



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 22, 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Every time I pick up a Catholic magazine, I read articles about taking care of our environment. Shouldn't Christians be more concerned with the big problems in the world—such as war, hunger, and sickness?

The world's big problems as you name them are not as disconnected to the environment as they seem. The depletion of natural resources displaces people, and their forced migration can create social conflict. Droughts impact some of the estimated 800 million undernourished people globally. Climate affects certain diseases and their transmission.

In his encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis wrote, "The deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet" (LS 48). He adds that a solution to the crisis demands an approach that is both social and environmental in "combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time, protecting nature" (LS 139).

Thus, we can't feed the hungry or visit the ill, then dump toxins on the ground and claim we love God's creation. We can't defend the unborn and exploit the environment upon which all life depends. Love demands that we act with care toward all creation, since we cannot sever creation from the Creator. If we respect the earth, we'll find it easy to reverse the war-torn, the hungry, and the sick.

Moreover, Catholic print and electronic media must help call attention to environmental concerns because they involve our Christian duty to act upon the physical world in a way that respects its relationship to God. TheRedemptoristsSundaybulletin@Liguori.org



Masses for the Week

April 23rd - 29th

Tues	1:00 pm	Bob Hale (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	J.W. Bland (LB)
Thurs	9:30 am	Edward & Mary Robbins (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	In Thanksgiving (SA)
Sat	5:00 pm	St. Romuald Parishioners
Sun	7:00 am	John A. Oelze Family (KofC)
	10:00 am	Beavin Thornsberry (GT)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$7,420.65
Children.....	\$.30
Building Fund.....	\$35.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$38.32
St. Romuald School	\$613.00

Parish Financial Summary

July-March, 2018

Total Income	\$410,900
Total Expenses	\$376,300
	\$ 34,600

Thank you for your financial stewardship!

Worship and Sacrament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ministers of the Liturgy - April 28th & 29th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Kathy Flood Anna Flood	Melissa Oelze Christi Tivitt	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Leroy Henning S-Pat O'Reilly	Lola Allen Ebby Allen	Jamesetta Whitfill	Shannon
7:00 am	Kelley Kennedy Jean Oelze	Cathy Lewis	C-Michael Kennedy* C-Blake Flood S-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood	Darrian Flood Lydia Kennedy	Margie Wethington	
10:00 am	Sandra Hinton Rosa Hockenberry Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne	Jennifer Payne Mariah Critchelow	C-Greg Hinton* C-Raymond Critchelow S-Ethan O'Donoghue S-Ron O'Donoghue	Brooklyn Critchelow Ava Phillips	Kathryn Ables	Volunteer

Radio Minister: Ann Tritschler

Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY



Good Shepherd Sunday! What a Savior we have in Jesus! Today, He describes **how** He leads and saves us in the gospel reading by saying "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). A good question for us to ask ourselves, is "What does it mean to me that I picture-imagine God as a 'Good Shepherd'?"

A good starting place is to review how shepherds were talked about in the Old Testament. A popular Old Testament character that was known to everyone as a shepherd first in the Old Testament was

