



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 23, 2017 - Divine Mercy Sunday

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

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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, 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

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

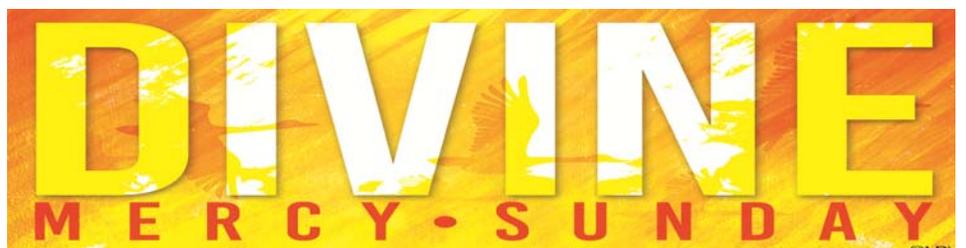
Does the Church allow sick and elderly people to have "do not resuscitate (DNR)" orders?

Yes. The Church understands the human person as a union of body and soul. Made in God's image and likeness, we cannot separate our physical life from our spiritual life. When our bodies die, our spiritual existence continues. Thus, to believe that we are morally bound to exhaust all possible medical treatments incorrectly overemphasizes the good of our physical life here on earth—which our faith teaches comprises, in the end, shadows and dust—and overlooks the good of our spiritual life as well as the eternal destiny to which we are called by God.

There comes a time when medical intervention, beyond that required to keep a person comfortable and to relieve pain, is unnecessary and can excessively burden the patient or the family. Elderly and imminently dying patients are not obligated to undertake unreasonable or excessively burdensome medical procedures or to use measures that sustain life beyond basic nursing care such as proper hygiene, food and fluids (when they can be assimilated into the body), comfortable room temperature, turning to avoid bed sores, and other means.

Having conversations with loved ones about this matter is an excellent way to find support during times of suffering and loss. "Do not resuscitate (DNR)" orders can be part of the process of letting go of the life we have known while embracing the new life that awaits us in Jesus Christ.

Source: Liguorian, March 2011



Masses for the Week

April 24TH - 30 th

Tues	1:00 pm	Special Intention (AP) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Martha Matthews
Thurs	9:30 am	Jerry Schlesinger Fam. (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	J.W. Bland (LB)
Sat	5:00 pm	St. Romuald Parishioners
Sun	7:00 am	Rodney Mercer (AM)
	10:00 am	Victor Henning

Stewardship of Finance

April 8th & 9th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$10,771.50
Building Fund	\$10.00
Children	\$7.71
Loose change for the Poor	\$45.60

April 15th & 16th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$8,375.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
Children	\$7.58
Loose change for the Poor	\$56.88
St. Romuald School	\$380.00
Seminary	\$333.00
Holy Land	716.45

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

Ministers of the Liturgy - April 29th & 30th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Pat O'Reilly Janet O'Reilly	Youth	C-Leroy Henning* C-Paul Shalosky S-Carroll Whitfill S-Matthew Whitfill	Emily Claycomb Phillip Shalosky Autumn Siler	Brenda Wheatley	Shannon
7:00 am	Tobias Curran Denise Hardesty	Patty Curran	C-Greg Hardesty* C-Michael Kennedy S-Cody Mingus S-Don Payne	Madison Anthony Morgan Tabor	Mike Wiedemer	
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables Mona Hinton Sally Hinton Tabetha Walz	Danny Shain Donny Wethington	C-Alvin Mattingly* C-Bill Monin S-Chase Robbins S-Chuck Robbins	Becca Walz Logan Walz	Patsy Whitfill	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Randy Howard Children's Liturgy: Danny Shain & Jenny Pile						



Happy Easter, again! We keep saying this until Pentecost, as we have a whole season to celebrate God's love shared with us through Jesus' death on the cross! We call today **Divine Mercy Sunday**, because God's love continues to be "*poured out*" upon us in each appearance of Jesus after His resurrection. The cross began the outpouring, as St John tells us in his gospel chapter 19 verse 34 "*one soldier*

thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out." Blood and Water flowed out! Two things to think about here 1.) Blood and Water and 2) the action of *flowing out*. Many people see this scene as the transformation of John's baptism from merely an outward sign of a simple washing baptism to Jesus' complete re-birth, internally life-giving baptism. When I imagine this shower of blood-water flowing from Jesus, I can't help but think of where else a person could see lots of blood and water, like when a baby is born. Of course, the amniotic birth fluid contains water and blood, especially as the placenta emerges and the umbilical cord is cut. My point is that I see Jesus' cross as a birth scene of His Church: His followers. And who is there? His own Blessed Mother, and that faithful, beloved disciple (John?). And what had Jesus just said? He introduced this birth idea Himself by giving His Mother and the Beloved Disciple to one another as New Family. John 19:26-27 reads 'He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother". Jesus is birthing a new family and relationship to God now available to us in Him. Let's bring in that second detail of water and blood actually *'flowing out'* upon us from Him on the cross. The 'flowing out' is an action like a 'covering', 'surrounding', 'enveloping'. Jesus is immersing us into His life through the outpouring of his heart. As he prayed Psalm 22 on the cross, he would have said "Like water my life drains away;...My heart has become like wax, it melts away...."(Psalm 22:15). Jesus, opens His Life with the Father (God) to us by pouring out Himself in death for us, to bring about **our rebirth** anew in communion with Him. United in Christ by water and blood, we become part of a new and reconciled greater family of God. Differences are overcome, oppositions are reconciled. After Jesus' atoning death for us, we have to ask, "Is blood thicker than water, or is water thicker than blood?" as they say. Our baptismal belonging to Christ, creates a new deeper and stronger bond than biological identification. But add to this the detail of the 'flowing out upon us' from the cross. This action reveals a, 'surrounding', 'enveloping', 'embracing' or 'immersing' presence of God to us. This 'covering' of us by Christ is the same as what he means saying, "**I am with you always**" (Matthew 28:20) or "that they may be one, as we are one, **I in them and you in me**" (John 17:22-23). But in case this wasn't understood by the Church at the scene of the cross, Jesus repeats such an 'outpouring' in his first appearance to the gathered disciples that Easter afternoon we read in today's Divine Mercy gospel. John

20:21-22 reads "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, **he breathed on them** and said to them, "**Receive** the holy Spirit." Here's another gesture of 'covering' and surrounding, as Jesus "**BREATHES**" upon them, giving them His Spirit. Now **both inside and outside**, the followers of Jesus have been infused and enwrapped By His Divine Presence. So we find water, blood and now Spirit bringing about our new life in God's Family! But no surprise, for just as 1 John 5:7-8 says "For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water, and the blood — and these three are in agreement." We are one in Christ by all three! Yet, even more, Jesus establishes the meaning and purpose of this life of Him in them, by commissioning them to serve the world in His Name. Jesus gives them a mandate of service. John 20:19, Jesus says, "Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, so I send you.**" But we might ask, "Send us to do what?" Jesus' next line in verse 23 gives us our work, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Our holy work in His Name is 'forgiveness of sins'. We are called to serve by reconciling ourselves, reconciling others, bringing together what is divided by sin. Divine Mercy unites, overcoming selfishness and dissolving oppositions. Jesus gives Himself, to draw back together what came apart through sin, and we are called to take up that same 'reconciling work' of making whole what is apart. Ephesians 2:14-15 says it this way, "For Christ is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh (on the cross),creating in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing **peace**." That is Divine Mercy, giving, to make one again; sacrificing, to make peace and restoring new life from death and sin. What a wonderful God we have to reveal His care of us through loving us back to life!

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

Sunday: What was my most heartfelt prayer at Mass today? Continue to offer it every day this week. Was it a prayer for someone else, or was it a personal intention? Ask for God's Spirit to discern if it is already being answered.

Monday: Am I returning to work refreshed and renewed by celebrating the risen life of Christ?

Tuesday: How did Lent change me? Have I been able to keep my Lenten sacrifices up as a sign of my ongoing conversion and changed life in Christ? If not, am I more aware of it?

Wednesday: Recall a time you received 'pure mercy'. How did the experience change you and help you see all life completely made over in light of a new beginning?

Thursday: How do I practice 'acts of mercy' toward others? Share one today with someone.

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

Saturday: Plan to arrive at Mass early and offer the rosary for world peace and the conversion of sin into grace and death in to life in this Easter season.

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.



Parish Members: Pancake & Sausage Breakfast: Apr 30, 2017 after 7AM Mass in the Parish Hall. Provided by the Knights of Columbus. See you there.

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: Robbie & JoAnn Henning will be celebrating 10 years of marriage on May 1st and Bob & Linda Rhodes will be celebrating 60 years of marriage on May 2nd

BIRTHDAYS: Anna Carrico, April 27th, Irene O'Reilly, April 30th and Jim Sills May 4th



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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!

Family Information: If you have a new address or phone number, please call the office at 270-756-2356 to update your information. Thank you.



Sympathy: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Thomas Anthony Wheatley (brother of Mary Ann Johnson) who passed away last week.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

Birthday thank you! I loved Palm Sunday and the chance to come right over after 10:00 mass to share in lunch with everyone and celebrate a birthday! Birthdays overwhelm me with gratitude, almost overcoming me: I am just thankful to God to be here, and God keeps blessing and blessing us! Being a spring birthday, but with Easter moving around, my birthday has fallen on nearly every day of Holy Week at some time or another. But, falling on Palm Sunday beats Good Friday. While I might be able to get by with unsweetened cake (?) on Good Friday, I don't think ice cream ever fits in on a fasting day! Yet again, I was thrilled to be blessed celebrating Palm Sunday and birthday with you. I am so grateful for everyone involved (Altar Society and all the helping cooks-servers!) I am just thankful to be here, and to be given another year! All of the cards and gifts were overwhelming. Thank you for being so good to me!

