



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

www.stromuald.org

dear Padre

What are social or communal sins? Do I need to confess them?

To answer this question properly, we must first make a number of distinctions. First, we are social beings. We act not only as individuals but also as groups, and we are capable of sinning each way. Sin is an analogous concept with nuances, depending on context. There are original, personal, and social sins. There are also both mortal and venial sins. When we sin as individuals, we commit a personal sin. When we sin in a group, we commit a social sin. As with personal sin, some social sins are more serious than others.

Societies that enshrine laws promoting abortion, euthanasia, and in many countries, capital punishment are involved in serious social sins. Our degree of culpability in such sins depends on the level of our participation in the group. The key distinction is whether we are actively (formally) or only accidentally (materially) cooperating in the evil. For example, if you actually voted for a law enshrining one such evil, then you are formally cooperating in the evil. If you voted against it but are paying taxes that fund such practices, then you are only materially cooperating in it.

Formal cooperation in a serious offense against God's will should be confessed. Material cooperation lessens the degree of blame, sometimes to the point of eliminating it. It is important to examine the nature of the social evil, study the teachings of the Church on the issue, determine your level of participation, and form your conscience accordingly.

Dennis J. Billy, CSsR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Parish Office:

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Hours: Monday - Friday

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

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Deacon, Mike Wiedemer

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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

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

March 26, 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Masses for the Week

March 20th - 26th

Tues	1:00 pm	Edward & Mary Robbins (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Lori Mattingly Shaw (DM)
Thurs	9:00 am	Debbie Oelze (school Mass)
Fri	9:00 am	In Thanksgiving (SA)
Sat	8:00 am	Martha Matthews
	5:00 pm	Ann Critchelov
Sun	7:00 am	Jeanne Rhodes
	10:00 am	Harold Payne (BP)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Saturdays 4:00 pm

Readings for the Week

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-15, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Liturgical Publications Inc

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection	\$6,420.00
Building Fund	\$15.00
Children	\$4.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$62.81
Sick & Infirm Priests.....	265.00
Funeral Meals.....	\$380.00

St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-February, 2016

Total Income	\$357,100
Total Expenses	\$321,500
	\$ 35,600

Thank you for your financial stewardship!



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came

so that those who
do not see might see

April 1st & 2nd

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Amy Flood Kathy Flood	Dale Board Melissa Oelze	C-Jamie Barr* C-Evan Barr S-David Basham S-Harry Mattingly	Benjamin Barr Eric Barr Claire Flood	Brenda Wheatley	P.J./Alison
7:00 am	Anne O'Reilly Mike Wiedemer	Jim Heavrin	C-Jeff Rhodes* C-Leo Wheatley S-Michael Whitfill S-Mike Whitfill	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Mary Vessels	
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sandra Hinton Tabetha Walz	Carlos Matthews Alvin Mattingly	C-Greg Hinton* C-Ethan O'Donoghue S-Ron O'Donoghue S-Allen Wheatley	Becca Walz Logan Walz	Rosa Hockenberry	
Radio Minister: Ann Tritschler Children's Liturgy: No Children's Liturgy—Spring Break						

Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

Welcome to part two of our three week *long* reading cycle! Our church reading plan reveals a wonderful progression of deepening life with Christ. We read three consecutive stories of people encountering Christ and growing in their trust and intimacy with Him through their experience. First the woman forgiven at the well, then 2) a blind man healed, and then 3) Lazarus raised from the dead! As a Church we read these stories as examples of how we can grow and further our own understanding and life with Christ. What is unfolding in front of our eyes is what a full encounter of Christ brings to the life of a believer: Forgiveness, Enlightenment & Resurrection! Who wants to sign up for this life with Christ? I do, I do!

