



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

January 14, 2018 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, Marie Rose

CRE: 7-12, Gayle Poole

CRE: K-6, Kim Brumfield

Pastoral Council:

Dana Bland, Kevin Oelze,

Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Gera Jarboe, Gail Pollock

Harry Mattingly, Pam Pollock

Joellen McGary, Mark Rhodes

St. Romuald

Interparochial School:

Phone: 756-5504

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

What's wrong with memorized traditional prayers?

Archbishop Fulton Sheen encountered a woman who declared that she'd never become Catholic because they pray the same words in the rosary over and over, and she and God doubt the sincerity of anyone who repeats the same words. Sheen asked her if she was sure that her fiancé loved her. "Certainly he does." "But how do you know?" "He told me." Then she affirmed that her fiancé had told her so within the hour. When Sheen asked, "Did he tell you before?" she replied that he told her "I love you" every night. Sheen advised her not to believe him: "He is repeating; he is not sincere."

As Sheen cleverly demonstrates, the words "I love you" don't lose meaning with repetition. Likewise, prayer—whether rote or spontaneous—is a way of saying, "I love you" to God. It places us in God's presence, celebrating our loving relationship with him. Saint Teresa of Ávila, a doctor of prayer, wrote in *Interior Castle of the Soul* that it was important "not to think much but to love much" when praying. She even considered it a blessing when her mind wandered in prayer because it forced her to concentrate on loving God rather than merely thinking about him!

The right form of personal prayer, then, is the one that best expresses our love for God in a spirit of humility, confidence, and perseverance—three requirements needed for true prayer, according to another doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR



Masses for the Week

January 15th - 21st

Tues	1:00 pm	No Mass
Wed	5:00 pm	No Mass
Thurs	9:30 am	No Mass (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning
Sat	5:00 pm	Raphael Powers
Sun	7:00 am	Adam Sutton
	10:00 am	Roy H. Bennett

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection:

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,866.50
Building Fund.....	\$357.00
Children.....	\$1.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$51.50

Parish Financial Summary

July-November, 2017

Total Income	\$217,800
Total Expenses	\$211,700
	\$ 6,100

Thank you for your financial stewardship!

Worship and Sacrament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ministers of the Liturgy - January 20th & 21st

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Julie Jarboe Mitzi Mattingly	Alex Bertschman Melissa Oelze	C-Eric Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly	John Bertschman Benjamin Barr	Angie Bertschman	Shannon
7:00 am	Tiffany Davenport Faye Glasscock	Denise Smith	C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Tim Glasscock	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Margie Wethington	
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sandy Horsley Lisa Kennedy	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Mack Mattingly* C-Chuck McGary S-Bill Monin S-Griffin Moore	Mary Grace Mattingly Sydney Mattingly	Pat Whitfill	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Ann Ttritschler Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



"Cut to the Chase", is an old movie director's saying, to emphasize getting right into the action scene; driving straight into the attention-getting highpoint of the horse-riding bandit chasing the stagecoach in hot pursuit! **'Get there already!** Jesus does that today! As two disciples of John the Baptist slink in behind Jesus on a walk, he turns on them and asks point-blank, "What are you looking for?" (John 1:38). I love such a piercing question, as Jesus straight-up, confronts John's disciples about not following him if they are only caught up in following the next popular prophet, the next

fashionable rabbi-reformer. Jesus doesn't want groupies and 'clingers-on', **he wants true disciples.** So he says, "Do you want to know about my living and my teaching?", then "Come, and stay with me!" John 1:39 says that "they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day." We learn Andrew is one of the disciples and he will **STAY** with Jesus, but we do not know the other disciple's name (does that mean he didn't stay with Jesus!). Of course, Andrew will go on to introduce and bring his brother Peter into Jesus' fold! Yet, Jesus asks each of one of us as we look into the details of 'following Him', **"What are you looking for?"** I ask myself, "What am **I** looking for?" Jesus is in the serious discipleship business! As we read in the gospel of John 13:1, describing Jesus' mission, it says, "He loved them to the very end." Jesus embodies his own full call to sacrifice, going all the way to His Cross for us. He had said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and **looks to what was left behind** is fit for the kingdom of God"(Luke 9:62). He tells followers, "Don't count the cost, simply come and stay with me." Counting the cost would be looking to what was left behind! Jesus is clear about gathering in full-time, dedicated disciples. So it is like He is screening his would-be disciples by asking, "What are you looking for?" So, I have to ask myself what is my endgame, (first-string, A-Team), with Jesus, "What am I looking for?"

