



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 8, 2018 - Second Sunday of Easter

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

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

When our priest raises the host during the consecration at Mass, a parishioner says out loud, "My Lord and my God!" Am I out of line to feel this isn't right?

The liturgical assembly at Mass isn't a random collection of individuals; rather, the faithful form a holy people to give thanks to God. "They are consequently to avoid any appearance of singularity or division.... This unity is beautifully apparent from the gestures and bodily postures observed together by the faithful" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 95–96). Moreover, unity is achieved in the vocal prayers and responses at Mass, "that, gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit," we "may truly become a living sacrifice in Christ" (Eucharistic Prayer IV).

The Eucharistic Prayer—the preeminent prayer of the Church—is voiced by the priest on everyone's behalf. All participate in the collective prayer by our acclamations throughout: the dialogue preface, Sanctus, memorial, and great amen. Here we express our belief in the mystery of faith and our unity in the Church's prayer.

The revised Roman Missal omitted the memorial acclamation, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," because there's no equivalent text in the original Latin and also because it's more of a proclamation of faith than a prayer.

Likewise, "My Lord and my God" is a proclamation of faith that may be for some an entirely appropriate response for a believer as the host is raised, but the Church provides three communal prayers as acclamations immediately following the consecration. Any personal expression should be said quietly to preserve the unity of the Mass. —Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR



Masses for the Week

April 9th - 15th

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Manning (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Robert Myldy (RM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Joann Bruington (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Thomas Wheatley
Sat	5:00 pm	Mita & Fred Sulpa (MW)
Sun	7:00 am	In Thanksgiving (SA)
	10:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue (PO)

Stewardship of Finance

March 25th Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$7,713.50
Building Fund.....	\$55.00
Children.....	
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$34.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$1,065.19

April 1st Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,781.00
Building Fund.....	\$220.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$75.18
Seminary.....	\$417.00
Holy Land/Good Friday.....	\$964.00

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 - April 14th & 15th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Mary Jo Rankin Whitney Roach	Stefan Cesarz Jenny Pile	C-David Basham* C-Davye Duggins S-John Roach S-Matthew Whitfill	Alaina Taul Madeline Taul	Karen Huddleston	Shannon
7:00 am	Tiffany Davenport Faye Glasscock	Janet Board	C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Tim Glasscock	Benjamin Anthony Madison Anthony	Mary Vessels	
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables LaDonna Barton Lori Carwile Ort Critchelow	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Alvin Mattingly S-Griffin Moore S-Jim Sills	Luke Walz Logan Walz	Laura Frank	Volunteer

Radio Minister: Laura Skillman

Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY



Happy Divine Mercy Sunday! The name 'Divine Mercy Sunday' was given to this second Sunday of Easter by St John Paul II on April 30, 2000 during the canonization ceremony of St Faustina Kowalska. St John Paul II was so close to St Faustina in their shared devotion to the **Sacred, Merciful heart of Jesus**. Aside from both being children of their homeland Poland, they both were also co-prophets pointing out the surest path to the greater homeland of Mercy, God's Kingdom. That surest route is known as Beatitude number 5 "Blessed are the

merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7). This Beatitude marks the track of accompanying others on the 'high-way' of receiving and sharing God's mercy, the very presence of God. When I stare at the Icon/Image of Divine Mercy, I am first struck by the direction of the blue/white and red rays beaming out toward the viewer, as if to immediately draw in whoever is looking at it. Another way of describing the outward rays would be to say that they bathe/shower the viewer in the graces flowing straight from the heart of the Savior. Like Christ's opened heart, Divine Mercy never remains closed in on itself, but spontaneously spills out upon those around it. That is how God works. God is Mercy. John 17:26, has Jesus saying, "Father, **I made known to them your name** and I will make it known, that **the love** with which you loved me may be in them and I in them." Back in 2016, Pope Francis published a book titled, "The Name of God is Mercy." Naming God 'Mercy' is not new to Pope Francis, as St Faustina Kowalska had recorded in her diary back in the 1930's that Jesus spoke to her in prayer saying, "I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls" (Diary, No. 1074). Also, St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies**" ('Jesus', aka 'Mercies') and God of all encouragement.." Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45) reveals that 'mercy received' becomes 'mercy shared' and given for all. John 17:22 says "I gave them what you gave me." So to know God's Name means that we behave mercifully toward others with similarly opened hearts pouring out concern and extending service to any person hurting or in need. Both saints, John Paul II and Faustina clearly teach this 'outward direction' of mercy-service. St John Paul preached in his April 30th 2000 homily, "The path of mercy re-establishes the relationship of each person with God, but **also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human** beings. Christ has taught us that "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called "to practice mercy' towards others....He also showed us the many paths of mercy, which not only forgives sins but **reaches out to all human needs. Jesus bent over every kind of human poverty, material and spiritual.**" Long before, St Faustina had written in her Diary, "I feel tremendous pain when I see the sufferings of my neighbors. **All my neighbors' sufferings reverberate in my own heart;** I carry their anguish in my heart in such a way that it even physically destroys me. I would like all their sorrows to fall upon me, in order to relieve my neighbor" (Diary, p. 365). When we open ourselves to receive God's Mercy, God opens us even more greatly to be merciful toward others. When the love of God is our measure, what an overflowing degree of compassion is unleashed in us. We see this love of God most, in that first appearance of Jesus to the apostles locked in the upper room on Easter Morning. To understand the depth of immense love in this exchange, please keep in mind that this is the first time Jesus speaks to the gathered group of his followers following all of the brutal torture and death he patiently underwent for us. Also, remember that his followers fearfully abandoned him. On this day of 'reckoning', Jesus, now face to face with his 'cowering and weak' disciples and with His torn flesh still open and wounds fresh, the First Word out of His mouth is **"Peace"** (John 20:19). In case they didn't hear it, he repeats it in verse 21, and goes on to give them the Holy Spirit and the authority to forgive others in His Name. That is quite some patient 'forgiveness' to marvel over, imagining Jesus' loving expression

and compassionate consideration of their weakness and past sin, after they personally hurt Him. That alone is enough to make this 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' Yet, the next movement of mercy involves what will happen among the disciples. And this brings in Thomas! Or should bring in 'Thomas'!

We often call Thomas, the 'Doubter'. I notice the word 'doubter' has the same root as **'double'**. I could see that indicating that 'to doubt' means 'having two minds about something' as if something could go one way or another way. The more ancient Latin root of **'dubitare'** means 'to waver between options' reflecting 'uncertainty' and has a 'double sense' of more than one possible outcome, such as in a 'duo', 'dual' or a 'duet' of possibilities, And I love 'Thomas' own name, which John 11:16 introduces as "So Thomas, called Didymus...,". 'Didymus' is the Greek word for **'Twin'**. Two times!, like in the old Wyclef Jean and Lauryn Hill song 'Killing me softly'. So the whole event of Thomas with the other disciples or without them, poses a 'Decision Point', asking 'Which way now?' Again, keep in mind that at that first appearance Jesus gave them 1)peace, 2)the Holy Spirit and 3)authority to 'forgive'. What do you think Jesus was calling from His Church by giving such to them?

I notice that in the scriptures, Thomas always liked a good question. In John 14:5, "Thomas asked Jesus, "Master, we do not know where you are going; **how can we know the way?**" Questions often reveal more about our standing, than do our incomplete or partial statements. The Frenchman Pierre-Marc-Gaston, (1764-1830) said, "A man is better understood by his questions, than by his answers." **Thomas wants to know**, and he is not afraid of asking the Lord point-blank, "What are we supposed to do, now?" But more than any specific question Thomas might ask, **I find Thomas Himself to be a question.** Where was Thomas? What business did he have not being with the other gathered disciples? Why was alone? Didn't Jesus command that the disciples be sent out 'two by two' (Mark 6:7)? Some people have guessed that Judas was Thomas' partner, and now that Judas is out of the picture, Thomas is suddenly the odd man out! If Judas did such an evil act against Jesus, what if Thomas colluded with him in some way? Were the other disciples ostracizing Thomas out of fear and suspicion? So Jesus takes this 'drama' opportunity to impress upon the disciples their need to overcome distrust and division, by active inclusion and involvement. Thomas belongs with the others, **especially** after losing his partner. And Jesus patiently appears twice (**without** and then **with** Thomas), to ensure that Thomas is rehabilitated and restored to apostolic communion with the others. I think Jesus is saying, "Accept Thomas, forgive Thomas, keep Thomas in your company." As Jesus always does, He is modeling the conduct he desires of His disciples. Jesus wants everyone included in His mission of mercy. What we receive, Jesus wants us to share. Jesus goes in and out (2x) of His way to ensure that Thomas is included in His resurrection appearances and miracles. I like to keep in mind that at Jesus' Last Supper, Judas was present. John 13:12 tells of Jesus washing **all** of his apostles' feet, and John 13:26 even tells of **Jesus 'feeding' Judas** before Judas turns against Him. Jesus does not want anyone left out. His mercy is all-inclusive, and unbounded. That is Divine Goodness! Being included as recipients of God's **patient** forgiveness, we are called to imitate His goodness. 1 Peter 3:9 reads "Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, **return a blessing**, because to this you were called, that you might inherit blessing."