David, son of Jesse! The people of Israel loved David as a king above all, and held him in the highest esteem like no other human leader, loving him even more dearly than Moses. Certainly God Himself made unique statements about David. God made statements about David that He didn't make about any other human being. In 2 Samuel 7:9, God tells David, "I was with you wherever you went...I will make your name like that of the **greatest on earth**". 1 Samuel 13:14 says that God saw in David, 'a man after God's own heart.' And God's eternal covenant with David is given in 2 Samuel 7:16, when God says to David "your house and your kingdom are **firm forever** before me." I ask, "What about David made him so special in the sight of God and among the people as such a dear leader?" It seems that all the talk of David's wise and pastoral rule begins in reference to his early life's experience as the youngest son in a family line of all brothers. David was known as the one 'tending to the sheep'. His notice and rise to publicity was accomplished gradually through the steps of 1) being called by God, 2) being anointed by Samuel and 3+) gradually over time discretely ascending to the throne by just faithfully fulfilling his duties along the way. His rise to 'kingship' story appears in 1 Samuel 16:4-13. *It is worth our time to read and compare leadership lessons about David to another lowly shepherd named Joseph who God puts through the same gradual 'kingmaker' path of life. Joseph went from the dark dungeons of a pit and then prison to the neon lights of Pharaoh's executive suite, starting with Genesis chapter 37, and leading through chapters 40-41.* But back to David: at the time of David's call, his older, stronger brothers are not picked and David is pulled from working in the fields to join the festive celebration welcoming the popular 'out of town prophet' Samuel (1Sam16:11). David had been left out of Jesse's 'reindeer games', but he was ultimately chosen by God through Samuel, despite being overlooked and ignored by office politics. I love how immediately after David's anointing at the party, he returns right back to his sheep, seemingly not affected by the attention and pomp brought by the Prophet Samuel. David faithfully returns to his sheep, tending to them out in the pasture, (1 Sam 16:19). Later, David's name is brought up as a 'word of mouth-reference' to King Saul, informing him about David's strategic skill maneuvering his sheep boldly and safely among dangers in the field, as well as his artistry with composing and playing music (1 Sam 16:18). David's gifts are quickly recognized by Saul and he enters the closest confidence of King Saul, becoming the King's counselor and 'armor bearer'- a personal body guard (1 Sam 16:21). He had Saul's approval until he didn't! (*For a timely study of erratic and corrupt public leaders and their inevitable decline, I encourage reading 1 Samuel 18 where Saul's self-destructive slide to death begins with his narcissistic jealousy, and ends in his final insanity and dementia in 1 Samuel 28- 'There's nothing new under the sun' Eccles 1:9.*) But with David, so much more important for him and us, is God's approval, not King Saul's approval. And with us, I point out how **David's own people** instinctively sensed his 'shepherding heart' toward them and accepted his rule over them. 2 Samuel 5:2 tells how the people freely consent to serve under David because of his credible and proven love for them. For God to gently, yet firmly lead His own people as a shepherd was a common theme among the Israelites. What was so unique about King David, was that he was a human leader known to lead by 'God's own Shepherd-heart'. They knew it was God 'shepherding' them through David. David is no shepherd without God. For example, we can find many songs-psalms praising God for His tender care of humans as a compassionate shepherd, sympathizing and understanding the weak, timid and easily hurt sheep. Psalm 23:2 tells us that 'to restful waters, He leads me', and Psalm 95:7 about us being held safe as 'the sheep in His hands.' Refer also to Psalm 79:13, 80:2 and 100:3. The earliest references to God as a 'shepherd' for His people, dates back to the OT patriarchs such as Jacob when he praises God in Genesis 48:15 saying "God who has been my

shepherd from my birth to this day" and in Jacob's last testament where he gives God full credit for any personal prosperity achieved, that it was through God's power as 'Shepherd, and Rock of Israel' (Genesis 49:24). Later in Israel's history as the prophets come along encouraging conversion and renewed faithfulness to God, they often invoke God's provident concern for them as 'shepherding'. Two great passages detailing God's care are Ezekiel 34:15-16 and Micah 7:14. My favorite, for example, is Ezekiel 34:16 "I will search out the lost, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal..." So if David was a 'good shepherd, it was because God was working in Him. That is a shepherd worth following at all cost, a shepherd to trust with everything, even our lives, which brings us fully to today's gospel!

Jesus says in John 10:11 "a good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." I love how Jesus says four times in today's reading of only eight verse that he 'lays down his life for his sheep' (verses 11,15,17 & 18). As good shepherd, **every action of Jesus for His sheep is for 'good'**: for the 'good', **the 'life' of His sheep**. Not for Himself, not for His own pleasure, not for His own gain, not for His own survival. Everything is for His Sheep. And the Divine Love of our Shepherd to sacrifice Himself so completely comes through in His words, "**No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down on my own**" (Jn 10:18). Freely, Jesus gives His Life for His sheep. Not forced, not coerced, not bribed or extorted, Jesus freely accepts sacrifice to the point of death that His Sheep may live and live abundantly! Jesus points out that such love is not always found in shepherds as he describes the 'hired hands' who run away at the first sight of sacrifice (Jn 10:12-13). These bad shepherds have 'selfish hearts seeking their own pay' not 'good hearts giving their life away to others'. Ezekiel 34:3 described these bad shepherds best saying, "You consumed their milk, wore their wool, and slaughtered fatlings {to eat}, but the flock you did not pasture." **But** Jesus says, four times even, "I lay down my life for the sheep". Even more, he '**freely**' laid down his life! Reflecting upon Jesus' loving liberty to give us His Life, reminded me of what we preachers always say on Good Friday: "It was not the soldiers who bound Jesus on the way to the cross, it was not Pilate's power that pushed Him into pain and it was not the nails that held and kept Jesus on the Cross, **it was His love** of us!" Like King David who served his people so well as a 'shepherd-king' because he knew them so well and stayed humbly with them in the field, Jesus perfects 'good shepherding' by His own identification with us by humbly becoming one of us: the Shepherd who once was a lamb (John 1:29,36). Thanks be to God that we have so Good a Shepherd-Savior in Jesus who leads us along the path of abundant life, tending to all our needs, providing for our every care **and most of all, never abandoning us**. St Paul in his letters often expresses his own 'pastor's heart' when writing to His mission communities. A favorite line or two of his that teaches me what it means to be a 'good shepherd', is his expression of how much he loved and identified with the flock he tended. From 2 Corinthians 3:2, he told the church he served that "You are our letter, **written on our hearts**, known and read by all..." and in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 "With such affection for you, we were **determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but to share our very selves** as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us." May we shepherd others as Jesus shepherds us!

