



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

[www.stromuald.org](http://www.stromuald.org)

## dear Padre

### **Parish Office:**

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

Hours: Monday - Friday

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

Email: [stromuald@bbtel.com](mailto:stromuald@bbtel.com)

### **Pastoral Staff:**

*Pastor*, Father Brian Johnson

Email: [Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org](mailto:Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org)

*Deacon*, Tony Anthony

*Deacon*, Mike Wiedemer

*Administrative Asst*, Jane Haynes

*CRE: Adult*, Rosa Hockenberry

*CRE: RCIA*, Lyvenia Anthony

*CRE: 7-12*, Gayle Poole

*CRE: K-6*, Kim Brumfield

### **Pastoral Council:**

Dana Bland, Harry Mattingly,

Janet Bland, David Morton

Christi Brooks, Kevin Oelze

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Jerry Dowell, Gail Pollock

Betty Heavrin, Pam Pollock

### **St. Romuald**

### **Interparochial School:**

Phone: 756-5504

Website:

[www.stromualdschool.org](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

### **School Board**

### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

*My youth group sometimes raises funds for activities. Once, an angry parishioner told me that the Church was only concerned with money. Is raising money within or for the Church OK?*

Schools and religious groups commonly raise money for their activities and projects. It's also normal for parish organizations to get their funds from membership dues or event tickets. The parish is often the first place people go, but if your group already receives a lot of support from its members, consider looking to other sources, such as local businesses that are interested in supporting youth in your area.

The fundraising you plan often dictates your methods. If you're promoting an event, such as a dance, ticket sales are an appropriate model. If you choose a third-party or commercial fundraiser, make sure its business practices are morally acceptable within a Catholic context. If you desire a special mention, collection, or to solicit after Mass or during a parish function, obtain approval from the pastor or designated staff beforehand.

Some people are very sensitive to financial appeals. Maybe that person had just received multiple requests. Fundraising efforts should be coordinated within the parish. If groups are competing or events fall too closely together, problems can arise. Money is necessary for many things. Fundraising for a good purpose, especially to help others, has existed in the Church since St. Paul himself.

From LIGUORIAN, OCTOBER 2004

November 20, 2016 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## Masses for the Week

November 21th - 27th

|              |                |   |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| Tues         | 1:00 pm        | Herbert Johnson (AJ) <i>(Extended Care)</i> |
| Wed          | 5:00 pm        | Special Intention (SA)                      |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>8:00 am</b> | Josh Lucas                                  |
| Fri          | 9:00 am        | Casey Mattingly (MM)                        |
| Sat          | 5:00 pm        | Jasper & Anastasia O'Reilly (RO)            |
| Sun          | 7:00 am        | Geneva Glasscock                            |
|              | 10:00 am       | Roy H. Bennett (MB)                         |

### CONFESSIONS

**Wednesday** 4:00-5:00pm

**Saturdays** 4:00 pm

## Readings for the Week

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-5/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43  
 Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 21:1-4  
 Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10-13/Lk 21:5-11  
 Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1-3, 7-9/Lk 21:12-19  
 Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 21:20-28  
 Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11--21:2/Ps 84:3-6, 8/Lk 21:29-33  
 Saturday: Rv 22:1-7/Ps 95:1-7/Lk 21:34-36  
 Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44  
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## Stewardship of Finance

### Last Sunday's Collection

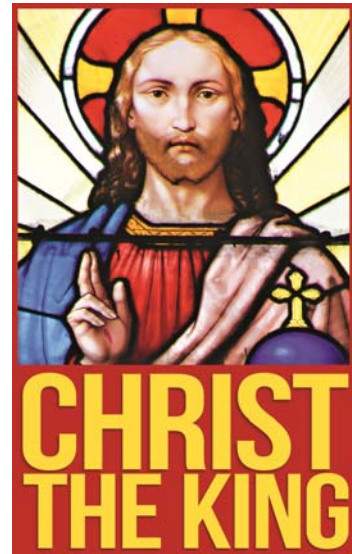
|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Collection .....        | \$9,273.50 |
| Building Fund .....            | \$15.00    |
| Children .....                 | \$3.00     |
| Loose change for the Poor..... | \$38.00    |
| Radio Ministry.....            | \$165.00   |

### St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-October, 2016

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$177,800</b> |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$173,200</b> |
|                       | <b>\$ 3,800</b>  |