Pope Francis ties together all of these themes of 1) asking deeper questions, 2)being touched, and touching others with God's mercy, and 3)God loving us into the greater love we can extend to everyone else, in a March 13, 2015 homily, where he said, "**Jesus reminds us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when we have a person in front of us. We are called to look through, to focus on the heart, in order to see how much generosity everyone is capable of. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; Jesus is the way to access it. The Church is the house where everyone is welcomed and no one is rejected. Her doors remain wide open.**" Like the Sacred Heart, open to all!

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!

St. Romuald Altar Society meeting April 12th at 5:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

Family Movie Night: Come join us on Saturday, April 21st, as we view the movie "Lukewarm" starring John Schneider... "Luke started out on the right path, but lately he has lost his way. Growing up without a dad was hard, and now Luke must decide if he can forgive his father and get his life back on track." Join us for popcorn and a drink and some good old family entertainment, at 6:15 pm, April 21st.

Senior Day will take place on Tuesday, April 24th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, with discussion of the saints on our agenda. St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert and St. Anselm will be on the table for discussion. Along with some good old fashion home cooking, we will be serving fried chicken and rolls. Bring a pal, bring a buddy, bring a friend and enjoy a day of fellowship at St. Romuald Senior Day.



Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Robert Wilson (Irene O'Reilly's brother). Please keep his family in your prayers.

Hardinsburg Community Blood Drive, Tuesday, April 17th, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Hardinsburg Baptist Church.

Picnic Meeting, April 11th, at 4:00 pm in the parish hall. Everyone is invited!!!

Silent Auction Donations Needed: Baked Goods, Fresh Vegetables, Home made Items, newly purchased item of any kind, baskets (such as a wine basket), restaurant certificates, tickets to theme parks etc. Please contact Brenda Elder at 270-617-0176 or Sheila Sills at 270-993-8166 for more information.

If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like Holy Communion brought to them, please call the office at 270-756-2356.

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 lori.carwile@stromualdschool.org for pre-school or Sheila Drane sheila.drane@stromualdschool.org, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Rita O'Reilly, April 12; Shirley Robbins, April 16th; Raymond Wethington, April 16th.

ANNIVERSARY: Tony & Lyvenia Anthony will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on April 14th

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 (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	5:00 pm	Altar Society Meeting
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat		Jennifer Jeffries/Nathan Hall Wedding
Upcoming		
Apr 17	6:30 pm	Rebuilding after Divorce
Apr 20	3:00 pm	1st Communion Prayer Day

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, **Debbie Bowlds**, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, **Joe Hess**, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Joe Miller, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Janet O'Reilly, Peggy Phillips, Joan & Tom Powers, Joe Priest, Mary Jo Rankin, Rita Roach, Kimberly Rolen, Suzanne Rose, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, Pam Sturgeon, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Diane Whitney, Leona Whitworth, Anne Wolfe. **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, Lane D. Taul, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth

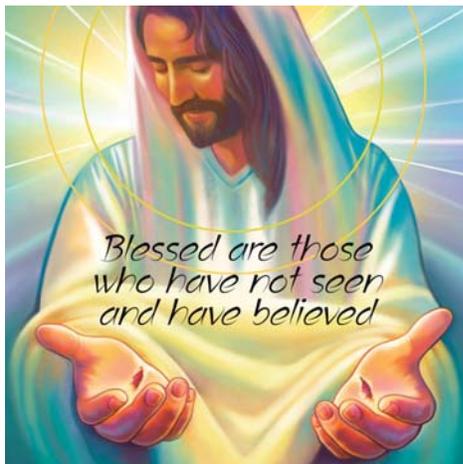


Knights of Columbus Events: If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having an exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. Hardinsburg Council will conduct a membership drive after each Mass at St Romuald on April 21-22. Please considering joining us. For more information visit www.kofc.org.

Put on your calendar to take your family to breakfast on 29th of April, 8 am at St Romuald's Parish Hall, compliments of the Knights of Columbus. Coffee, milk, juice, sausage and gravy.

