



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

January 7, 2018 - Epiphany of the Lord

## 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)

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

### **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*, 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](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

#### **School Board**

#### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

### ***What is the real meaning of the visit of the three kings to Jesus, and does that visit have meaning for us today?***

At the most fundamental level, the three kings represent all of the world's nations. These nations come and share their treasures with Jesus. In this context, the mission of the three kings can be seen as a challenge to all nations to recognize Jesus and share the treasures they have.

We can link the story of the three kings with another in Scripture—the multiplication of the loaves (see Matthew 14:13–21). In this story, the disciples represent the three kings. The disciples ask Jesus: "How can we possibly provide food for all these people?" But Jesus insists: "You yourselves give them food to eat." So the disciples divide up their five loaves and two fish, and everyone has enough to eat.

The Gospel message is that when we share what we have, then we will have enough for all. We can look at it from a broader viewpoint: When one nation shares with another, there is enough for all. We all work toward this sense of sharing in our own lives by not accumulating more than we need and by trying to share with those who have less. We can contribute on another level by being heard through our political choices and through our involvement in local, national, and international issues.

We are not perfect, but the Lord does not demand perfection. The Lord asks for progress and an honest effort. May the Lord strengthen us to share more at home and internationally, so that all of us may royally sit together at our king's banquet.

Source: Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications

*Epiphany*  
OF THE LORD

# Masses for the Week

## January 8th - 14th

Tues	1:00 pm	Harold Osborne
Wed	5:00 pm	Jeanne Rhodes
Thurs	9:30 am	Tim Hardesty (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Chester Bruington
Sat	5:00 pm	Merl Kannapel
Sun	7:00 am	Germie & Isabell Winchell
	10:00 am	Bryson Manning Miller (MM)

# Stewardship of Finance

## December 24th Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,739.00
Building Fund.....	\$35.00
Children.....	\$3.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$30.32
Christmas Collection.....	\$5607.00
Diocesan Good Works.....	\$115.00

## December 31st Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$11,988.00
Building Fund.....	\$5.00
Children.....	\$1.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$69.99
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$2,656.96

# 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 - January 13th & 14th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Amy Flood Anna Flood	Shannon Aldridge Stefan Cesarz	C-Tim Aldridge* C-Jim Bland S-Sam Bland S-Will Bland	Claire Flood Ben Aldridge	Minnie Nimmo	Pippa
7:00 am	Janet Bland Shirley Bland	Cathy Lewis	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Darrian Flood' Morgan Tabor	Raymond Wethington	Pippa
10:00 am	Rhonda Walz Kathryn Ables Lori Carwile Rosa Hockenberry	Mariah Critchelow Carlos Matthews	C-Joey Walz* C-Raymond Critchelow S-Alvin Mattingly S-Allen Wheatley	Luke Walz Sean Morton	Rosa Hockenberry	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Laura Skillman      Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



Happy Epiphany! Christmas continues! Today we hear about the Wise Men who are searching, following and looking for greater things in life. Who isn't seeking something more? More peace, more wisdom, more wonder, more faithfulness, or how many mores? Traditionally, we say the wise men are following a star. Having looked up to the sky for years, and studied past histories of constellations and world events, the wise men find a star's sudden appearance or this star's peculiar movement unique and

it leads them to leave their homes to learn more about it. What stirred their hearts so much to leave everything and go out to discover more? Last year, many people in our country found themselves in this position as 'Apoc-ECLIPSE' approached our area! We all might ask (even ourselves), "What led people last August 21, to drop everything and join great crowds, driving to areas within our country inside the 'eclipse totality zone'?" Were we seeking an experience of a lifetime, an experience of being part of 'history', or an experience that may change our routine outlook, and deepen our appreciation of God's creative magnificence as the designer of this wondrous world? The eclipse experience deepened my reverence for God as the creator-designer of this world! I think the wise men in the gospel were seeking God, too! Regardless of their immediate motivation, maybe they thought they would go 1) to write a new astronomy book and advance their science OR 2) to become part of history welcoming this new sign in the sky, marking the rise of a new kingdom or the coming of a new era ushered in by a new ruler-king! I'd say they went for both of those reasons and more! They know their science and this change in the sky marks something new coming. Beyond that, this sign in the sky opened a new period of history and maybe the rise of a saving movement in the world. Maybe they knew something or just felt called to pursue this 'new beyond'. Their study led them to God: Jesus, the Kingdom of God, and a new reorientation of their human living. It all begins with wonder and seeking! These Wise Men were seeking God, through their human pursuit of truly greater things-that something more, unknown now, but hinted at by events and experience.