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

Sunday: What did God say to you at Mass today? What good word did you hear?

Monday: Do I see myself as a 'shepherd' or caregiver to others? How may I better serve as one?

Tuesday: Am I a 'good sheep' of the good shepherd? Does my life reflect that I belong to Christ's flock?

Wednesday: Do I practice 'compassion' and keeping others in my heart, thinking first, of what others need and how they feel, and not becoming obsessed with my own feelings and preferences?

Thursday: Do I consider my good works and service given to others as a 'free sacrifice offered' or do I labor just under 'obligation'?

Friday: Perform a corporal work of mercy today. Offer it as an act of penance for no reward or recognition.

Saturday: Come to Mass early and pray a rosary for peace within all human hearts. Mary, Queen of peace, pray for us!

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!

Senior Day will take place on Tuesday, April 24th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert and St. Anselm will be on the table for discussion. Along with some good old fashion home cooking, we will be serving fried chicken and rolls. Bring a pal, bring a buddy, bring a friend and enjoy a day of fellowship at St. Romuald Senior Day.

Picnic News

Silent Auction Donations Needed: Baked Goods, Fresh Vegetables, Home made items, newly purchased items of any kind, baskets (such as a wine basket), restaurant certificates, tickets to theme parks etc. Please contact Brenda Elder at 270-617-0176 or Sheila Sills at 270-993-8166 for more information.

Stuffed Animals: Donations of new or gently used stuffed animals are needed for our picnic. Baskets are at the doors of the church or you may bring them to the church office.

Meat Donations: Rudy & Kathy Brumfield will be collecting meat donations again this year. The donation is \$50. The meat is the biggest expense for our picnic and your \$50 donation is greatly appreciated. You may mail your donation to Rudy & Kathy Brumfield, 333 Hillside Drive, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked Meat Donation or drop it by the church office.

Ministry Schedule: We will soon be putting together the ministry schedule for June, July and August. If you want to participate in one of the ministries at Mass, change the Mass you are presently assigned to or be taken off the list, please call the office before May 9th. **We need more Eucharistic Ministers for the 10:00 am Mass and Rosary Leaders for all the Masses if you would like to volunteer!**

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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!!

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

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Barbara Flood, April 26th, Anna Carrico, April 27th and Irene O'Reilly, April 30th.

ANNIVERSARY: Jerry & Pat Sturgeon will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on April 27th

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	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
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat		5th Sunday Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Sun		5th Sunday Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
	6:00 am	K of C Sunday Breakfast
Upcoming		
May 5/6		Holy Land Carvings

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Debbie Bowlds, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, **Ashley Carwile**, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, **Don Ford**, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Joe Hess, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, **Joe Jarboe**, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, **Rebecca Logsdon**, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Joe Miller, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Patsy 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, Diane Whitney, Leona Whitworth, **Tom Winchell**, 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



Knights of Columbus Events: Put on your calendar to take your family to breakfast on 29th of April, 8 am at St Romuald's Parish Hall, compliments of the Knights of Columbus. Coffee, milk, juice, sausage and gravy.

Barbecue Chickens: The Knights of Columbus will be selling Barbecue Chickens on May 6th at St. Romuald, St. Mary and St. Anthony after the Sunday Mass. For Knights of Columbus Members: If you can help cook chickens please text or email me at 270-617-0754 or jp_oreilly@yahoo.com respectively. Cooking starts at 3:30 am at St. Romuald's pit. Thank you GK Pat O'Reilly.