All of these readings involve a lot of dialogue between Jesus and others. Last week's Woman at the Well story is the longest conversation recorded between Jesus and anyone. Yet, today's gospel story of the blind man has Jesus saying very little, and only to his disciples and the blind man himself. The majority of the conversation is between the blind man and the Pharisees. The blind man does a great job of testifying and sharing his experience of Christ. The *Pharisees, as usual, are stuck on trivial questions of the law and policing others' lives. You want to hear a joke?* I know it surprises people sometimes to hear that there is humor, both subtle and obvious, found in the gospels. Today's reading provides a couple of examples of it! As in introduction to discovering the humor found in the gospel, keep in mind the sad irony found even in our own lived Catholic tradition. In our history, you can run across disputes between believers about whether it is Christian to laugh and share good humor at all. Writers (Umberto Eco, for one) have suggested trial debates in the middle ages between Franciscans and Dominicans arguing a theological question, "Did Jesus laugh?" But, we have to step back and see the humor in even asking the question! I think Pope Francis's first papal writing being titled "Joy of the Gospel" settles it for our time, but he specifically said in a homily preached at the Vatican on December 3, 2013, "*We aren't used to thinking about Jesus smiling and joyful. Jesus was full of joy, full of joy in His intimacy with the Father and Holy Spirit.*" Pope Francis continued by saying the Church evangelizes best and most powerfully even in trials and hardship and grief by keeping its joy and hope, always seeking the best and remaining lighthearted! GK Chesterton once said, 'Angels can fly, because they take themselves so lightly!' Even Mr Serious, St Paul often could laugh at himself to overcome his pride, as when he says in 2 Corinthians 11:1 "If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me." St Paul's humility led him to take himself lightly. Certainly humor has a place in our service to God!

But we might ask, 'Seriously, where did all of the gloomy solemnity come into our Church Tradition? Likely, good saintly people introduced it as an overreaction to immodest humor at the expense of others, or insensitive criticism that hurt others' feelings, or loudness or even nosiness shared in groups. Many a monk or nun has downplayed *any* joyful affections in relationships. Seeing that joking and humor could go too far, many monastic saints like St Augustine, St Bernard or St Catherine, have prohibited laughter, excessive smiling or cackling. They bring to our attention the hurt or disrespect that comes from indulgent frivolity or undignified commentary. Yet, Jesus' humor and the irony found in the New Testament is not any disrespectful humor. Jesus uses humor as a teaching tool and as a spiritual remedy for pride. For example, in Luke 7:32, Jesus says to the 'impossible-Pharisees', "'We played the flute for you, but you did not

dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.'" Jesus is saying, 'For goodness sake, there is no pleasing you children.' Also, Jesus had a flair for nicknames and puns, such as "Sons of Thunder" for James and John and "the rock" for Peter! Or how about when he had to be smiling as he asked the disciples "what were you talking about along the way," while he already knew they were arguing about who was the greatest (Mark 9:33).

So where is the humor in this story? Two places for sure. First, who is blind? Did you notice the humorous detail about the crowd being blind because they couldn't figure out if it was the real blind man or not. In John 9: 8-9, they have to ask, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, *he just looks like him.*" Well, seeing crowd, can't you tell? And secondly, in John 9:27 "the healed man answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" Having been asked enough times about Jesus, the man turns the table on the Pharisees and says, "You are so curious about Jesus, why don't you get to know him yourselves? Do you want to follow him!" It is as if he is saying to nosy neighbors, "What is with all the questions, are you writing a book?" Or after someone is caught staring at you repeatedly, you ask, "What, have you lost something over here?" But I love this good-hearted blind man who believes and knows for himself, the source of his healing-Jesus. No one can turn him away from Jesus, even as they threaten to throw him out of the synagogue, which they turn around and do, he is not bothered because he stays with Jesus! The blind man could say 'Throwing me out doesn't bother me, because I never saw anything of it before anyway!' He was already excluded on top of having no sight, because of being ritually unclean as a blind person (Leviticus 21:18 & Lev 11 by contact). With the Pharisees, a person can't win for losing! But the good news is that we know he wins salvation in Christ Jesus! He receives the joy of never ending life with Christ! Could you say he rises with the last laugh on the last day!

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

Sunday: What was my main prayer at mass today? What did God speak to my heart about the rest of Lent or my life as it is now?

Monday: Am I quick to judge others and criticize them like the Pharisees? How can I listen and be more patient when seeing or hearing something that is not my preference?

Tuesday: Did I talk with God and spend some time in prayer before work or on the way to work?

Wednesday: Could I be spiritually blind and in need of healing? What may I not be seeing of God's hand at work around me?

Thursday: Can I take a minute to examine my 'witness' to faith? How do others perceive me in living out the faith I profess?

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice or penance for the good benefit of someone else today.

Saturday: Try and make it to mass early to pray the rosary with others for World Peace in this Anniversary Year of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance and message.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again, well in 3 months. We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth and The Memory Wagon. This year we will be debuting our new booths thanks to T.G.H.