Knights of Columbus-Hardinsburg Council Members and Family: Come out and celebrate our clergy at our Annual Clergy Recognition/Appreciation Dinner, Patio Steakhouse, Tell City Indiana , 27 April 2018, 5:30 PM (CST)

Clergy: Fathers Brian Johnson, Dan Kreutzer, Tony Stevenson, and our Deacons Tony Anthony and Mike Wiedemer. Meals for Clergy will be provided by Hardinsburg Council 2499 . Please RSVP to GK Pat O'Reilly: by April 20 with number in party. "



AROUND AND ABOUT

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.

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

Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce

The offices of Marriage & Family Life and Tribunal are collaborating on Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce, an informal panel discussion where panelists will share witness stories from their own experience of divorce. Sessions are scheduled in four locations across the diocese to allow multiple opportunities to attend. (The Tribunal Office will conduct a follow-up session in each location a month later to offer information regarding declarations of invalidity.)

Monday, April 9@ St. Thomas More, Paducah, 6:30 pm

Tuesday April 17 @ St. Romuald, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 24 @ Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 1 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, 6:30 pm

Find these dates and the follow-up sessions by visiting Owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

ST PAUL SCHOOL GOLF SCRAMBLE: St. Paul School in Grayson County is having their annual Golf Scramble, at Shady Hollow Golf Course in Cub Run. There is an entry fee of \$50 per person, or \$200 per team. There will be lunch provided, and many prizes given away. To register a team, please contact the school at 270-242-7483, or contact us via email at joanbutterworth@mediacombb.net. We are also looking for businesses to be hole sponsors for this event. To sponsor a hole, it will be \$100 per hole. To do so, contact the school at the same addresses.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Mark 16:20 says "they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs." The Lord is present in the preaching: from the beginning, he accompanies his disciples; he never leaves them alone, not even in the worst moments. Never. This is the basis on which the story of the Church begins as is summarized in the first eight chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. We hear about sermons, baptisms, conversions, miracles, and persecutions. We also hear about the ugly sin of those who approach the Church still carrying out their selfish affairs, like Ananias and Sapphira, benefactors who in effect swindle the church. But through all of the hardship of preaching the gospel, the Holy Spirit and joy carry the disciples along. Acts 8:26 has Spirit tell Philip, 'Rise and go'. This is a sign of evangelization and a sign of the Church. The vocation of the Church is to evangelize; it is her great consolation; to evangelize. The Spirit didn't say, 'remain seated, at ease, in your home'. No! In order to be faithful to the Lord, the Church must be on her feet and on the move: 'Rise and go'. In fact, a church that does not rise, that does not journey, becomes sick and ends up closed in on itself, with psychological and spiritual trauma, closed up within a world of gossip and of worldly things without horizons". The invitation, however, is clear: 'Rise and go, get on your feet and get moving'. And joy came about through the evangelizing. As Philip met the eunuch on the road and they talked, Philip sensed the Spirit working in the eunuch, and the eunuch himself asked for 'Baptism'. The Lord was working in him. Philip had to listen closely to both the eunuch and the Spirit and understand God's working, so that when they reached the water, it was the eunuch who asked for Baptism. The Spirit was at work within them both to bring it about. Let all evangelizers listen and allow the Spirit to work in people's hearts, so that we can all like the saved eunuch (Acts 8:39) 'go on our way rejoicing'. The Spirit is the joy of Christians!" (Meditation 5-4-2017)

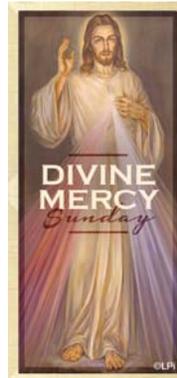
Encountering the Gift of Marriage

The office of Marriage & Family Life would like to invite all married couples in the Diocese to Encountering the Gift of Marriage retreat being held April 13-15 at Kenlake Resort Lodge in Hardin, KY. The retreat will be led by Bob Perron, co-founder of Catholic Marriage and Family, Inc., who will use humor and personal experiences to encourage and inspire couples. Encountering the Gift of Marriage offers married couples a chance to get away and deepen their relationship in a beautiful, relaxing setting, and includes Saturday evening Mass, social times, and a chance for confession. Registration link can be found at owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
- 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 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

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.



Divine Mercy Sunday: Plan to celebrate God's Mercy that resurrects us from sin and death! Next Sunday (April 8) at 3:00 pm (Mercy Hour!) We will begin a Holy hour at 2:00 pm for the chaplet/personal silent prayer and confession will be available until 3:00 pm when we begin offering Mass. As a reminder the Mercy indulgence involves celebrating confession a week before or after the Holy Day, participating in Mass that day, offering the chaplet and praying for the intentions of Pope Francis!



Sunday, Apr 08, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Who taught you mercy?

