

ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

May 20, 2018 - Pentecost Sunday

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

There are many gifts given by the Spirit, but I don't understand "speaking in tongues." What is the significance of this gift?

You are probably speaking from the experience of a "charismatic" prayer service, in which an individual suddenly enters into an ecstatic state and begins speaking what sounds to others like gibberish.

Sacred Scriptures offer us some examples of this phenomenon. On the day of Pentecost, for example, the apostles were overtaken by the Holy Spirit and were understood by people of many nations, each in his or her own tongue (Acts 2:3-4, 6). The phenomenon occurred again when the first Gentiles were converted to the faith: Peter heard them "speaking in tongues and extolling God" (Acts 10:46). Paul, too, saw the ecstatic condition of the people he confirmed (Acts 19:6).

Saint Paul reminds us that speaking in tongues is one of many gifts the Spirit may bestow upon a person (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30), but that, above all of them, there is love (1 Corinthians 13:8). He tells us that, like the gifts of prophecy and knowledge, so also will the gift of speaking in tongues come to an end. Love will prevail.

We must remember Paul's words as we contemplate all the gifts of the Spirit: "So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:39-40).

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

PENTECOST  SUNDAY ©LPI

Masses for the Week

May 21st - 27th

Tues	1:00 pm	Martha Matthews (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Lorena Bland (GT)
Thurs	9:30 am	Casey Mattingly (Medco)
	6:00 pm	8th Grade Graduates
Fri	9:00 am	SRIS Faculty & Students
Sat	5:00 pm	Mary Rita Whitworth
Sun	7:00 am	Bert & Rugene Hinton
	10:00 am	Beavin Thornsbery

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,488.00
Children.....	\$0.12
Building Fund.....	\$165.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$58.10
Radio Ministry.....	\$206.00
Catholic Communications.....	\$105.00

Parish Financial Summary

July-April, 2018

Total Income	\$465,600
Total Expenses	\$422,300
	\$ 43,300

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 - May 26th & 27th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Mary Jo Rankin Whitney Roach	Lynn Tuell Jennifer O'Reilly	C-John Roach* C-Arnold O'Reilly S-David Basham S-Leroy Henning	Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor	Dayle Riley	Shannon
7:00 am	Tiffany Davenport Faye Glasscock	Pete Anthony	C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Tim Glasscock	Benjamin Anthony Madison Anthony	Mary Vessels	
10:00 am	Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne Rosa Hockenberry Joellen McGary	Deanna Arnold Sarah Arnold	C-Zack Payne* C-Raymond Critchelow S-Ethan O'Donoghue S-Ron O'Donoghue	Jacob Brown Justin Brown	Susan Arnold	

Radio Minister: Laura Skillman Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY



Miracles of Pentecost! What is more amazing? The miraculous physical signs of 1) surprising strong winds coming out of nowhere alongside individual fire-flames suddenly appearing above the heads of the apostles or 2) the accompanying sounds of a new language that soothes each person's heart with good affections toward all people, or 3) the actual gathering of many different groups and cultures in one place not fighting but validating each other's heritage- that everyone could find God present in each different person?

Pentecost is God breaking through our superficial differences, to reveal our created dignity and unity as one human family, removing all our excuses for bias and discrimination. We may not feel that we are prejudiced but if we examine ourselves closely, bias is inevitable. Stemming from our own sin/imperfections, our own partialities and favorites naturally grow to the level of offensive and discriminatory attitudes against some 'other' one or some other groups. Yet, Pentecost shows the Holy Spirit breaking through all divisions, crossings all races and uniting peoples from all over the known world at their time back then and for us now! The Old Testament is full of tribal enmity and deadly prejudice (some mistaken Christians even find justification for racism in certain Old Testament passages!!). Yet before we think racism is only a thing of the old past, we have to face that the New Testament has its share of blood arrogance and racial discrimination, such as we hear from even the disciple Nathanael in John 1:46 when he says "Can *anything good* come from Nazareth?" or from the woman at the well in John 4:9 "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" But from Christ Himself, we hear about His clear and unifying mission to eliminate all prejudice. Jesus came, He said, to "draw all people to Himself" (John 12:32). He prepared His followers to open themselves more inclusively to other ethnicities and land areas, when he told them in John 10:16 "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." In the gospel, prejudice once rose up among the apostles about some people deserving punishment just because of where they live d (maybe like people say with prejudice at times about New York, New Orleans, Las Vegas, Holly wood, or San Francisco), Jesus clearly erased any prejudicial distinctions in their minds about making judgements just based on geography, whether they be Jerusalemites or Galileans. In Luke 13:2 & 4-5, Jesus said, "those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Geography or ethnicity means nothing to God who made us all. The apostles 'got the memo' against racism as we can see in Peter's later sermon-speech in Acts 10:34, where he preaches, 'God shows no partiality'. Paul later preaches the same message of universal inclusion within God's Kingdom when he speaks with the Athenians, in Acts 17:26 that "God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth."