Evangelization in Jail & Prison Ministry: A training workshop to reflect upon the role of evangelist in the jail setting is being conducted by the Diocese of Owensboro. It will be an opportunity to work on evangelization approaches, bringing God's Word and hope to conversion situations for rehabilitation. To attend, please contact Deacon Mike or Deacon Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545 or send an email message to him at richard.murphy@pastoral.org on or before May 22, 2018.

St Vincent DePaul MARCH 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 March, a total of 34 families amounting to 103 persons (of which were 46 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$3,095.39 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

St. Romuald Altar has reduced the price of the almonds to \$6.00 per bag. You may pick up a bag at the church office.

AROUND AND ABOUT

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.

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

Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce

The offices of Marriage & Family Life and Tribunal are collaborating on Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce, an informal panel discussion where panelists will share witness stories from their own experience of divorce. Sessions are scheduled in four locations across the diocese to allow multiple opportunities to attend. (The Tribunal Office will conduct a follow-up session in each location a month later to offer information regarding declarations of invalidity.)

Tuesday, April 24 @ Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 1 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, 6:30 pm

Find these dates and the follow-up sessions by visiting Owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

The Clarkson VA clinic will have their annual VA2K walk for Homeless veterans on 5/12 @ 10:00 am, at James Beville City Park in Leitchfield.

We are accepting donations of the following items, which will go to the homeless veterans in our area Sunscreen, Soap, Deodorant, Tooth brush, Tooth paste, Wet wipes, Razors, Ponchos, Socks, Bottled water, Hand sanitizer, Individual packaged snacks Ball caps, toboggans, Back packs. There will be tubs at the doors of the Church for these items.

Mother's Day Photo Booth will be available Sunday, May 13th, before the 10 am Mass by the Breck County 4-H Photography Club, until noon. Come have your mom's picture taken with yourself or the entire family for only \$5.00, frame included. Come and support the youth of St. Romuald as we have two members from our parish who have gone on to become ribbon winners at our county fair and one a state champion.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"You are called to be collaborators of mercy with the Lord, but you must remember that you are a recipient of that mercy first. We must always start from this fixed point: God treated me with mercy. One experiences mercy and turns into [a] minister of mercy. Ministers do not place themselves above others as if they were judges of sinful brothers and sisters. A true missionary of mercy is reflected in the experience of the Apostle: God has chosen me; God trusts me; God has put his trust in me by calling me, despite being a sinner, to be his collaborator to make it real, effective and let his mercy touch. The Father in the Prodigal Son story longs for and seeks out the returning son. While the son is still a long way off, the father catches sight of him, and is filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. God is not idle to wait for the sinner: he runs towards him, because the joy of seeing him come back is too great. May we experience and offer such mercy. (Message to Missionaries 4-10-2018)

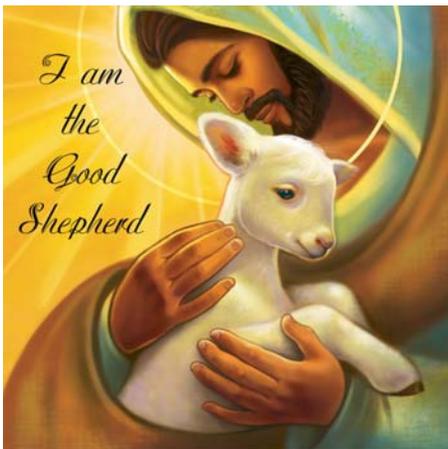


Email Prayer Chain

Would you like to be part of an email prayer chain and pray daily for those in need of prayers due to illness or other needs? To be a part of this ministry, please send an email

to Marie Rose at rosejm@bbtel.com to become a prayer warrior. When others are in need of prayer you will be notified by email to begin praying for them. We (21 warriors) are currently praying for the needs of 66 people, those on our parish prayer list and the family members of the recently deceased, who were on our list. If you have a prayer request, just send an email to Marie at the above address.

National Day of Prayer for America: Come join others in praying for unity within this blessed nation of ours. Let us pray for our government leaders and our country to be renewed in seeking God's wisdom and direction. Thursday May 3, at 12:00 noon outside Breckinridge County Judicial Center (#pray4unity).