Moral leaders agree that the number one lesson we need to teach children is mercy. If the next generation is to survive in an ever-shrinking world full of very different cultures, the willingness to seek understanding and to dialogue across worldviews is key. The starting point for that kind of empathetic listening is a heart open to compassion. Compassion literally means “to bear with”: to see and feel another’s burdens. Who taught you mercy, and how will someone learn it from you?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31 (44).* “The community of believers was of one mind and heart, and . . . they had everything in common.”

Monday, Apr 09, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The three best words

Mary is the mother of the church and the model of all Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all reason and offered her life in service of God’s plan. Her response, “let it be,” is the answer of every disciple who trusts in God’s word to make all things new. In the season of Lent, God invites us to believe that we, too, are called to that service. Even though we are sinners—“how can this be?”—we live in hope of God’s forgiveness and trust that God will work through us to bring about the fulfillment.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545).* “Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’”

Tuesday, Apr 10, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Be prepared to testify

In the Book of Acts we are told that “with great power the apostles bore witness to Resurrection.” In fact, said Benedictine monk Columba Stewart in *National Geographic*, the “apostles were the movement’s cutting edge, spreading the message across the vast trade network of the ancient world and leaving small Christian communities in their paths.” This missionary zeal is passed on to each new generation of Christians, but it takes different forms. Today, although many Christians still travel to foreign lands to serve the poor and give witness to Christ, believers are also encouraged to evangelize—spread the gospel—within their own homes, parishes, and local communities. How is your evangelization going? Hint: They should know you are Christian by your love.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268).* “We speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen.”

Wednesday, Apr 11, 2018

MEMORIAL OF STANISLAUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR

Whom do you follow?

Like Archbishop Óscar Romero of El Salvador in the 20th century and Thomas à Becket of England in the 12th century, Saint Stanislaus (c. 1030-79) was, according to tradition, killed in church, in this case while celebrating Mass. Stanislaus’ murderer was the king of Poland, with whom he had a number of disputes over land and the king’s harsh rule. Throughout history the church has come into conflict with the powers that be. Jesus, of course, was put to death by the religious and political authorities of his time. Dorothy Day, of Catholic Worker fame, wrote in 1966: “Every new development for the last three centuries has brought [human beings] closer to the state of affairs in which absolutely nothing would be recognized in the

whole world as possessing a claim to obedience except the authority of the State.” But for Christians, she said, Christ must be our guide. Who’s yours?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269).* “But whoever lives the truth comes to the light.”

Thursday, Apr 12, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Listen to the right voice

If it’s all up for grabs, why pay attention to what others teach or preach when everyone has their own relationship with God? After all, the Bible says, “Obey God, not humans.” Well, yes—and no. Indeed the buck does stop with God in that we are oriented by our nature to listen to God and respond to God’s call. But there’s a lot out there to compete with our natural inclinations—fear, vulnerability, peer pressure, misinformation, and more—all of which can provide compelling alternative messages. Fortunately God graces us with not only our own lights but scripture and the church to give us a better sense of how to navigate. Think about the ways in your own life that God uses to connect with you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270).* “We must obey God rather than men.”

Friday, Apr 13, 2018

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR

Gone should not be forgotten

Saint Martin is the last pope in history to be honored as a martyr, but his death for the faith did not occur quickly. After being elected pope in 649 he made enemies by opposing a heresy and condemning the emperor for supporting that heresy. As a result, while lying sick, Martin was kidnapped and carted off to the East, where he was jailed and eventually exiled. During this time he was given poor food, not allowed to wash regularly, and came down with dysentery. On top of that he was ignored by his church back home. “I wonder . . . at those who belong to the church of Saint Peter for the little concern they show for one of their body,” he wrote. Let this saint’s experience motivate you to perform the corporal works of mercy denied him—like clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and visiting the prisoner.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271).* “There was not a needy person among them.”

Saturday, Apr 14, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

It is I

Jesus had sent the disciples on ahead of him in a boat. During the night the going got pretty rough. In the midst of their struggle—remember, they were rowing—Jesus came toward them on the water, a startling development even though it meant rescue. Jesus allayed their fears with three words: “It is I.” Actually, it’s only two, in Greek: “I am.” Sound familiar? They are the words God uses to identify himself at a number of places in scripture. So Jesus isn’t merely saying, “Don’t worry, it’s me.” He’s declaring that he is God but also that God simply *is*—the foundation of everything. Next time you find yourself rowing against the waves of trouble, remember you’re always on solid ground with God.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272).* “He said to them, ‘It is I. Do not be afraid.’”

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