**Thank you for your financial stewardship!**



## November 26th & 27th

|          | Eucharistic Ministers  | Lectors                          | Ushers  | Servers                                     | Rosary Leaders   | Music Ministers                 |
|----------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5:00 pm  | Jerry Jarboe<br>Bryan O'Reilly                                     | Christi Tivitt<br>Lynn Tuell     | C-Leroy Henning*<br>C-Pat O'Reilly<br>S-Danny O'Reilly<br>S-Jim Siler   | Aubrey Tabor<br>Lily Tabor<br>Shelby Tivitt | Minne Nimmo      | Pippa                           |
| 7:00 am  | Shirley Bland<br>Tobias Curran                                     | Jim Heavrin                      | C-Doug Flood*<br>C-Chuck Hardesty<br>S-Michael Kennedy<br>S-Cody Mingus | Madison Anthony<br>Martin Anthony           | Mike Wiedemer    | Pippa                           |
| 10:00 am | Sally Hinton<br>Sandra Hinton<br>Mary Jo Rankin<br>Aulton Richards | Joellen McGary<br>Jennifer Payne | C-Bryan Priest*<br>C-Logan Priest<br>S-Luke Priest<br>S-Tanner Priest   | Mary Grace Mattingly<br>Ava Phillips        | Rosa Hockenberry | P.J./Choir<br>Cantor:<br>George |

Radio Minister: Laura Skillman

Children's Liturgy: Danny Shain

## Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

Another Year's end! Happy Feast of Christ the King! I love our Catholic traditions and Church calendar that **sanctify** the days and seasons of the year! Our Church marks certain days, weeks or months for particular celebrations such as celebrating the times in our Savior's life and ministry (Advent-Christmas, Lent-Easter). Also, at times we highlight aspects of our Catholic Teaching (Respect Life Sunday, Holy Family Sunday). These occasions remind us to continually take note of God's faithful presence and the need for us to keep faith! We should dedicate all of our time to God's service. Every minute of every day is holy if we seek/find God in it! This feast of Christ the King reminds us that Jesus is Lord of History & King of all Time! "Christ is all and is in all" (Colossians 3:11) or "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever!" (Romans 11:36). Let us remember that every second is a gift from God to us!

The fact that we call the last Sunday of our church calendar year "Christ the King" means that we know that **Jesus is with us through it all**. Not a minute passes that Christ is not active in our lives bringing about the Will of the Father. By our dedication to Him and His Will, Jesus sanctifies our daily actions for His glory. If we are doing God's will, then His kingdom is coming, because God's kingdom is wherever/whenever Jesus rules. Jesus is the guide of our lives. He leads us to holy living, and directs us **to love Him**, our God with all our heart, mind, soul and body, and just as well **to love our neighbor** as ourselves (Matthew 22:40). He is the beginning and end, the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13). So our reading today proclaims His great love of us accepting death on a cross that we may be saved and shown the Way to the Heaven!

We are all familiar with the first three temptations of Jesus by the devil in the desert, but I call today's reading the *last three temptations* of Jesus. He is tempted to come off the cross. The problem is that these three temptations come to Jesus from human beings! In the first, the 'rulers' call out to Jesus 'Save Yourself' (Lk 23, verse 35). Then the second temptation is given by the soldiers who jeer at Jesus saying 'If you are King, then save yourself' (verse 37). Then a third temptation comes even from the criminal hanging beside him who hints, 'Aren't you the Christ? Then save yourself **and us**' (verse 39). My reaction to hearing these wrong-headed, easy-way out temptations is to say, "They do not know who they are talking to!" Or maybe they just don't understand the type of Savior Jesus is! None of them know Jesus, or they would remember hearing his teaching or watching his example. This is the Jesus who said in Mark 10:35 "I came not to be served, **but to serve** and **give my life** as ransom for many". Or the Savior who taught in Luke 17:3 "whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it" and in John 12:24 "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a solitary grain, yet if

it dies, it bears abundant fruit." Again, this is the same Jesus who asked in Matthew 16:26 "what good is it if a man gains whole world yet loses his soul in the process..." But Jesus is a Savior who embodies what he teaches, and lives what he says (acting out his words). Jesus says in Luke 8:21 "My mother and my brothers are those who **hear the word of God and carry it out**." And in James 2:18, we hear that true **faith is demonstrated in deeds**. And in Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' but **not do what I say**?" So Jesus is not about to come down off the cross for his convenience or to satisfy his own pleasure. He embodies his teaching. He taught and shows by his living/dying that it is only through self-sacrificial love that we fulfill ourselves. Our lives have meaning only to the degree we serve and live for others. God created us social, in His Image. We are made for others. We find our own soul in reaching out, stretching beyond ourselves with open arms, assisting and lifting up other persons.