**Romans 1:20** tells us that God can be known through His creation, when it says "Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made." I recently re-read a newspaper interview with Bro. Consolmagno, who is director of the Vatican Observatory while he was a guest of Fr Richard Meredith in Hopkinsville, KY during the August eclipse. The Jesuit astronomer Bro. Consolmagno said that "**Being a scientist can be a way of worshipping God.....** we can praise the Creator by studying creation, studying it honestly and finding out how God created this place. There will **never be a shortage of marvels for us to discover**" (CNS-Dennis Sadowski). Psalm 19:2, expresses the same point when saying, "The heavens (sky) declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands." The account of the Wise Men's journey is only found in Matthew. But if we refer to Luke's telling of the birth story, we hear of luminous angel messengers also in the sky announcing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14) I like how the amazing angels in the night sky (also a light in the heavens) are redirecting the shepherds to keep watch also upon human beings, turning their upward gaze laterally toward everyone around/beside them on earth. What is going on here? God through the angels is focusing our attention also upon the **wonder of human relations**, God's revelation of himself in/through **our human nature**. God in the highest is working through the earthiest! God on high has been born below. The

highest entering the lowest! That is God's wisdom! Jesus will echo that so much in his teaching, about the greatest being the least, the first being last, & the exalted being humbled in his kingdom! Yet, back to the angels. They actually say "Peace to those on earth **favored by God**". I suggest we interpret that to mean 'graced by God' in the sense that **God is factored into this experience**. Or understand it as 'Peace to those on earth **aware of God, realizing God is at work, holding God in mind, accepting God and believing in God!** If God is our ultimate reference beyond the starlight in the sky, then the angels are telling us 'the stars are awesome, but human nature and the miracle of life sitting beside you is more amazing.' Look there! The angels specifically say this when they tell the shepherds, Luke 2:12 "this will be a sign for you: **you will find an infant** wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." The same God who created and can be known through creation, made both the stars and human beings! Yet, even more close to home, God was not born a 'star' to save us, God was born human in Jesus to save us! So we can find the handiwork of God in the light of the stars, BUT so much more we find the heart/identity of God in the life of our neighbors and ourselves, too. That is something to seek and study! Yet, there is even more!

We can study the book of scripture, we can study the book of nature (which includes our human neighbors) and perhaps a final challenge is to study the book of our own selves. Who are we, and what do we bring of ourselves to present to Jesus and His Kingdom as a gift, like the Wise Men did? God who made us, made each of us unique to fill a space, fulfill a role, in this divinely designed universe. Do we know it? This may be the greatest study or seeking of our lives. It evokes in us a lot to pray about. I will close this epiphany reflection with a summary quote from a great 'creation-spirituality' theologian who lived in the 300's AD, St Basil of Caesarea. He wrote, "We are being taught the nature of other created things, but we are ignorant of ourselves. **In truth the most difficult of sciences is to know one's self.** Not only *our eye*, from which nothing outside us escapes, *cannot see itself*; but our mind, *so piercing to discover the sins of others, is slow to recognize its own faults.* Thus my speech, after eagerly investigating what is external to myself, is slow and hesitating in exploring my own nature. **Yet the beholding of heaven and earth does not make us know God any better than the attentive study of our own being does;** As the Prophet says 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made'; that is to say, **in observing myself I come to know Thy infinite wisdom.** (Hexaemeron Homily 9.6)

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

**Sunday:** What word or thought stays with me after mass today? How can I act upon it this week or put it into practice?

**Monday:** "The Wise still seek!" Do I take time each day to seek or learn something new about the world and people around me? What new may God have prepared for my finding, if I take the time to ask or search?

**Tuesday:** Practice being as amazed at your coworker, neighbor or brother/sister as you are at a starry sky or shining sunrise.

**Wednesday:** The Wise Men offer gifts! What gifts do I have to offer God for His kingdom? What does God want me to do for Him? Have you given anything today for God's glory?