Drop off items at the parish office.
Thanks and God Bless.

Family Movie Night: "A Strange Brand of Happy" is the story of David who is pushed into hiring a life coach named Joyce. Joyce invites David to join a volunteer group only to find to his dismay that his ex-boss is a part of the group. Watch as David's life turns into a hilarious and zany mishap, one after the other. So come join us on Saturday, April 8th at 6:15 pm for a laugh out loud good time. Enjoy a drink and popcorn on us and a little family time together.

Food For the Poor Home-Building Project Update!

On the table by the front door of Church is a display of two of the Food for the Poor homes, our parish's generous contributions provided! Back around Christmas we had the tremendous collection to help with this building project and the main office sent us pictures of two families and a letter of thanks for our contributions! Again, a great project done in Christ's name, and I thank God for the many generous souls within our parish family! Check out the table and the picture display of our project!

Celebrate Forgiveness! Confession times available for Lent include, every Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm, every Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm and every Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm. Also, our Area Communal Penance Services are Tuesday April 4th 6:00 pm St Mary's, McQuady, Wednesday April 5th 6:00 pm St Anthony, Axtel, and Thursday April 6th 6:00 pm St Romuald. The light is on in the confessional, or simply call Fr Brian for another time or appointment. Come celebrate forgiveness!

Thank You The family of Dorothy Manning and also Helen O'Reilly would like to thank everyone for their kindness, prayers and support

during our time of sorrow.

A special thanks to Father Brian (we couldn't have done it without him) and Trent-Dowell Funeral Home was wonderful. God bless you.

Rosary Leaders: We are in need of Rosary Leaders at all the Masses. Please volunteer for this ministry. Call the church office if you would like to volunteer!

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: John & Helen O'Reilly will be celebrating 58 years of marriage on April 1st.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Jesus has to prepare the disciples for the appearance of the cross and His Death. The Cross is a scandal that's too strong for their faith. He has to tell them at least three times what will happen in Jerusalem. Resurrection, Yes, but death first. So to help them the Lord takes them up the mount and gives a glimpse of his divinity as the fulfillment of Moses and Elijah. By revealing himself in the way that he did to Peter, James and John, Jesus shows that he is a Messiah different than what was expected at the time: he's not a powerful and glorious king, but a humble and disarmed servant; not a gentleman with great wealth, a sign of blessing, but a poor man who has not place to rest his head; not a patriarch with numerous descendants, but a homeless bachelor without a nest. It's truly a revelation of God upside down, not what they were expecting. The cross reverses their ideas of

TEC needs You! : This year is the 40th anniversary of TEC in our diocese. TEC stands for Teens Encounter Christ, and since October 1976, approximately 5500 members of our diocese have taken part in this weekend. Support and involvement with TEC has struggled recently. In our present culture our teens and young adults need this encounter and support more than ever. On Sunday, March 26th there will be a series of gatherings around the diocese to bring together people of all ages who have participated in TEC over the years, or who are interested in now being part of rebuilding this movement in our diocese. In Owensboro, we will gather about 4pm in the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Together we will celebrate Mass, share a potluck meal, Renew the Vision of the TEC movement in our diocese, and spend some time in worship and prayer to our God who draws us to each other and to Himself. Hope to see you at Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall on Sunday, March 26th @ 4p.m. Bring food to share!!

We thank our advertiser for making the bulletin possible!

Please take a moment to read the back of the bulletin and note the generous advertisers from the business community who provide our bulletin each week! Each time you visit their business, let them know you are thankful for their support of our parish's weekly bulletin!

Advertiser of the week:

Hardinsburg Chiropractic
270-756-1700

Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!

THIS WEEK:

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
Wed	12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross with the School
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	Journey through Lent Study Group
Thur	9:00 am	School Mass with Bishop Medley
	5:00 pm	Altar Society
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
	4:00 pm	Fish Fry
	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass

UPCOMING:

Apr 7/8		24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Apr 8	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Apr 9	11:30 am	High School Religious Ed Classes

WREATHS: We are in need of new spring/summer wreaths for our church doors. If you are crafty and like making wreaths, would you be willing to give some of your time and talent to help your church? Please call the office at 270-756-2356 or Dolores Mattingly at 270-756-5219. Need to get started soon so will be ready to decorate our outside doors for Easter.