So, I suggest that the repentant criminal becomes a hero in the gospel because he defends a dying man (Jesus) being unjustly accused. Notice the good criminal speaks up to the bully criminal who is taunting Jesus. Funny, though, that the bully criminal had selfishly added himself in his taunt to Jesus, 'Save yourself and **US-(ME)!**' But, the good criminal is humble and defends Jesus the 'innocent one' by testifying (even in his hour of suffering) to Jesus' goodness. Maybe the good criminal is gently asking the other criminal to repent while he still has time. We can hope for the best but we do not know what happens to the other criminal. Yet, I love that most comforting of lines from Jesus when he says, "This day you will be with me in paradise." Reminds me of what St Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:11-12 "If we have died with him, we shall also live with him. If we persevere shall also reign with him." Deo Gratias! Jesus is Lord-all the time!

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

**Sunday:** What message did I pick up from Mass today? Can I share it with somebody this week?

**Monday:** How about my end-time? What if it was today? Am I ready?

**Tuesday:** Do I need to speak up to defend someone unjustly accused, talked about or treated?

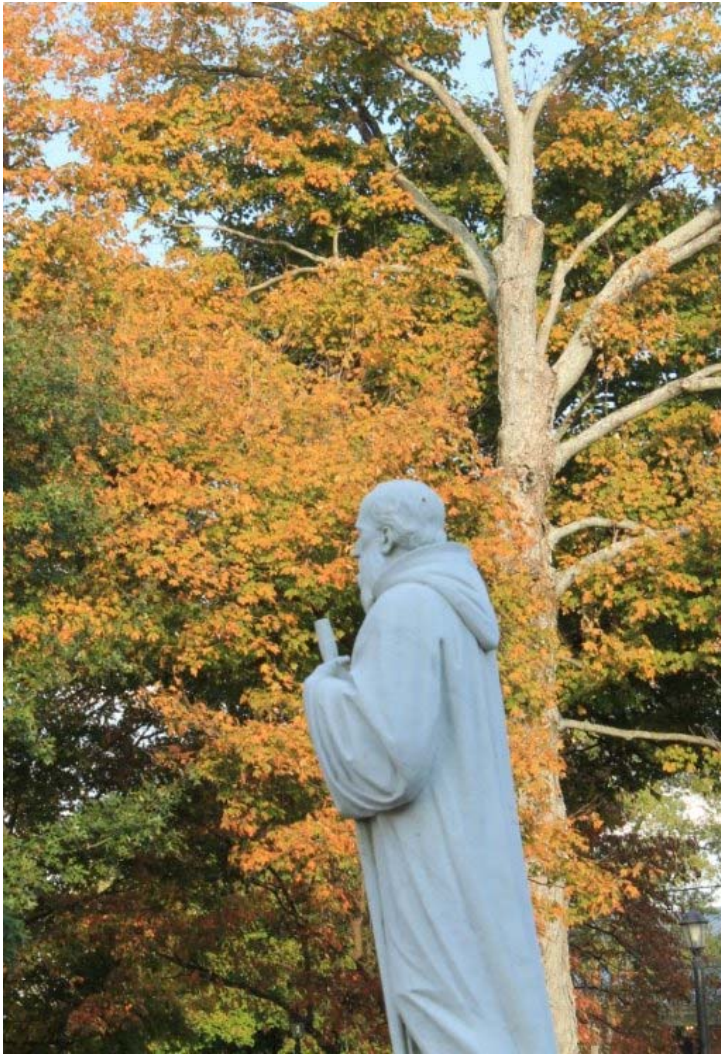
**Wednesday:** "Jesus remember me", is easy to say, but do I remember Him all the time, and keep him with me in my every thought and action?

**Thursday:** Do I carry out what I say? Do I put into practice what I tell others to do?

**Friday:** Perform some sacrifice or service today as a thanks offering for God's forgiveness.

**Saturday:** For what, am I especially thankful to offer as prayer at Mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson



## **The Holy Year Popes History and Memorabilia 1300 – 2016.**

This exhibit (assembled by Fr Pat Reynolds) can be seen September 16th through November 20<sup>th</sup> in the Brescia Administration Building Lobby (120 West 7th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301). Open Monday through Friday from 7 AM – 6 PM. For groups of 20 or more, or weekend tours, please contact Sally Halbig at 270-686-4236.