**Thursday:** In what ways are the Three Kings different from King Herod as kings? What do we learn from the style of leadership exhibited by the Wise Men? How do they exercise their authority?

**Friday:** Perform an act of sacrifice or penance for the good of another person in thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice for us.

**Saturday:** Plan to come to mass early and pray the Rosary in thanksgiving for blessings received this week!

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!

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

**Parish Council & Finance Committee Reports:**

At their last meeting, parish council discussed how best to communicate with the parish matters that are discussed at meetings. Please find multiple copies of their meeting minutes in addition to the detailed monthly financial reports posted on the bulletin boards. They will be always be available there or just take a copy with you.

**Please take note of the new arrival of different titles on the CD rack.** Check them out and listen to the great topics on apologetics, prayer and spirituality.

**Christian Unity Prayer Week:** We at St Romuald will be hosting the Ministerial Association's Christian unity Prayer Service, **Sunday January 21 at 5:00 pm.** Plan to come, pray with others for greater cooperation and unity among all Christians!

**Celebration**

**BIRTHDAY:** Virginia Bickett, January 9th; Thelma Jarboe, January 9th.



**Parish Hall Keys:** If you have rented the parish hall in the last few months and still have not returned the key, please return as soon as possible.

**Funeral Meal Dishes:** We are very grateful to all the ladies of the parish who provide food for the funeral meals. There are several dishes that have not been picked up. The parish hall is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm daily for you to pick up any dishes you may have left. Thank You!

**From Sr Consolata: Thank you, St Romuald!** "On behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, I want to extend our deepest appreciation to you and the entire Members of St. Romuald Catholic Church for your generous donations of \$1,787.12 to help with the needs of our mission. Your outpouring of love and compassion for our mission has deeply touched us and this will help us to demonstrate this Christ's love for the less disadvantages mostly in Kenya and Nigeria. Thank you once again for the gift of love to the poor and marginalized in Africa. I pray that the lord Jesus will shower you with His many blessings. In Christ, Sr Consolata Ojemeh.



**Sympathy:** Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Beth Smith (Ruby Davis' sister) , who passed away. Please keep all of the family in your prayers, too, for their comfort and strength.

## This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass at Medco
	5:00 pm	Worship Committee
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sun	8:15 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes

**UPCOMING:**

Jan 20 6:15 pm Family Movie Night

## PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

### **A Word from Pope Francis:**

"Discernment is so important in the spiritual life. You who direct Jesuit students, you must teach discernment. It is what allows us to know the guiding direction of God. If you work with a Jesuit in training, who has not learned discernment and shows little willingness to learn it, even if he is an excellent scholar, tell him to look for another path. The Jesuit must be a master of discernment, for himself and for others. St. Ignatius did not ask us to do two examinations of conscience a day to get rid of lice or fleas. No, he did it because we have to examine and see what happens in our heart. In my opinion, the vocational criterion for the Society is this: Can the candidate discern or will he learn to discern? If he knows how to discern, he knows how to recognize what comes from God and what comes from the Devil. If he discerns, then advance him in his formation. Even if he does not understand much, even if they fail him at the exams, it is OK, as long as he knows spiritual discernment. Think of our own Jesuit St. Peter Claver. He knew how to discern and knew that God wanted him to spend his life serving missions among the black slaves. He gave himself upholding their dignity. What about others in the academy? While St Peter Claver was serving among the black slaves, some esteemed theologians were discussing whether or not the slaves had a soul. That shows no discernment among the scholars. Does God need that? (Conversation with Jesuit Students/Formators in Myanmar 11-29-2017).

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

**Need Marriage Help-Try Retrouvaille:** The word 'Retrouvaille' (pronounced Retro- Vie' is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program. Next Program is January 12-14, 2018 5:00 pm at Maple Mount, St Joseph. Please call Joe Bland in Family Life Office to register, 270-683-1545.