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Called by Name Program: Sunday April 22nd, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It has also been designated a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This year marks its 55th year. As we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, each parish in the Diocese of Owensboro has been invited to participate in **CALLED BY NAME**, a program of vocations awareness that offers an opportunity for us to pray for priestly vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood. Perhaps you know a man (high school or older) who would, in your opinion, have the qualities to become a priest. Please recommend this person by submitting their name online at <https://owensborodiocese.org/called-by-name/> or by contacting the vocations office: 270-683-1545 or jason.mcclure@pastoral.org

Diocese of Owensboro Prayer for Vocations to Priesthood and Consecrated Life

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women from the Diocese of Owensboro to serve in your Son's kingdom as priests, deacons, and religious.

We pray that you continue to inspire young men and women to respond courageously to your call and give themselves generously to the Church in service of the Gospel.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our parishes, schools, and families and assist us in building a culture of vocations in which many will hear your call to serve your people.

Help us to remain faithful to the call of the Gospel as we support and encourage vocations of sacrificial love in our youth.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!



Sunday, Apr 22, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Your turn to serve

Wise. Brave. Humble. Seekers of the common good above personal ambition. The world can't get enough good leaders, and the best way to acquire the leaders we need in every aspect of modern life is for all of us to strive to be leaders right where we are. On this 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the church particularly seeks leaders in ordained ministry, religious life, societies of apostolic life, secular institutes of service, and for the missions. Take a chance. Ask the question. How can you best put your gifts at the disposal of God's purposes?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50). "A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

Monday, Apr 23, 2018

MEMORIAL OF GEORGE, MARTYR

Ready to don your armor?

Old maps would indicate the end of the known world with the phrase, "There be dragons here." It was a way of saying, "It's probably not a good idea to go there." In a legend of Saint George, he did not shy away from doing battle with a dragon. In the only story of a canonized saint fighting such a creature, he not only killed this menacing animal that an army could not slay but also saved a princess, preached to the grateful people, distributed his reward money to the poor, and went on his way. Not a bad day's work. What dragons of the unknown—of ignorance and the fear that accompanies it—can you slay? What good word or gift can you pass along as you go your way?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279). "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*

Tuesday, Apr 24, 2018

MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR

Born again to the same job

Lawyers are traditionally the butt of jokes for their ability to take any side of an argument. But many put their skills to use in the cause of justice. Saint Fidelis (d. 1622), nicknamed the Poor Man's Lawyer, decided to speak out only for the sake of the gospel. He joined the Capuchins and persuaded many through his preaching, his kindness as a confessor, and his devotion to the sick. Consider how your words and actions today have the power to testify for or against the gospel you believe.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280). "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

Wednesday, Apr 25, 2018

FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST

Worth another read

Written about 40 years after Christ's Resurrection, the Gospel of Mark is our closest and freshest gospel on the events of Jesus' life. Like any great reporter, the evangelist does not insinuate himself into the story, which leaves us uncertain as to who he was. He could be the John Mark who was a cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul, the Mark who is a later assistant to Peter, or both. One thing we do know is that he heeded Jesus' commission to proclaim the Good News to all the world. Generations of believers have heard or read Mark's story. Even if you've read it a hundred times, Mark's gospel is

worth another read.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555). "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News!"*

Thursday, Apr 26, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Wash up for supper

In the ancient world, when sandals were common footwear, foot-washing was an act of hospitality offered by a host when guests arrived at a house. Typically guests washed their own feet or a servant washed them, but a host wishing to show great respect for guests might do the washing him- or herself. Jesus sends us a clear signal by washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. If we are willing to serve others with the same spirit of humility and hospitality, there will be a place at the eternal banquet for us as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282). "When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master.'"*

Friday, Apr 27, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Find your own path

Modern gurus abound on talk shows and blogs, full of advice about how you should live your life. Some of their suggestions may be helpful; the best ones are borrowed from folk wisdom, good psychology, or even scripture, once or twice removed. Jesus has already issued the invitation to illuminate your path by following his way. Saint Anthony Claret (1807-70) underscored this invitation with a telling directive: "Choose now what you would wish to have chosen at life's end." At every fork in the road, keep this suggestion in mind.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283). "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"*

Saturday, Apr 28, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR

Let God work in God's ways

Saint Peter Chanel was martyred in 1841 at the age of 38 on the island of Futuna in Oceania. He anticipated such an end to his life, hoping that it would bring about the conversion of the island's inhabitants to Christianity. It did. And while some may have initially converted due to fear of reprisal by the French for killing their missionary, this also shows how God works in mysterious ways, ways most of us cannot expect. Peter expected God to work his wonders. How often do you let go and let God take control? Indulge in some great expectations today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284). "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do."*

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