Back in 1987, I heard the singer Bono of U2, say in his popular song **"I still haven't found what I'm looking for!"** Some critics thought Bono was turning to 'gospel roots' (Joshua Tree) with this song. May-be! I do find that the wandering, aimless title hides some of the powerful testimony of the actual lyrics in the song, as when Bono sings on, "But yes, I'm still running; You broke the bonds; And you loosed the chains, *Carried the cross of my shame, Oh my shame, you know I believe it.*" Sounds like Bono had found it, but wanted the dramatic effect of stretching out his continuing search for greater trust, before claiming to fully commit to following through with 'belief's consequences! Maybe his own admission of lingering 'shame' is what held back his full commitment. Maybe later he sang, "I have found it! But Bono's song moves me to ask about the necessary ongoing searches and continuing questions of faith we all face that can deepen our own pre-existing belief!

Another poet, this time an Englishman, but a kindred spirit to Bono with a fondness for Bono's home Ireland, Philip Larkin, wrote about his own seeking of greater faith. His poem called "Church Going" describes his struggle with belief and finding God. Larkin starts the poem by saying he doesn't believe, **but** that his heart's fascination with churches always brings him into the building. Once there, alone, he walks through it and imagines himself in the pew, in the aisle approaching the sanctuary, even in the pulpit. He believes enough to have made this visit and entered a holy space. Then, just before leaving the building, he writes that **"Back at the door, I sign the book, donate an Irish sixpence, (and) Reflect the place was not worth stopping for. Yet stop I did: in fact I often do, And always end much at a loss like this, Wondering what to look for," (I'd say, Larkin needs an "Andrew" to make a more convincing introduction, but still God can work through others or alone eventually.)** But, Larkin ends the poem by acknowledging that the call of God is in every human heart, through the experience of hunger, desire, and seeking something more, something greater than oneself. He writes about the church

building, describing it as **"A serious house on serious earth it is, In whose blent air all our compulsions meet, Are recognised, and robed as destinies. And that much never can be obsolete Since someone will forever be surprising, A hunger in himself to be more serious, And gravitating with it to this ground."** Larkin is aware of the constant call and invitation of God to give us 'greater meaning', a fuller life and a faith that can **integrate** our human experiences and relations.

Again, Jesus asks us today point blank, "What are you looking for?" We have to ask these discomforting questions that spur us to engage life more fully; like "What are we here for? What is this all about? What is next? What came before? What really now, is going on?" Serious questions! Yet questions that prove our purpose! Jesus wants His followers to know, and to start knowing by asking the right questions and seeking the full answers. In his Epiphany homily, Pope Francis said "If we want to find Jesus, we have to **overcome** our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent **refusal to ask anything more of life.** We need to take risks simply to meet a Child. Yet those risks are immensely worth the effort, since in finding that Child-Jesus, in discovering his tenderness and love, we rediscover ourselves. (1-7-18 Homily) The **first step is the asking,** and the second step is following through, despite occasional failures like stumbling and sidestepping. In the gospel, the two disciples ask Jesus back, "Where are you staying?" And Jesus answers "Come and see, stay with with me!" Jesus is encouraging them to keep asking, yet to keep asking a little more deeply by coming to live more closely with Him. Then the disciples will ask the advancing questions like "How do you live. Jesus?, What gets you up in the morning, What keeps you going? What are you after? What is next?" We may not realize it but if we are daily praying these questions, we are 'theologians'. Who would have thought? A traditional definition of theology is 'Faith Seeking Understanding', so when we pray seeking greater purpose and life-meaning we are being theologians and in the best of company!