## Readings for the Week

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**February Men's Conference:** Mark your calendars- February 17<sup>th</sup> at RiverPark Center, Owensboro 8:30-4:30. Speakers will be national catholic evangelists Christopher West and Doug Barry, to order tickets visit [www.kycatholic.com](http://www.kycatholic.com) or email [msullivan@smsmlaw.com](mailto:msullivan@smsmlaw.com)

## Knights of Columbus News

### **Basketball Slam Sweepstake Tickets:**

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### We Pray For:

Don Alexander, Paula Anthony, Baby Barr, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Roy Bennett, Lorena Bland, Becky Brown, Mary Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, **Anna Carrico**, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Kayla Christian, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Rick Dale, Vonda Decker, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Cindy Getz, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Kay Harris, **Dale Henning**, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, **Patricia Miller Henning**, Tommy Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Johnny Howard, Lori Howard, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Brenda Kelly, Louise Kennedy, Angie Lawrence, **Jewell Lawson**, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Junior Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Elaine Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Emma Nottingham, Don O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Stella Prewitt, Jack Purcell, Tracy Ralston, **Mary Jo Rankin**, Kay Ray, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, Beth Smith, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, **Pam Sturgeon**, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Calla Stiith, Tessa Wadsworth, Fallon Wen, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, **Judy Wheatley**, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone. **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, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



**Kick the new year off right** with a public reading of God's word on the Court House lawn! January 1-4, there will be teams to recite the Word of God, over 90 straight hours. Teams from different churches will take on a three hour watch shift (a total of 30 watches) to ensure the proclamation of the Bible starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation. If you are interested in taking a reading shift or being a 3hour team captain, please let Fr Brian know as we try to assemble a reading team.

The Catholic Church teaches that sexual abuse is a grave moral evil. In addition to reporting incidents of sexual abuse to civil authorities, please contact the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator to report any instance of sexual abuse by a person working, either paid or unpaid, for the Church. Please use the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380.

A full explanation of the diocese's response to sexual abuse concerns can be found in the revised sexual abuse policy, which can be found in the back of church, parish office, religious education classrooms, or school office and also on the diocesan web site ([www.rcdok.org/safe](http://www.rcdok.org/safe)).

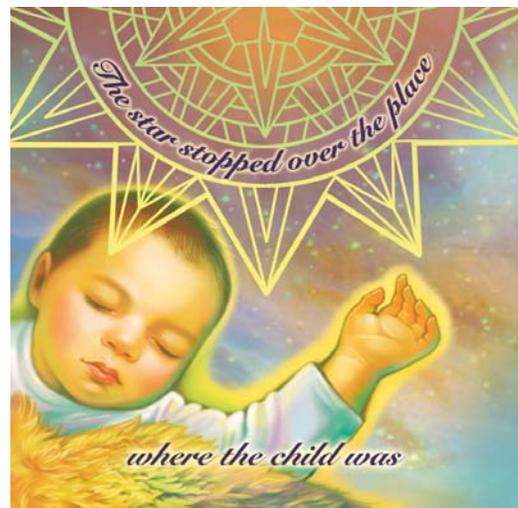
**Al-Anon Meeting:** Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

## AROUND AND ABOUT

**Catholic Faith Information:** Please check out and pick up any of the free pamphlets and booklets in the back of church about Catholic teaching and practices. They are excellent resources from the Knights of Columbus about our faith beliefs!

**Called by Name Program:** Every young Catholic man should consider all vocations, including whether or not God is calling him to priesthood. However, if not invited or encouraged to think about priesthood, it may never be considered. Many young men may have the burning question within of God calling them to priesthood, but they may be waiting for a confirmation from someone else, to nudge them into seriously pursuing God's priestly call for them. Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students and older. Any man you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation, as well as invitations to discernment retreats and other events. Tell Fr Brian, Deacon Mike or Deacon Tony, to approach them or to invite the vocation director to reach out to them.

**Opportunities for Life:** January 13-14 is the weekend designated for the Annual Collection to support **Opportunities for Life**. Opportunities for Life is a life affirming ministry of the Bishops of Kentucky. The OFL ministry is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to offer confidential, non-judgmental emotional support, and information to those affected by an untimely pregnancy. Please be generous in your support of this ministry. In addition to your generous gift, please pray for the OFL volunteers and for those the ministry serves. To learn more about **Opportunities for Life**, and volunteer opportunities with the ministry, please call 888-496-3638.



