

ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

February 25, 2018 - Second Sunday of Lent

dear Padre

Parish Office:

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Hours: Monday - Friday

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

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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

Our guitar group plays music five minutes before the opening song at Mass. By the time the interminable Gloria is sung, I already have a headache! Why so much music?

At Mass, the faithful "form one body, whether in hearing the Word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing, or above all by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by participating together at the Lord's table" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 96). Thus, liturgical music can be a form of prayer, uniting the assembly in praise to God. Ideally, it's "a particularly apt way to express a joyful heart, accentuating the solemnity of the celebration and fostering the sense of a common faith and a shared love" (On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy [Dies Domini], 50) by Pope John Paul II.

However, this ideal isn't always reality. To address your question, let us divide humanity into two groups: people who like to sing and people who don't; those who sing in full voice in the shower and those who prefer monastic silence. Every congregation includes both groups. While not everyone is naturally inclined to make a joyful noise, most people appreciate music's power to give voice to what's deep in the human heart.

Some may even feel there's not enough music at Mass instead of too much. Nevertheless, happy the liturgical ministers who know when the sum of the individual Mass parts—sung or otherwise—can become too tedious. And blessed are the music makers who know the power of silence, an instrumental, or an optional recessional song, even for solemn occasions. —Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

Second Sunday in





"After six days," is the opening phrase of our gospel reading outlining the Transfiguration event of Jesus' divinity revealed on the mountainside. That says it all! **It is The Seventh Day!** So what happens on the seventh day? Now, we call it the 'Lord's Day', or Sunday, commemorating Jesus' resurrection from the dead! The seventh day in the Old Testament was the day of rest/Sabbath of God, celebrating the **completion** of creation. Genesis 2:2 says that "On the seventh day God *completed* the work he

had been doing; he **rested** on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken." The seventh day functions as a time for the revelation of one's purpose and refreshment from labor. Everything created is to be enjoyed and delighted in because it is holy and set aside for the glory of God. Don't you love Peter's instinctual response to build some tents on the spot and go on 'permanent vacation' there? I can relate to going up a hill, and experiencing joyful revelations and wanting to keep everything the same-forever! Right now! I thank God for my four years here on the hill of St Romuald, where I have witnessed God work through the lives of so many committed and strong followers of Christ! I have witnessed revelations of great sacrifices made by parishioners for their families and for their neighbors. St Romuald is blessed with so many parishioners willing to help good causes and people in need, without thinking of themselves. Such generosity and service is more than inspirational: it is contagious in the 'gospel sense'! That means it leads to more and more sharing! I love such times and I know we still have so many good experiences to enjoy before June, and much more to be thankful for to remember afterward. My time serving here in St Romuald parish makes me feel like saying what Dave Ramsey always says when he is asked "How are things with you?" He says, "Better than **I** deserve!" I say the same! God is so good to me here, and I have been taught, led, inspired and given so much. I hope I also have given, inspired, led and taught some small measure in return among the parish. I am so grateful and will always pray for continued daily blessings to be poured out among our fellowship in Christ. I guess in a perfect and peaceful world, there is never change to adjust to, or to have to accept. Or does the perfection and peace come to us **through our** own adjusting and accepting? As with everything in our lives, we pray about it and seek God through it! Lent is our Church's way of responding to and seeking God everywhere, not just on mountains but in valleys, too! Peter wants to build a 'tent-**memorial**', yet Jesus wants to build a 'gathering-**movement**'. So it's like Jesus says, "Come on along, there is so much more to follow!"

Every year Lent is a time of change for all of us in the Church to imagine new things, to remember recent experience with gratitude, and to work on applying ourselves to serving God in whatever He opens before us. Who likes change? But change happens. It seems like I heard once that we regenerate our skin every 27 days. The same with our daily regenerating of hair, fingernails and even toenails! I know how careless with sharp things I can be, because I accidentally cut or gouge myself often, I thank God that my bone marrow regenerates the lost blood, and the skin seals and heals over anew. I heard that after 'donating blood', our body can regenerate the 'volume' given away, in about 24-48 hours, and afterward, even the platelets and other blood components will fully regenerate in 6-7 weeks. I didn't mean to step into biology class, or get gross, but life and our bodies are amazing examples of God's design to lead us through changes and growth that goes on all the time. So, if we ever feel the same, I do not know why. Or how about this: another approach altogether of understanding how vital 'movement' and 'change' is for life: let's think about sharks and whales. No, they have not yet been spotted in Rough or the Ohio River, but they are remarkable examples of how **movement is a sign of life and sustains life**. I am told that for a shark to stand (?) still in water means its death, because without the positive pressure of moving water, their fewer muscles around the gills cannot draw enough oxygen out of water (even though