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelov, Jim Curtis, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Peggy Phillips, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Joe Ed Ray, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, David Walz, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rebecca Wilson, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone. **Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, 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



Journey through Lent:

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, weekly scripture reflections for Lent will be offered. "Journey through Lent" by Art Zannoni will be offered as a study group during the Lenten season by Father Brian and Deacon Mike. Everyone is encouraged to join in as we journey through Lent every Wednesday from March 8th

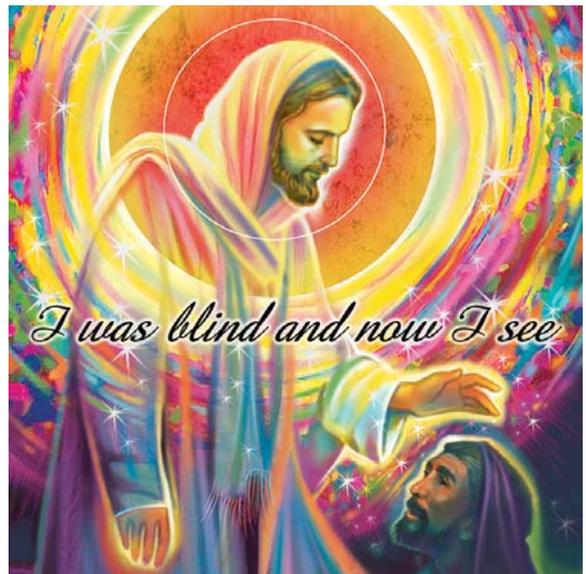
through April 12th. Sessions will start at 6:00 pm with light refreshments being served. So make it a family affair during Lent or come with your friends, this is a chance to give of yourself during this 40 days and 40 nights as we walk with our Lord.

Communal Penance Services:

Our Area Communal Penance Services are Tuesday April 4th 6:00 am St Mary's, McQuady, Wednesday April 5th 6:00 pm St Anthony, Axtel, and **Thursday April 6th 6:00 pm St Romuald.**

St Romuald Interparochial School Fish Fry:

Come enjoy a great dinner and support the school every Friday 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in SRIS Gym!



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St. Romuald Altar Society will be meeting on Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 pm due to Spring Break and Holy Week in April. Please plan on being here as we come to the close of our meeting time for this business year. We will resume our meeting time the first Thursday in August.

Nuts, Nuts, Nuts: The Altar Society has bags of Light Walnuts, Black Walnuts, pralines, trail mix, almonds and more. Nuts are available at the parish office. Beginning the weekend of April 1st we will be selling after all the Masses. Make sure to stop by for all your baking needs. With Easter and Mother's Day coming soon it's always good to have them handy for your favorite cakes or candy.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat: The Family Life Office is pleased to bring Mario Sacasa, to our Diocese for a "Married Couple's Retreat-Living the Gift of Marriage" on March 25-26, 2017 at Lake Barkley Lodge in Cadiz, Kentucky. TO register or for more info, please call the Family Life office 270-683-1545

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

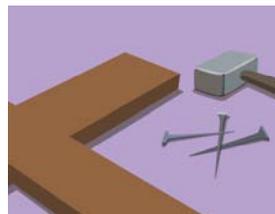
Al-Anon Meeting: Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

Good Samaritan Center Collection: As a part of my college credit theology course at Brescia University, each student is organizing a service project to live and lead with love in our communities. The non-profit organization I have chosen to support is the Good Samaritan Center. We will be collecting items such as Laundry Soap, Bath Soap, Dish Detergent, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Tuna, Shampoo, Conditioner, Diapers, Other Cleaning Supplies, and Other Canned Food in order to really help and make a difference in the lives of people here in our own community. We will be collecting these items from February 25—April 2 and donations may be brought into the Parish Office and given to Deacon Tony or dropped off inside any of the Church doors. All donations will be greatly appreciated and thank you for all your support!

Autumn Siler

Mass Etiquette Column

May I leave Mass before the final hymn? After the Mass is concluded with the blessing, wait until the priest has proceeded down the aisle before leaving the pew. We should stay to the end of the recessional and the hymn that accompanies it, if there is one. While there are certainly exceptions to this guideline, most that leave early don't need to and ought not to. Imagine how you would feel if someone left your home in the middle of the meal without even saying thank you. Before leaving the pew, please be courteous and put the hymnal back in its holder, pick up used tissues, bulletins, and other items. Leave as quietly as possible so as not to disturb others who want to stay and pray.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every one is invited to join the SRIS students on Wednesday at 12 Noon for the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross and every Friday come retrace the steps of Jesus to the cross, by praying the stations with others and meditating on our Lord's Passion at 6:30 pm.