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**Marriage Help** – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 13, 2017, call 270-852-8346, or email: [flelliot@audubon-area.com](mailto:flelliot@audubon-area.com) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

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## **Catholic Campaign for Human Development:**

The collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States. CCHD's grants improve education, support economic development, and create affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and build communities of solidarity. Please give to the CCHD Collection.

## **Christmas Open House at Breckinridge**

**Memorial Hospital:** Saturday, November 26th, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Free hot chocolate, cider, cookies and pictures with Santa Claus!!!

# FALL 2016

Photos by Judy Tivitt



Welcome to St. Romuald Catholic Church

**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.

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## **K-6 Religious Education Classes**



## THIS WEEK:

|      |          |                                 |
|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sun  | 11:30 am | 7-12 Religious Ed               |
| Mon  | 1:00 pm  | Blue Army Rosary                |
|      | 6:00 pm  | Catholic Divorce Group          |
|      | 7:00 pm  | Al-Anon Meeting                 |
| Tues | 10:00 am | Scripture Study                 |
|      | 1:00 pm  | Mass (Extended Care)            |
|      | 6:00 pm  | Ecumenical Service (Harned UMC) |
| Wed  | 4:00 pm  | Confessions                     |
|      | 5:00 pm  | Mass                            |
| Thur | 8:00 am  | Thanksgiving Day Mass           |
| Fri  | 9:00 am  | Mass                            |
|      | 3:00 pm  | 1st Reconciliation Prayer Day   |
| Sun  |          | 1st Sunday of Advent            |

## UPCOMING:

Nov 29 6:00 pm Pastoral Council

**Please look over the Prayer List, if you see a name that needs to be removed call the church office at 756-2356. Thank you.**

## **We Pray For:**

Gene Aldridge, Jim Ball, Harold Beard, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Bradley Berry, Ronnie Bruner, Juanita Burch, Joann Butler, Waylon Carman, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Janet Chambliss, Diane Charlebois, Sharon Church, Joan Clark, Mary Crook, Vonda Decker, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Davye Duggins, Mary Catherine Edge, Rodney Elliott, Michael Ernest, Carroll Ferguson, Rhett Flener, Donny Flood, Ginny Flood, Shannon Ford, Andrea Fuqua, Barnard Gagel, Henrietta Gibson, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Jerry Grimes, Sr., Laura Beavin Hawley, Davy Haycraft, Dale Henning, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Janet Hodson, Steve Hodson, David Horsley, Daniel Hoskins, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Don Jerrell, Kiara Jo, Jerry Johnson, Jim Johnson, Mary Ann Johnson, Jack Jolly, Lovel King, Tracy King, Faith Klingsmith, David Lane, Angie Lawrence, **Linda Ledford**, Jennie Maiden, Mark Masterson, Keith McDaniel, Ann Medlen, Kevin McHugh, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, John Moore, Barbara O'Connell, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Rowan Palmer, Judy Popham, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Tracy Ralston, Penny Rannebarger, Jamie Riley, Rita Roach, Julie Robbins, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Annelise Sebastian, **Judy Seelye**, **Colleen Simmons**, Jerry Sosh, Lucye Stupak, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Dorothy Tillberg, Paul Tucker, Brook Tyler, Bobby Upchurch, Gil Urban, Johnny Vessels, Nancy Vincent, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Weise, Greg Wethington, Millie Whilter, Judy Whitley, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, Shaun Winstead, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zane.

**Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Jack Hayes, Stevie Higgs, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, SSgt Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Cody Simmons, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



**Mercy Moment:** "We must guard against dishonestly and the pursuit of power. But how often do we hear ourselves saying, even in our own homes, that "I'm in charge here?" Jesus taught us that leaders are those who serve others, and if we want to be first, we must become the servant of all. We have one master, Jesus, and he told us that we cannot serve two masters – God and money. We have to choose to serve one or the other. We must be honest, facing our weakness. Dishonesty leads us to excuse our sin and emphasize others' sins to have power over them. Power and dishonesty work together to take God's place. Some people even play one hand off against the other, playing the 'God' card and the 'world' card at the same time. We cannot serve the Lord like this so we ask to be freed from these obstacles in order that we may find serenity of body and mind."