some breeds of shark do have a pharynx that can act like a pump). Or think of whales that are 'filter-feeders'. They require movement through the water to allow krill-fish and food to pass through their 'mouth-traps' to eat. If whales don't move through the water, they starve, unless bait fish start to jump into their mouths! Doubtful! Both of these examples, show that **movement** is what brings growth, nourishment and new life. So from the desert last week with Jesus, we now **move** to the mountain-top with Him. But we don't stay there for long either, as we **move** back down into the valleys of our daily **movements** around Galilee and Judea with Jesus. Also, what do you think about Jesus' command to keep the mountain revelation to themselves? Mark 9:9 says "Jesus charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead." Maybe just like Jesus warned us not to trumpet our good works to the world for our selfish gain, we also should not publicize such 'grace-encounters' **for our own glory**. **UNTIL**, Jesus rises. To Jesus be the glory, and He will reveal when is the time to talk about any good change that occurs in us. So in the meantime, with Lent we move on each day, with our special prayer and practices, working toward change for good!

Have you ever seen an aura? This biblical scene of Transfiguration sounds like a classic example of a visual aura. Mark 9:3 describes the sudden and radiant appearance of Jesus 'in dazzling white clothes'. Most of us think of auras as awesome spectacles like a glow around a star, or surrounding rainbows, or a 'sun-ray breaking through clouds' clouds after a storm. In religious art and stained glass, we see luminous drapes around saintly figures, or the standard 'halo' circles around their heads (some people think they look like pie plates around saints' heads, but they are **rings of light!**) Several bible passages specifically describe 'halo-effects' around 'holy persons' like Exodus 34:29 saying, "As Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, he did not know that the **skin of his face had become radiant** while he spoke with the LORD." Also, Acts of Apostles 6:15 says that "All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and saw that his face was like the **face of an angel**. And, Ecclesiastes 8:1 reads "Who is like the wise man who knows the interpretation of things? **A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.**" No doubt, something extraordinary is occurring and God allows His glory-divinity to shine through these people. So again, have you ever seen an aura? It makes for too long a story here, but ask me sometime about the auras I saw celebrating Mass once! I've seen the light! In Christ, we are called to be 'children of light' (Jn12:6), so perhaps we all should have 'auras' around us! Proverbs 20:27 says "The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts of his being", and Jesus Himself tells us in Matthew 5:16 "**let your light shine** before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

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

Sunday: What message or word from God stayed with me, and I am still hearing in my heart after Mass?

Monday: Am I keeping to me Lenten resolution of increasing my prayer time and taking on good practices of penance for or service to others?

Tuesday: What are the temptations I face to not take Lent seriously or that lead me to not hope for better in myself and the world?

Wednesday: Do I feel God's 'ministering angels' to be with me, protecting me from evil or strengthening me to confront evil with more grace? Do I trust God's protection?

Thursday: How may I help someone else to make this their best Lent ever? Who have I added to my prayer list this Lent?

Friday: Some pray the Stations of the Cross tonight at Church, and perform a sacrifice or penance for someone today.

Saturday: God is so good! For how many blessings, am I going to Mass this weekend to thank God for?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



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

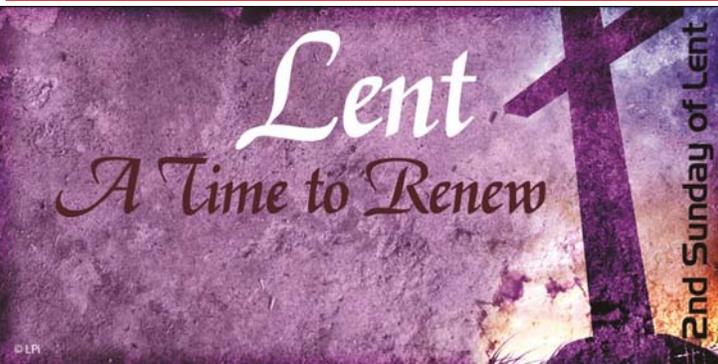
If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!



Pictured are Kay Harris, Austin Harris, Bishop Medley, Natalie Hockenberry and Rosa Hockenberry at the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Owensboro on Sunday, February 18.

St. Romuald Altar Society Meeting, March 1st, 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We would like to extend a special invitation to our new members to attend this meeting.

Eucharistic First Friday 24-hour Adoration: Following the 9:00 am Mass on March 2nd we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like Holy Communion brought to them, please call the office at 270-756-2356.