St Augustine is most famous for his favorite quote about the restlessness (questioning) of our hearts that can only find peace in God himself. However, I find Augustine to be most direct and specific about finding God, in this quote from his text titled **The City of God**, where he says, "Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book (of nature itself): the very existence of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, didn't write that book (of Nature) with ink. Instead He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that? Heaven and earth shout to you: "God made me!" (Book XVI). The answers are all around us! We have to reconnect and remain with Jesus-God to understand and fulfill the place God has created uniquely for each one of us. Remember that we have company in this 'seeking', such as other disciples and especially the Mother of Jesus, Mary our mother too (Mother Church). On January 1, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, we prayed in the opening prayer at Mass, "May we experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to **receive the Author of life....**" To best read, answer and understand the meaning of our lives, we have to speak and listen to our Author! We have to remain with Him, and live with him to know and experience fully his Life and Living in us. Come and See with Me, Jesus says!

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

Sunday: God issued everyone a call last today. Through Mass, what did God call me to take up or do?

Monday: Keep the Faith. How is my faith influencing me today, and how will I influence others using my faith at work this week?

Tuesday: Have I given God time enough to speak to me and direct me to fulfillment and peace?

Wednesday: Did I make any New Year resolutions? Am I keeping them or do I need to adjust them and keep at it?

Thursday: Having put away our Christmas decorations, be sure not to put away Christmas generosity and gratitude. Give a gift today.

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

Saturday: For what am I especially thankful to God for this week, and plan to come early to mass to share it with God and Church!

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

120 Bible Reading Marathon: Many thanks to the readers and helpers with our two watches on January 2, conducting the 120 Bible Marathon on the Court House Yard, participating with other churches in the county. What a great way to start the New Year, reading God's Word from Genesis to Revelation. St Romuald's two watch teams were: Dayle Riley, Dolores Mattingly, Marie Rose, Sharon Hughes, Gail Pollock, Jim Heavrin, Pam Pollock, Joellen McGary, Sarah Rebar, Chris Rebar, Pete Anthony, Deacon Tony Anthony, Brad Anthony, Sue Anthony, & Jessica Anthony! What an exciting event, to be part of proclaiming God's Good Word in our community! May His Word bring to our county what is needed!



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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE THANK YOU: To Fr. Brian, Deacon Tony, Deacon Mike, musicians, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and servers for beautiful and inspirational Christmas liturgies. How blessed we are! And the decorations are down and put away for another year. It takes a lot of work by so many people who decorated and undecorated for the Fall, Advent and Christmas seasons. Thank you to Gera & Scott Jarboe for fall, Gwen Matthews & Jill Rhodes for Advent. Christmas: Jessie Lewis; Jessica & Ava Phillips; Larry and Mary Ed Henning; Greg & Denise Hardesty; John & Debbie Dubree; Todd & Janet Board; Buddy & Kay Payne; Rudy Brumfield; Chris Brumfield; Laura Frank; Rosa Hockenberry & Natalie, Alexis & Kelsey; Maddie Milburn; Steve & Jenny Critchelow; Deacon Mike. You are a great bunch of people giving your time to make our worship space and the outside beautiful for these holy seasons. **We are especially grateful to the youth!** If you are interested in serving in this ministry, for any of the seasons, please call Dolores Mattingly or the parish office. Just a couple of hours once a year!

Family Movie Night: "All Saints" is a powerful story that's heartrending and entertaining. Pastor Michael is on fire for God. When a group of Burmese Karen Anglican refugees show up at his church, his heart goes out to them. Praying about how to feed them, Michael hears from God that they should turn the beautiful land around the church into a farm. He convinces the church council to give him until January to make a go of the farm. A movie of strong Christian faith, the story is very uplifting. Join us on Saturday, January 20 at 6:15 pm for an evening of great entertainment, popcorn and drinks will be served.

Senior Day: Happy New Year to all! Come join us on Thursday, January 25 as we welcome in the New Year. We'll be serving up some fried chicken and rolls, we ask that you bring a dish to pass. Let's put on our hats and toot our horns as we welcome in the new year senior style (which means lots of fun). We'll play some bingo and give away a few prizes. Saints of the month are, Sts. Timothy and Titus and St. Marianne Cope. Hope to see you there.