(Pope Francis 11-8-2016)

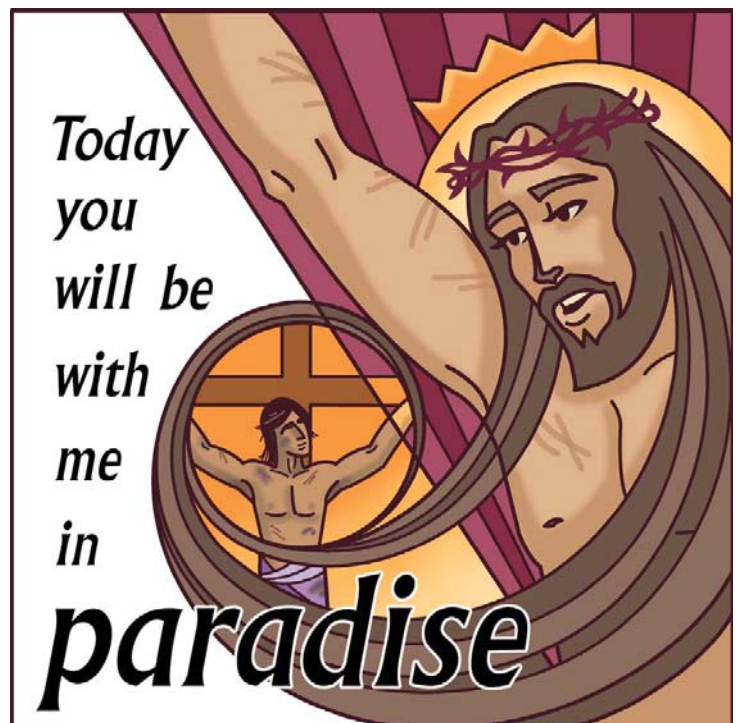
## **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

***"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."***

Our King is triumphant, victorious over sin and death. He is calling all His people to follow Him to glory. We are reminded that we are not made for this world, we are made for more. We are made for Heaven and our vocation is God's plan for us, to get us there. To learn more about discerning your vocation, contact the Vocations Office at 270-683-1545,

[jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org),

[www.owensborovocations.com](http://www.owensborovocations.com)



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**Christmas Card Sales:** The Fourth (Patriotic) Degree of the Knights of Columbus is again selling religious Christmas Cards. Cards are available after most Masses at St. Romuald until November 27 or until sold out. Funds raised from card sales are dedicated to support of local/national civil issues. Our most recent donation was to aid Catholic Military Chaplains. For information contact George Walz at 270-617-0468 or [walzes@bellsouth.net](mailto:walzes@bellsouth.net).



The Knights of Columbus will be putting together Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. As in the years past, we will be accepting donations for sponsoring a family's Thanksgiving meal. It cost about \$25 per basket which includes an 11-13 lb frozen turkey, rolls, stuffing mix, sack of potatoes, corn, green beans, pumpkin with pie shells and cranberry jelly. If you would like to be a sponsor, please put your money in an envelope and drop in the collection basket or bring/mail it to the Parish office or hand it to Deacon Tony. Thank you so much for your continued generosity every year!  
Deacon Tony

**TEC - WKY Teens Encounter Christ**

A workshop for TEC will be held at Gasper River Retreat Center on December 3-4. We hope past TECites and team members will join us for this Renewing the Vision of the Tec Movement in our Diocese. The cost is \$60 but if needed you can apply for a scholarship for \$30. For questions please email [wkytec@gmail.com](mailto:wkytec@gmail.com), call Taylor at (270) 562-2132, or go to [wkytec.org](http://wkytec.org) to apply.



**First Friday 24-hour Adoration:**

Following the 9:00 am Mass on December 2, 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 if prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Family Movie Night:** Join the fun on Saturday, November 19th as we venture into the world of "Alice Through the Looking Glass." Critics have called it "Clever, delightful and perfect family fun." Disney invites us to step through the looking glass and join Alice, the Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat and the Red Queen on a wild journey back to Wonderland. Pull up a chair or pillow, grab a drink and popcorn, kick back and enjoy a night of good movie viewing!

**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!

**Matthew 25:36 "I was sick and you cared for me..." Are you being called to be a Communion Minister to the Sick?** If you are interested in joining this caring ministry to the sick and administering Holy Communion please contact Deacon Mike 270- 756-0120 or Fr Brian 270-756-2356.

**Celebration**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Wayne & Judy Hardesty will be celebrating 54 years of marriage on November 24th and Carroll & Brenda Whitfill will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on November 28th.