Children's Liturgy is in desperate need of teachers for the classroom. We are now down to four and we really need at least six more to make this very important ministry successful. I urge parents with children in the program to please step forward and help us out. You don't have to be a parent to volunteer, but all volunteers must go through Safe Environment training and have a background check. You must be at least 21 years of age to teach and at least 13 to be a classroom helper. PLEASE don't let this ministry go away, we need help and we need it now. Call the office if you have any questions 270-756-2356 or contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-863-0117 for more information.

Youth Mark your Calendars:
Youth 2000 Conference March 9-11,
2008 Brescia University Campus

Passion Play: We will begin rehearsals for the passion play on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the church starting February 26th. Middle school through adult who would like to participate for the Good Friday service. Contact Deacon Tony 270-617-8032 or Patty Curran 270-945-8155.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Lenten Group & Senior Day
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Lenten Group
	6:00 pm,	Pastoral Council
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour & Confessions
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	4:00 pm	SRIS Fish Fry
	6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross

Upcoming

Mar 2 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

Prayer, Almsgiving & Fasting: By devoting more time to **Prayer**, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, to find the consolation God offers us. Prayer leads us to see past ourselves to discover what God does in us and through us by His grace. **Almsgiving** sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God Himself. If through me God helps someone today, will He not tomorrow provide for my own needs? **Fasting** weakens our tendency to be violent toward others; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger. (Ash Wednesday 2-14-2018)

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.

You are invited to Rosary, Benediction and Stations of the Cross with the school children on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon.

7-12 Religious Education Class will be March 4th at 11:30 am.

Special Collection: Next weekend Feb 24th & 25th we will have a special collection for the Good Samaritan Center. These funds will be used to repair their leaky roof and repair the bricks in the exterior wall. Many of the churches in our county are contributing. This is another good way to give back to the community with our alms during Lent.

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:3-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21-23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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!

Knights of Columbus News

Basketball Slam Sweepstake Tickets:

Parishioners: the Knights of Columbus are selling Basketball Slam Sweepstake tickets. They are \$10.00 each (buy two and get the third one free). By purchasing two tickets you get a FREE ticket online! Go to www.basketball.com/free to redeem. Free tickets will be emailed to you. TEAMS: There are 24 teams, the ticket holder scratches off the box on front of the ticket to reveal their four teams for the entire tournament. Team codes are listed on back of the ticket. If any team(s) do not make it into the tournament, alternate teams will be assigned and posted on www.basketballsweeps.com by March 15, 2018. PRIZES; \$2600 Total Cash Prizes will be awarded. Prizes are based on the total cumulative score of each 4-team combination. HIGHEST and LOWEST 4-Team totals win prizes! In case of ties, prizes are combined and split. WINNERS are posted after the tournament and prizes are mailed out to the winners. It makes no difference on how many games your 4-teams play, or whether teams win or lose. Go to the website to check results starting April 4th. Ticket sale monies support the Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. Deadline for ticket sales are **Mar 1st**. Contact me at 1-270-617-0754 for ticket purchases and more info. Pat O'Reilly, Grand Knight

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Don Alexander, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Jenny Moorman, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Janet O'Reilly, Peggy Phillips, Joan & Tom Powers, Joe Priest, Mary Jo Rankin, Rita Roach, Kimberly Rolan, Suzanne Rose, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, Pam Sturgeon, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Leona Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe. **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, Lane D. Taul, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Don Napier and Robbie Priest, who passed away last week. Please keep all of their families in your prayers, too, for their comfort and strength.

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!

A Lenten Journey: Journey with Dr. Lawrence V. McCrobie, Catholic Liturgist and Religious Educator as he leads us on a journey through Bishop Robert Barron's program in exploration of the lasting influences of these *Pivotal Players*. CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players* showcases a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shape the life of the Church but changed the course of western civilization. Our parish journey begins on Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00 am and at 6:00 pm, and for the next five Tuesdays during Lent. No charge for this 6 week program, you must fill out a registration form. For more information please contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-863-0117 or stop by the parish office for registration forms. All forms must be turned in no later than Monday, February 5th to ensure ordering of materials. Thank you!