FFA Thank You: I would like to thank everyone for their donations to the Breck county FFA. Through your generous contribution, we were able to raise \$575 for our chapter. Thank you for your support. Deanna Arnold & the BCHS FFA Chapter

This Week at St. Romuald

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)
	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	5:00 pm	Youth Mass
Sun	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes

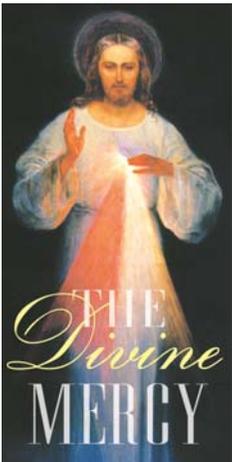
UPCOMING:

Apr 30 7-9:30 am K of C Breakfast

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Gospel-A single word – The Good News- that, even as it is spoken, becomes truth, brimming with joy and mercy. This message can never be gloomy or indifferent, for it expresses a joy that is completely personal. It is "the joy of the Father, who desires that none of his little ones be lost" (EG, 237). It is the joy of Jesus, who sees that the poor have the good news preached to them, and that the little ones go out to preach the message in turn (ibid., 5) The joys of the Gospel are special joys. ***I say "joys" in the plural, for they are many and varied,*** depending on how the Spirit chooses to communicate them, in every age, to every person and in every culture" (Chrim Mass Homily 4-13-2017)



Divine Mercy Sunday: Plan to celebrate God's Mercy towards us on the Sunday following Easter. We will be having a special celebration of divine forgiveness on April 23, with a 3:00 pm Mass. We will begin at 2:00 with Holy Hour and praying of the Chaplet, and confession will be available through the hour. Mass will begin at 3:00 (the Mercy Hour-Jesus' death on cross for us!) Plan to come!

World Day of Prayer for Vocations Called by Name

Sunday May 7th, 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 54th 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. We will follow up with them and offer resources for discernment and personally invite them to participate in our discernment programs such as, Come and See weekends, discernment retreats, and Made for More Camp. 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

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

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

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

NATIONAL



Day of
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National Day of Prayer:

May 4, 2017 at 12:00 noon in Front of New Breckinridge County Courthouse. Come pray with others on the front steps of the Courthouse as we ask God's guiding Holy Spirit upon our land for us to turn to Him for healing, for forgiveness and for holiness.

Mass Etiquette Column

Are Catholics supposed to shake hands during the sign of peace? "As for the sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. It is, however, appropriate that each person offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner." (GIRM 82) The USCCB has the authority to establish a particular sign as the official form of the rite in the US, but have never done so, leaving the unofficial custom of the handshake in place. Other gestures are also appropriate. It should not become a free-for-all meet-and-greet.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, Susan Griffin, 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, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Eric Severs, 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



AROUND AND ABOUT

The Maryland to Kentucky & Beyond 2017 Genealogy Reunion/Conference will be June 22-25, 2017 at Brescia University in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. For more information, please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/mdtoky3> and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/MDtoKYandBeyondInc/> Phone 502-366-4962/ email: marylandtokentucky@gmail.com

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 81 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.

One Day Trip to The Ark in Williamstown, KY Breckinridge County Chamber of Commerce is offering a one day trip to The Ark on May 23rd (pick up in Hardinsburg). Cost is \$99 per person. For more information call 270-756-0268.

SRIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Grandparents and Parents: 2017 Spring SRIS Tuition Raffle is going on now and will be until March 31st. Winning ticket will receive 1 year K-8th Grade Tuition Valued at \$2,800, and the winning ticket has control over when and who the paid tuition is given to. Only 250 Tickets will be sold at \$40 each so see a faculty member of SRIS or purchase one at our fish fries. If you have questions please feel free to call [270-756-5504](tel:270-756-5504).