New Missalettes With Mass Prayers in Front Cover: Please note that the missalettes now contain on the inside front cover the longer prayers we offer at Mass, similar to the old Mass cards that were in the pew holders. The company beginning to offer those prayers in a more accessible place conveniently replaces now those older cards that were showing so much wear and tear. But like a good Rosary, Bible or Prayer Book that shows tattered edges and wearing, it is a good sign of them being used so much! More Prayer, More Grace, More Good!

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"One of the things the Lord respects is our human liberty, including the liberty to get away from him, the freedom to sin. God may be silent and suffers along, waiting for soul to turn again to Him, at the most opportune moment. So, we must never despair, because the Lord is good and even sly, if you will pardon the word. I would like to add something about God's slyness: I want to tell you about a work of art that strikes me. It is a chapel located in the church of St. Mary Magdalene in Vézelay, in the center of France, where the Way of St. James begins. On one side of the chapel there is Judas hanged. And next to him the devil is ready to take him away. But, on the other side of the chapel is the figure of the Good Shepherd, who has grabbed him, put him on his shoulders and taken him away. That 13th century sculptor was an artist, but in his heart he was also a theologian. He was a mystic and brave. He painted what no theologian, would dare to say officially: God is all wise. God is sly, if you will. If we look carefully at the Good Shepherd's lips, we see that he wears a joking smile as if he were saying to the devil: "I fooled you." This teaches me a lot. Always to hope ... it is the same idea that St John Vianney told the widow of someone who committed suicide, anguished over the specter of him being in hell: "Madam, between the bridge from which your husband threw himself and the river there is the mercy of God." Never forget the word mercy! (Conversation with Jesuit Students 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: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Good Samaritan Center would like to thank everyone for the donation of diapers. Thank you for being so generous.

We are need of volunteers for the Center. If you could donate a few hours a week, please call Harold Akridge at 270-668-9974 for more information.

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 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 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 4th. Ticket sale monies support the Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief Program. Deadline for ticket sales are **Mar 1st**. Contact me at 1-270-617-0754 for ticket purchases and more info. Pat O'Reilly, Grand Knight

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, 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, 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, **Linda Justice & Family**, 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



The Altar Society would like to thank each and everyone who contributed so generously to the success of our Thanksgiving dinner. To all who baked pies, cooked the meal, worked on the serving lines, help in the set-up and clean-up, sold raffle tickets or helped in any way, thank you so much. We greatly appreciated the students who also helped us—what a great bunch of kids! Thanks also to Thelma Jarboe for another beautiful quilt this year. To our dinner guests, thanks so much and hope to see you at next year's dinner. The Holiday Bazaar was also a success due to our great volunteers. Thanks to all who prepared desserts, sold raffle tickets and nuts! What a great way to start the holidays!

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	4:00 pm	Rosary
Thur	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Sun	5:00 pm	Christian Unity Prayer Service—St. Romuald

AROUND AND ABOUT

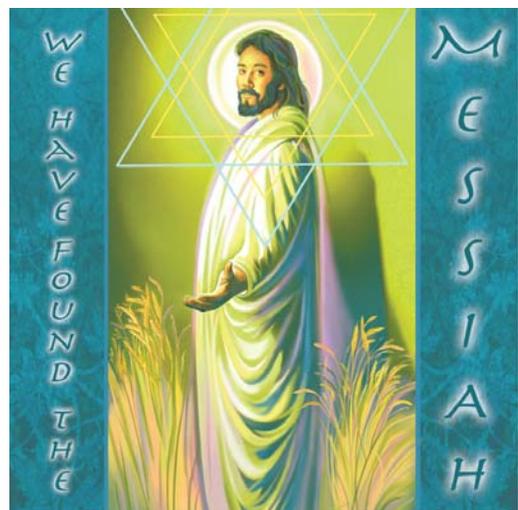
Catholic Faith Information: Please check out and pick up any of the free pamphlets and booklets in the back of church about Catholic teaching and practices. They are excellent resources from the Knights of Columbus about our faith beliefs!

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.

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.

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.

St Vincent DePaul December Report: St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. In December, a total of 37 families amounting to 130 persons (of which were 70 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$3,853.76 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.