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**Sunday, Jan 07, 2018**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
Bless this threshold**

Think of everything that goes on in your home. Whether you live in a studio or on an estate, home is where the action is. Meals eaten, laundry folded, conversations shared, faults confessed, injuries forgiven, promises made, dreams spoken

out loud, victories celebrated, defeats laid to rest, births welcomed, wanderers embraced, sickness tended, disappointments endured, deaths grieved—these are the many elements by which the vitality of our homes is measured. Doesn't a space this important deserve a New Year's blessing? Celebrate a ritual for these rooms where love puts down its roots.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20).* "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."

**Monday, Jan 08, 2018**

**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
Be prepared**

Moments of great insight and personal revelation, such as the experience Jesus had when he emerged from the waters after John baptized him, are a gift from God. But the ground is ours to prepare. It is doubtful that Jesus arrived at this moment of his life, which marked the beginning of his public ministry, without having spent a good deal of time in prayer and quiet reflection. We can do the same. Working with the limitations of time and the circumstances of your life, create a time and space every day for prayer and quiet contemplation or meditation. Many people make it the first thing in their day. That way it doesn't get lost. Prepare the ground, so that when the Spirit "descends like a dove" with a revelation for you, it will find a solid place to perch.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 55:1-11; Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9; Mark 1:7-11 (21).* "One mightier than I is coming after me."

**Tuesday, Jan 09, 2018**

**FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME  
What possessed you?**

It's worthy to note that the "unclean spirits" in the gospel stories speak in the plural: "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" Why is that? The "possessed" person is one who has lost his center, whose soul is divided, split and without grounding or foundation in the "Holy One of God." He is dominated by one voice, then by another. No wonder he speaks in the plural. Today, we might take a moment to ask ourselves, *What is my center? From where do my thoughts and actions flow?* Then make any necessary adjustments.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:9-20 or 1:1-8; Mark 1:21-28 or 1:14-20 (306 or 305).* "The man with the unclean spirit cried out, 'I know who you are, the Holy One of God!'"

**Wednesday, Jan 10, 2018**

**Healer, heal thyself**

You may have heard the expression "wounded healer." It suggests that you don't have to be perfectly healthy to help others. But you have to be careful not to bring your unresolved problems into helping relationships with others, or you could do a lot of damage. Scripture makes it clear that taking care of your personal spiritual health should come first. Peter's mother-in-law took to her bed when she was ill and only served the

apostles after Jesus healed her. You can give of yourself only if you have something to give. Think about some ways you can improve your spiritual health—by doing some spiritual reading, praying more, seeking the sacrament of Reconciliation, or going on a retreat.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307).* "Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them."

**Thursday, Jan 11, 2018**

**Take in the outcast**

In the gospel era, lepers were considered rejects of society. According to the law of Moses, they had to announce their presence to everybody within earshot so they could be avoided. Yet, with a simple choice, a word, and a gesture, Jesus restored a leper to health so he could be around others without being afraid. How many people will we encounter today who, by their appearance or their language, will announce their rejection by society? Part of doing God's will is choosing to welcome the stranger and include those whom society rejects into our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308).* "A leper knelt before Jesus and said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.'"

**Friday, Jan 12, 2018**

**Stick with the basics**

The Gospel of Mark is the story of Jesus told in simple language for simple folk, without big words or extra commentary. But even without embellishment, extraordinary things happen—friendship so phenomenal that a paralytic makes an unlikely grand entrance followed by a more dramatic exit. It's plain to see Jesus works wonders, not just forgiving unforgivable sins but proving his right to do so by giving the paralyzed power to walk. If we're paralyzed today, it's because we've made life more muddled than Mark, wrapped up in rationalizations and fancy phrases when all we really need is "Jesus saves."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 8:4-7; Mark 2:1-12 (309).* "They removed the roof above Jesus, and let down the mat on which the paralytic lay."

**Saturday, Jan 13, 2018**

**MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH  
Make the ask**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers (d. 368), a midlife convert, felt great passion for the Christian concept of God—the Trinity—and fought hard against the Arians, who denied the divinity of Christ. For Hilary, Jesus wasn't simply a holy person; Jesus was the Christ, the second person of the Trinity. Therefore, Hilary argued, it is through Jesus that we find our way to God's grace: "We have been promised, and he who made the promise is trustworthy: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'" No matter what you've done or failed to do, your sins will be forgiven, if you just ask.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mark 2:13-17 (310).* "All the crowd came to him and he taught them."

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