Passion Play: We will begin rehearsals for the passion play on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the church starting March 13th. We'd love to have any 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.

Receive a Daily Email Lenten Video Message delivered to your inbox: Visit <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/#signup> to register!

St. Martin of Tours Lenten Mission: **THE POWER OF THE CROSS**

Join Sister Marie Hannah, O.P.

As she explores

Living Christ's Power and Mission in Your Life

St. Martin of Tours

440 St. Martin Road, Flaherty, KY 40175

Monday, March 27 & Tuesday, March 28

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) Seen Jesus lately?

If you want to “see” Jesus, you know where to look, right? Just stop in at your neighborhood church and the Lord will be there during Mass on the altar in the consecrated bread and wine, or in the tabernacle, or in a monstrance during adoration or benediction of the blessed sacrament. But he is to be seen in other places as well. Scripture and the church teach us that God is present in others, in the poor, and in the image and likeness that looks back at us in the mirror. Church is a great place to see Jesus. So is the rest of the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

MONDAY, MARCH 27

LENTEN WEEKDAY

What's done is done

An inexhaustible source of human unhappiness is the tendency to recall and relive painful past events. In no time at all you can find yourself digging up regrettable past events, painful memories, and long-held resentments. Fortunately spring reminds us that God is forever looking forward. Bulbs are ready to burst forth. New blades of grass emerge. Buds appear on tree branches. All of creation moves forward; shouldn't you as well?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244). “The things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind.”

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Put on your walking shoes

If it has been a while since you took a walk, this is a reminder that walking has much to commend it! There are the well-documented physical benefits of course, but walking offers powerful spiritual rewards as well. Something about the rhythm of breathing and movement quiets and clears the mind. Before you know it, you are free of repetitive, unhelpful thought patterns. You open to new ideas and fresh perspectives. Often a profound sense of optimism sets in. A good walk also can induce prayer. Saint Augustine summed it up best when he wrote, “*Solvitur ambulando*”: “It is solved by walking.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). “Take up your mat and walk.”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Do you get the message?

Before any gospel was written, the apostles preached a nugget of faith we call the *kerygma*—the “proclamation”: *Jesus Christ . . . rose from the dead, and was raised to God's right hand in heaven. Faith in this Good News will bring you salvation.* It takes all of Lent to absorb this heady message and what it means to be baptized into Christ. We enter the season and the heart of the Good News with fresh eyes and ears, as if the daffodils sprouting around us had never been seen before, as if Jesus were the new beauty and new fragrance in the air.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). “For just as the Father . . . gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Give us your best imitation of Christ

Jesus was not interested in human praise because he saw that there is often an element of self-interest in praising others. But imitation? That's a different kind of praise—the highest form—and Jesus was on board with that kind. He calls you to follow him, to imitate him, in thought, word, and deed, rather than merely pay him lip service. We gather together in worship not because that is sufficient to fulfill our calling but to gather strength and support to follow through on our vocation once we walk out the church doors. Do your best imitation of Jesus today!

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). “I do not accept human praise.”

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Uncovering the cornerstone

Though we'd like to think the cornerstone of our life is our faith, the actual foundation of our lives may be something far less permanent. Maybe our world pivots on one person, whose existence is as precarious as ours. Maybe our trust is really in our bank account, our career or position, our power of attraction or personal cleverness. Those things may sustain us through a lot of hard times, but they can also change overnight. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. No one and nothing is more reliable.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). “The one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true.”

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Dare we fiddle with tradition?

As Tevye reminds us in *Fiddler on the Roof*, there is something to be said for tradition. At the same time there needs to be room for innovation as well, lest rich traditions become ossified museum pieces. Jesus was a radical trailblazer, much to the distress of the Jewish community's deeply entrenched leadership. A living faith such as Christianity must seek anew with every generation the proper mix of tradition and change. Be part of the conversation in your own faith community by getting involved, listening and learning from others, and letting your own voice be heard.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). “So the Pharisees answered them, ‘Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?’”

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