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

Celebration

BIRTHDAY: Larry Mattingly, Mar. 2nd

Picnic Meeting: March 8th at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

AROUND AND ABOUT

Scripture Lecture Series: feature Frank Runyeon, Emmy nominated actor with a degree in Religion from Princeton University. Join us Thursday, March 15, 7:00 PM/ Signs: The Gospel of John; Friday, March 16, 7:00 PM / Sermon on the Mount; and Saturday, March 17, 10:00 AM/ Hollywood vs Faith. A reception will follow each performance. This event is free. Donations are welcome to help cover expenses. Blessed Mother Parish Owensboro, 601 E 23rd St, Owensboro, For more information contact Cyndi 270-683-8444 - bmcgo2@outlook.com.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life has started a monthly Family Life Newsletter that includes information on events, articles, dates, and activities pertaining to families in the Diocese of Owensboro as well as couples preparing for marriage. The link to subscribe to the newsletter is on our webpage: owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 10-15, 2018 at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making through the lens of missionary discipleship. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 14th. Registrations after May 14th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email robin.tomes@pastoral.com for more information.

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 83 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

DRF Update for St. Romuald, Hardinsburg:

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish goal target: as of **1/22/2018**
St Romuald Parish Target Amount: \$12,069.67
Pledged for year: \$9,617
Paid Contributions so far: \$6,497



Sunday, Feb 25, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

By special invitation

Who do you bring along when something special is about to happen? We know Jesus took his inner circle: Peter, James, and John. But on one particular outing, that favored grouping expanded into the Jewish equivalent of a fantasy dinner party, with Moses and Elijah pulling up a chair. No wonder Peter was tempted to linger. And he wasn't wrong: Pitching a tent with iconic teachers of Law and Prophecy is a great idea. Be a student of religious teaching, to appreciate human boundaries. Be a student of prophecy to know when boundaries must be surpassed.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26).* "Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Monday, Feb 26, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

How do you measure up?

In biblical times getting a fair measure of grain at the market meant that the seller had to fill to overflowing the bushel that was used, then press down and shake the grain, repeating the process until the bushel was packed tight. The amount was then poured into the hem of the buyer's garment, to be carried to its destination. Cheaters undoubtedly existed, but they would be discovered soon enough and punished. Though the technology of the marketplace has changed since biblical times, the ethical principles remain the same: Be honest in your business dealings, whether large or small. You'll sleep better at night and prosper better by day!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230).* "A good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be a Lenten do-gooder

Today's gospel reading from Matthew gives us Lent in a nutshell: "Make yourselves clean, cease to do evil, learn to do good." The spiritual rewards for following this Lenten regimen are great. That's why so many of us try—but, sadly, too many of us fail. Our biggest stumbling block seems to be the final step of learning to do good. It's not that we don't know how to be good; we simply fail to make doing good a consistent, regular practice. This Lent, try following these steps toward becoming a daily do-gooder: Volunteer in your parish or community, be helpful and available to family and friends, donate money to charity, act cheerful—even when you're not.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231).* "Make yourselves clean; cease to do evil, learn to do good."

Wednesday, Feb 28, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Listen for the prophetic voice

The Israelites knew one thing about their prophets: They spoke the true word of God whether the message was welcome or not—and frequently it wasn't, even to the point of eliminating the prophet to still the voice they didn't wish to hear. Jesus encountered opposition as well. Plenty of people—especially powerful people—wanted to get him out of the way, but he and his gospel live on. Do you hear prophetic words spoken today in our world? How are they received? How do you receive

them?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232).* "Instruction shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet."

Thursday, Mar 01, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Heartfelt advice

Sometimes you have to hear messages several times before they sink in, even ones that could save your life. "Don't text and drive." "Eat healthy food." "Get enough sleep." When you do hear the messages, you might be tempted to ignore them because to act on them may be inconvenient or take away time from your other responsibilities. But in the end it's in your own best interest as well as those around you to take life-saving information to heart. That includes the many things from the rich Christian tradition. "Trust God." "Be faithful." "Love your neighbor as yourself." Which will you take to heart today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233).* "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."

Friday, Mar 02, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Stick with the important stuff

Remember the treasure hunts of childhood—running around and trying to find something hidden away? Sometimes the clues given were obvious and sometimes they were confusing. But what a feeling when we found what we searched for. How we live our lives gives us clues to what we treasure. Lent helps us look at those clues more clearly. What are the treasures in our hearts? Abstain from the frivolous and find what is important—the love of God.

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

Saturday, Mar 03, 2018

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Extend the circle of love

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, Saint Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) eventually spent her large inheritance in founding a religious order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and establishing schools and missions for Native Americans and African Americans, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the only predominantly black Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States. The sisters continue Mother Drexel's work today through prayer, counseling, education, health care, social work, and other works of mercy, especially in connection with the poor and oppressed and among Native American, African American, and Haitian peoples. Ahead of her time, Mother Drexel had a special concern for excluded people. Is there someone like that you can reach out to today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235).* "Everything I have is yours."

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