal way to commemorate the feast.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A). "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"*

Wednesday, Dec 13, 2017 MEMORIAL OF LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR Shed some light on the season

Saint Lucy is one of those early saints about whom we know little, though we have some wonderful legendary stories about her that have to do with her name, which means "light." We

remember her because she lived—and died—in a time when Christians, to remain faithful, regularly paid the price of their lives. Today we also cross over the midpoint of the Advent season, when we prepare for the coming of the One who is the way, the truth, and the light. Celebrate this saint of light and clear sight by keeping your inner eye open for the Light of the World.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "Lift up your eyes on high and see."*

Thursday, Dec 14, 2017 MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

A closer walk with thee

Saint John of the Cross, a Spanish mystic, was born in 1542. He wrote *The Dark Night of the Soul*, which explores the doubt and spiritual dryness all serious Christians experience on their spiritual journey. Though difficult and painful, the dark night of the soul is an invitation to a deeper closeness with God through greater trust and abandonment to God's will. Saint John wrote, "Oh night that guided me, Oh night more lovely than the dawn." During the holiday season it's not unusual for people to experience doubt and emptiness. Pray to Saint John of the Cross to shore up your faith and give you courage on your way toward God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist."*

Friday, Dec 15, 2017 ADVENT WEEKDAY Stay true to the spirit

Some folks never have a good word for anybody. This was true in the time of Jesus, when people criticized John the Baptist for fasting, and then spoke badly of Jesus for feasting! Then when Jesus performed healing miracles, some thought he acted by the power of the devil. When he refused a miraculous rescue to save himself from the cross, they said God had abandoned him. Don't listen to the critics—follow the Spirit's prompting.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185). "John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'"*

Saturday, Dec 16, 2017 ADVENT WEEKDAY John points the way

John the Baptist is a prominent personality in Advent. His style is that of the Old Testament prophets, but he points to the New Testament reality of Jesus. He didn't become a follower of Jesus, even though he was the forerunner of the "one who is to come." John's message is delivered in the "fire and brimstone" language of career prophets like Amos or Jeremiah. But his greatest resemblance is to Elijah, whose return was anticipated before the arrival of the messiah. Like John, we, too, "prepare the way" for Jesus to come into the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him."*

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