Jesus' gospel on racism is simple: 'There will be none of that!' Jesus could say to us, "That person you want to judge and put down because of their skin or homeland, I died for him/her. As soon as you die for them, you can judge them!" How dare I hold a judgement against someone Jesus gave his life for? Jesus' sacrificial death was for every human person. Or who of us would dare make a distinction about human worth/dignity where God has not? Again, it happens easy enough that we do put down others or even justify cruel treatment of others based only on superficial looks or different customs. Every group has its own 'whipping boy' to drag out and scapegoat for all of its own problems. I am reminded of an old Roger Water's song called 'Perfect Sense' about our prejudicially favorite enemies (Roger was once the lead singer for Pink Floyd)! He sang that there's an ounce of pride in each ledger, so the Germans

killed the Jews, And the Jews killed the Arabs, And Arabs killed the hostages, And that is the news'. Going down a chain-list of prejudices, every group under pressure lashes out at its 'favorite enemy'. Such tribal animosity goes back to the first two tribes of Cain and Abel. Even just between the two of them, they could not live together without asserting their own superiority over the other out of perverse jealousy. Such historical feuds continue even when original causes are remedied, and people even have forgotten the first offense! Over time the excuse for our hate becomes, "They are not like us, they are just different." As if that alone justifies us acting like they are less and lower than us, or treating them like animals. Interestingly, when we disrespect others prejudicially, we simply reveal our own 'low-mindedness'. So who is acting 'animal-like'? But Jesus calls us to rise above, (get over) and listen to the different languages (inner voice) of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants us to see the separate flame of (inner fire) which is His Holy Spirit in each other person and to realize original unity of all the human family and God's intended plan of purposeful life and peace among all people.

So we all need to repent of this matter of original sin and our preferential pride, that tends to selfishly only lift up and love our own group over and against any outsider who doesn't look like or talk like us. Pentecost sweeps Holy Spirit into our hearts, opening us to hear God's voice through a different, yet universal language. God alone who tells us in Revelation 2:23 that He is the one 'searcher of hearts and minds' and in Psalm 139 that God alone 'formed me in my inmost being'; this One God speaks to every human heart through the Holy Spirit. God's message for unity, and of us accepting one another as a fellow precious family member, is behind every teaching word of Jesus, from the basic answer to the question 'Who is my neighbor?' (Luke 10:29) "EVERYBODY" to the undeniable clarity of Jesus living within each human person when he said, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). God extends human belonging in His Family to His every created and loved child! That revelation of unity is Pentecost. Such an eventual reunion of all people in Christ will raise the roof, and blow out the walls, opening up the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!

I say we have a little Pentecost at every Mass! Especially in the Eucharistic Prayer just after the consecration, we always pray, opening ourselves to greater unity with others, by invoking the Holy Spirit and asking for the Spirit's guidance to draw us closer to one another. In Eucharistic Prayer #2, we hear "Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with our Pope and our Bishops and all the clergy." Or in Eucharistic Prayer #3, the priest prays, "Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love unite all your children wherever they may be. Through these prayers from now on at every mass, watch more closely and see if you hear the unifying language of the Spirit in your mind, and feel the warming of compassion for others in your heart! *Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth!*

Sunday: Did I experience any insight or revelation from God through my prayer today at mass? Did God give me a spiritual job or task to accomplish this week?

Monday: Am I prejudiced? What upsets me? Who angers me? Might I have a prejudicial bias against them? Pray about what bothers you from them.

Tuesday: Do I work well with others? Am I constantly building community and cooperation among people? Or do I aggravate differences?

Wednesday: Try a new language. Have you ever learned a new word from another language that deepened your appreciation of an old word you use all the time?

Thursday: Do I feel the Holy Spirit warm my heart about working in sync with God's will?

Friday: Perform an act of penance or work of mercy for someone. Pray to forgive an enemy.

Saturday: Come to mass early and pray a rosary for peace in the world and greater cooperation among nations and people. Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Let nothing prevent you from the Journey of Faith!! If you or someone you know is interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or becoming a Catholic, please call the parish office 270-756-2356 or contact Fr. Brian, Marie Rose, Deacon Tony or Deacon Mike. **We will walk with you!**



It is never too late to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation!! Are you a high school student or adult *who faithfully attends Mass*, but has never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? We welcome the opportunity to help you prepare to receive that sacrament! Please call the parish office 270-756-2356 or contact Fr. Brian, Marie Rose, Deacon Tony or Deacon Mike.

Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Nominate a Catholic school teacher to receive the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award through the Catholic Schools Office and the Principals Association. Visit owensborodiocese.org/educator-award <<https://owensborodiocese.org/educator-award/>> for complete details and an online nomination form. Deadline to submit a nomination is July 1, 2018.

Picnic News

Silent Auction Donations Needed: Baked Goods, Fresh Vegetables, Home made items, newly purchased items 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.

Stuffed Animals: Donations of new or gently used stuffed animals are needed for our picnic. Baskets are at the doors of the church or you may bring them to the church office.

Meat Donations: Rudy & Kathy Brumfield will be collecting meat donations again this year. The donation is \$50. The meat is the biggest expense for our picnic and your \$50 donation is greatly appreciated. You may mail your donation to Rudy & Kathy Brumfield, 333 Hillside Drive, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked Meat Donation or drop it by the church office.