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Sunday, Jan 14, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's your call

Most of us are leery about accepting calls from unknown sources. In the happy age of caller ID, it's as if a virtual butler brings each visitor's card on a silver tray into our drawing room. We can decline to be "home" to any undesirable contact.

Still, people of faith *do* want to be present when it's God who comes calling. How do we learn to distinguish that special voice from all the internal chatter clamoring for our attention? Veterans in discernment are helpful mentors, including pastors, spiritual directors, and the blueprint stories of past saints. Seekers, take the call!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42 (65). "Here I am. You called me."*

Monday, Jan 15, 2018

Stick with the routine

How many of us have tried to get in shape for a big event, like a reunion or wedding? We eat less, exercise, and hope to make a good impression. Once the big day arrives, there's little more to do than enjoy ourselves. That's what the apostles were doing while Jesus was in their midst. After years of praying for a savior, Christ finally arrived, so there was nothing more to do than savor the moment. The real challenge is to continue healthy practices once the big event is over so that we're more prepared for the next event. What exercises will help you prepare for the next big spiritual event in your life?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22 (311). "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"*

Tuesday, Jan 16, 2018

Sabbath prayer

While the Pharisees may have overemphasized strict observance of the Sabbath, perhaps we have swung too far in the opposite direction. Look around you on any Sunday afternoon—you'll see people shopping, working, rushing about. And most of us are right in the thick of things. While having options on how to spend our free time is a good thing, what seems to be getting lost is the notion of a qualitative difference in the pace of life, the "quiet Sunday afternoons" of times past. We all need a space in our crowded lives for time apart, time to reconnect with ourselves, our loved ones, and our God. Whatever your own Sunday choices might be, make sure you find a way to "keep holy the Sabbath." After all, as Jesus taught, the Sabbath was designed for our benefit. God doesn't need a day of rest—we do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28 (312). "The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath."*

Wednesday, Jan 17, 2018

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY, ABBOT

Go for broke

At one point in the gospels, Jesus says, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50). Saint Anthony, the fourth-century Egyptian considered the founder of Christian monasticism, would have easily qualified as Jesus' "family." Sitting one day in church, he heard the gospel passage, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow

me" (Matthew 19:21). He immediately sold what he owned, arranged for the financial support of his sister, gave the rest of his money to the poor, and went into the desert to live as a hermit. Sometimes we need a "here I am Lord" faith that gets up and does the will of God before we can talk ourselves out of it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6 (313). "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

Thursday, Jan 18, 2018

Touch the pain

When people are hurting, they seek the healing power of physical touch, just as those who followed Jesus did. Perhaps that is one reason why healing massage is one of the fastest-growing phenomena in our society. We seek to be healed physically, emotionally, and spiritually of what ails us, what causes us "dis-ease," and the power of touch can help in all these areas. Be a healer yourself, by offering a comforting hug or shoulder to cry on, a handshake of praise, a kiss to a loved one. To touch and be touched in healing, healthy ways is as natural and human as to breathe and walk. Reach out and make the connection today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12 (314). "He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him."*

Friday, Jan 19, 2018

Jesus chooses his teammates

When it comes to Christian unity, Jesus points us in an odd direction by his example. When he calls his 12 closest followers, it's not pretty: Roman collaborators, men smelling of fish, a political agitator, and a thief, among others. Many of these will never distinguish themselves beyond their denial, betrayal, and doubt of the one whom they follow. Why does Jesus make such eccentric choices? We might as well ask why Jesus wants you and me. Jesus calls whom he calls, and if we don't all go to the same church, is that his problem or ours?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19 (315). "Jesus called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him."*

Saturday, Jan 20, 2018

MEMORIAL OF FABIAN, POPE, MARTYR

Serve when called

Can a layperson be chosen pope? It happened in the year 236, when it is said that those who had gathered to elect a new bishop of Rome saw a dove alight upon the head of Fabian, an unknown layman and farmer who happened to be visiting the city. He was at once proclaimed bishop of Rome by acclamation. Fabian made important contributions to the church, including his decision to send seven bishops to Gaul to evangelize the region we know today as France and Belgium. Be prepared for service both great and small at any time of day or night.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21 (316). "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?"*

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