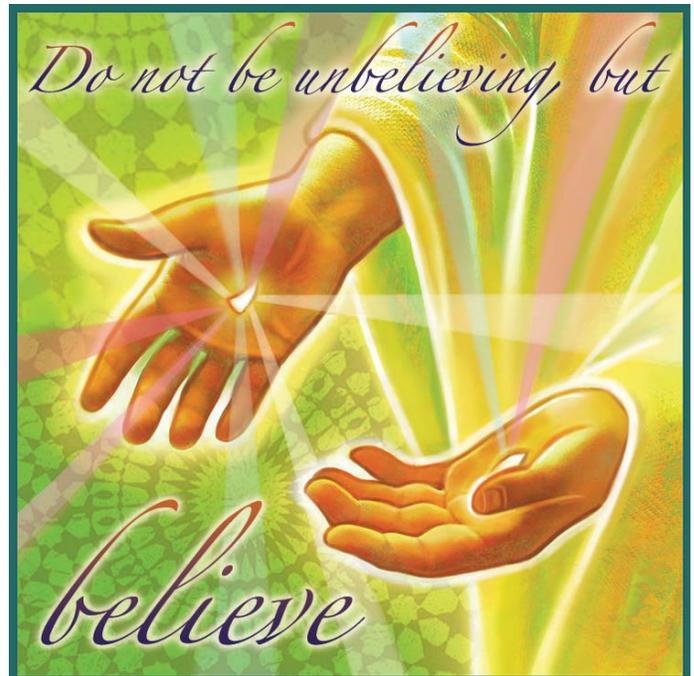
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

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 lcawile@hotmail.com for pre-school or Sheila Drane sissecretary@hotmail.com, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017
SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Live in the mystery

Musing about the ideal frame of mind for artists and writers, the English romantic poet John Keats wrote that they must be “capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts without any irritable reaching after fact and reason.” He called this state “negative capability.” The prospect of abiding in uncertainty might feel uncomfortable for us ordinary folks, but Keats understood that where uncertainty, mystery, and doubt exist, anything can happen. It’s the place where miracles are possible; in fact it’s where the risen Christ resides. As the church continues the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, today might be a good day to ponder Keats’ idea.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 4:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:19-31 (43). “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

MONDAY, APRIL 24

MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR

Support a bono cause

Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622) was martyred during a time of great strife between Calvinists and Catholics in Switzerland. Fidelis had a special love of the poor, often giving away his warm clothing in winter. He studied law and was known as “advocate for the poor” because he took on the cases of people who had no one else to represent them. The “pro bono” tradition of free legal aid continues to this day. Legal aid societies in many communities help needy clients find lawyers who will represent them without charge. Consider supporting such a worthy cause in the name of Fidelis. Visit www.findlegalhelp.org, a website of the American Bar Association, for more information.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). “Unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST

An early and enduring giant

Saint Mark the evangelist was one of the first 70 disciples. He is believed to have written the Gospel of Mark, our earliest gospel. But he didn’t stop there. He also founded the Church of Alexandria in Egypt back in the year 42, a few years after Jesus’ death. Alexandria became one of the great centers of early Christianity. Today three churches claim to be the direct heirs of the original Church of Alexandria: Coptic Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, and Coptic Catholic. Saint Mark looms large behind them all, a giant of our tradition. Take him as your inspiration as you write your own “gospel” by living your faith in the world.

TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555). “They went forth and preached everywhere.”

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

EASTER WEEKDAY

Look it up

John 3:16 (“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . .”) is perhaps the best-known scripture verse. A group in Alabama made a video of a bunch of guys noticing a sign with that Bible verse on it and looking it up on a smartphone to find out what it means. The video was rejected as a Super Bowl commercial because it promoted a particular religion,

which may be true. But it would have been a good reminder. Sometimes we have to hold up a sign, make a phone call, visit a sick friend, or forgive a loved one in order to help one another see who is already among us.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world.”

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

EASTER WEEKDAY

Take it to the next level

The gospel can be pretty tough on our tendency to dwell on earthly distractions and frivolous pursuits. Does that mean that indulging in celebrity gossip, office chatter, and daily political intrigues is not as harmless as we might hope? What about video games, shopping networks, and endless texting? They’re all fascinating and fun, but they can distract us from the more important work of care and compassion: A problem goes unsolved, a loved one is neglected, a friend gets snubbed. Allot a block of time each day to go above and beyond earthly things.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). “The one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR

Hear the gentle rhythm

Peter Chanel, who was martyred in 1841 at the tender age of 33, was one of the original members of the Society of Mary, commonly known as Marists. Today the society consists of “men and women who strive to live the gospel the way Mary lived . . . we too can hear the gentle rhythms of the grace of God in our lives by making our own her manner of thinking, judging, feeling, and acting.” Listen to Mary and you, too, can be guided by her gentleness and grace. The world needs more of this kind of strength!

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world.”

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Hatred cuts both ways

Here’s a new definition of crazy-busy: the saint who dies of exhaustion at age 33. Catherine started having visions at 7 and joined the Tertiary Dominicans at 13, not wasting any time. By 29 she served as the pope’s mediator, with reconciliation of conflict her mission in life. “Hatred deprives us of divine charity,” she declared. “How stupidly blind not to see that with the sword of hatred for our neighbors we are killing ourselves!” In every conflict, seek reconciliation and peace.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). “It is I. Do not be afraid.”