**BIRTHDAYS:** George Walz, November 28th



**Community Thanksgiving Service:** Tuesday November 22 at 6:00 pm, Harned United Methodist Church, the Ministerial Association is having an ecumenical Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Come pray with other Christian brothers and sisters in thanksgiving for blessing received and shared!



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**Advertiser of the week:**  
**Crume's Monuments**  
**1-800-928-4111**

**Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!**



## **Sunday, November 20, 2016** **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

### **A crown of service**

The church calendar reflects events in the wider world. In the case of today's feast, it is a relative newcomer to the calendar, having been instituted in 1925 at a time when the world was disillusioned with Christianity after the carnage of World War I waged in supposedly Christian Europe. Secularism was on the rise and today's feast was an effort to assert Catholicism's independence from secular states, but the feast's lofty title is also a call to humility, ironically, because Christ's "kingship" is servant leadership, washing-the-feet-of-others leadership. Dare to join the royal household.

Today's readings: *2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43 (162)*. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

## **Monday, November 21** **Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** **Belong to God, as Mary did**

You can't find an account of the presentation of Mary in the Bible. But there is a story about this event in the *Protoevangelium of James*. In this account, Mary is born to a barren Joachim and Anna, who present Mary at the temple when she is 3 years old. According to this legend, Mary lived at the temple until the age of 12. This second-century writing is not included in our sacred scripture, and we do not really know how or when Mary was presented at the temple. What we do know and what this feast honors is that throughout her entire life, Mary belonged to God. Take time today to sit in silence and imagine that you are walking with Mary. Be content to simply be in her presence.

Today's readings: *Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4 (503)*. "From her poverty she has offered her whole livelihood."

## **Tuesday, November 22** **Memorial of Cecilia, virgin, martyr** **Sing praises to the unsung**

The saints are lifted up as examples of how to live lives of holiness, but what about those saints who are canonized but we don't know much about? Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music, is one such saint. Much of her story is unconfirmed, yet countless people take inspiration from the stories of her courage and faith. While we may not know the details of her life, we can be assured that by inspiring the sweet music of so many, Cecilia has earned her place among the heavenly hosts—a saint whose holiness resounds in the beautiful music of our church.

Today's readings: *Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11 (504)*. "Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound."

## **Wednesday, November 23** **Memorial of Clement I, pope, martyr** **Drop anchor**

Little is known about Pope Saint Clement I, but it appears he may have succeeded Saint Peter as the bishop of Rome. He is the first Apostolic Father of the Church—those early Christian leaders who personally knew some of the 12 apostles. To be that first crucial link through whom the apostles taught the church! Given his role, it's fitting that Clement's symbol is the anchor, which happened to be the method of his martyrdom by drowning. Do you make the church your anchor in life? How can you help ground others in Christian living?

Today's readings: *Revelation 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19 (505)*. "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

## **Thursday, November 24** **Proper Mass for Thanksgiving Day** **Thanks be to those who inspire**

On this national day of giving thanks, think about the people in your life from whom you have received the gift of faith. Who brought you to the church for Baptism? Who taught you about God and how to pray? Who took you to Mass? Who inspired you by the way they lived their faith? Perhaps you will think of parents or grandparents, special teachers or other friends. Whoever it is, they deserve your thanks. On this day of thanksgiving, be mindful and grateful for the gift of faith. Today's readings: *Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28 (506)*. "Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

## **Friday, November 25** **Give thanks by giving**

In 2008 President George W. Bush signed a law designating the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day to honor the contributions of Native Americans to the United States, which started before the country existed with the help they gave to the Pilgrims. Let's follow their example today and reach out to newcomers to this land—many of whom, like the Pilgrims, are refugees fleeing persecution. Let's befriend them and help them succeed in their new home—the way it was done unto our ancestors.

Today's readings: *Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Luke 21:29-33 (507)*. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

## **Saturday, November 26** **The straight talk on prayer**

Do you think of prayer as "talking to God"? What about *listening*? A different, if somewhat crude description of prayer, might be: "Show up, shut up, and pay attention." *Show up*: Set aside a regular time and place for prayer, 10 minutes a day, every day, and keep to it. *Shut up*: A relationship is distorted if one party does not listen to the other but dominates with a litany of woes. Close your prayer book for a while. Rest silently in God's embrace. *Pay attention*: to signs of God's presence around you, even in hard times. Then, perhaps, you will have something entirely different to say to God.

Today's readings: *Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36 (508)*. "Let us come into his presence."

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