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: Jack & Denise Smith, May 29th, 25 Years and Chris & Lori Carwile, May 29th, 25 Years.

HELP NEEDED: St. Romuald is hosting the Breckinridge County High School Choral group for a performance in our church at 4:00 P.M., Sunday, May 20th. The Altar Society is planning an appreciation reception in the gym after the performance. We are in need of the ladies in the parish to bring homemade cookies, brownies, bar cookies or any kind of finger sweets. This will be a large group with all the chorus, parents and any from the public that might attend. We therefore will need assistance from parish members. Please drop off in the gym by 3:00 P.M. that Sunday, May 20th. Thanks for your help!

Family Movie Night: A retro modern love story "Old Fashioned" is a breath of fresh air. Former frat boy Clay Walsh, has given up his reckless ways, and now runs an antique shop. He has become notorious for his theories on love, until he meets Amber, a free spirited young woman. Together they attempt the impossible...an old-fashioned courtship in contemporary America. Join us Saturday, May 19th for a movie that is lighthearted and fun to watch. Popcorn and drinks will be served, be here at 6:15 for an evening of fellowship.

This Week at St. Romuald

Sun	10:00 am	High School Graduates Mass
	4:00 pm	BCHS Choral Group
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	Pastoral Council
Wed	10:00 am	Senior Day
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	8th Grade Graduation
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sun	11:00 am	Dedication of St. Francis Statue

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

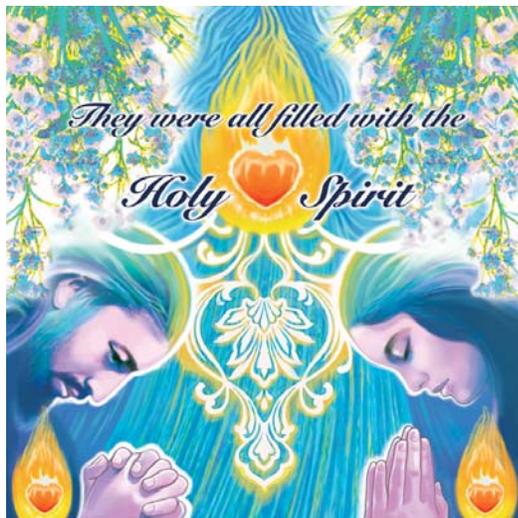
"All shepherds have to move, stepping down some time. A moment comes where the Lord says 'go to another place, come here, go there, come to me.' And it's one of the steps that a shepherd must take; so be prepared to step down in the correct way, not still clinging and hanging on to his position. We pastors, need three attitudes that St Paul demonstrates to effectively shepherd the flock of Jesus. The first pastoral attitude is not to 'revert back' or 'back-up' on the missionary journey. It takes courage 'to go' forward and outside rather than backward and stay inside. To regress or compromise on a call of God is the worst sin. A second pastoral attitude is obedience to the Spirit even when one doesn't know what will happen. A shepherd must know that he is on a journey. He goes because the Lord asks. A servant has nothing of his own. As St Paul said when leaving Ephesus, 'God wants me on the way. I leave without knowing what will happen to me. I know only this that the Holy Spirit testifies that trials and tribulations are awaiting me from city to city.' And a third pastoral attitude is that "I do not consider my own life to be precious in any way. I am not the center of history. Whether it's large history or small history, I am not the center of anything, I am a servant. So let us pray for our shepherds and their communities. (Homily 4-30-2017).



Email Prayer Chain

Would you like to be part of an email prayer chain and pray daily for those in need of prayers due to illness or other needs? To be a part of this ministry, please send an email

to Marie Rose at rosejm@bbtel.com to become a prayer warrior. When others are in need of prayer you will be notified by email to begin praying for them. We (21 warriors) are currently praying for the needs of 66 people, those on our parish prayer list and the family members of the recently deceased, who were on our list. If you have a prayer request, just send an email to Marie at the above address.



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16
Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

Evangelization in Jail & Prison Ministry:

Evangelization in Jail & Prison Ministry The Prison Ministry Committee for the diocese is hosting a workshop for those who already work in prison and jail ministry or those who wish to. It takes place May 26 from 9-3 PM at the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro. Contact Richard Murphy at 270-683-1545 or Richard.murphy@pastoral.org for more information.

Send a Welcome Note & Prayer to Fr Tony Jones, New Pastor 6-12-18

Rev. Tony Jones email: tony.jones@pastoral.org or pastor@immaculateparish.org
Regular Mail: Parish of the Immaculate
2516 Christie Place, Owensboro, KY 42301-4925
Office: 270/683-0689; Fax: 270/926-9016
Fr Tony Jones' Birthday 02/17 & His Ordination Anniversary 05/27/89

There is still time and room in our two new classes we are offering this spring. Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues, and Untold Blessings, Three Paths to Holiness has a new start up date and time. Study programs will begin on Monday, May 21st, and run through the end of June every Monday, with Seven Deadly Sins beginning at 5pm and Untold Blessings at 6:30 pm. Cost for each class is \$15.00, you can pay cash or make all checks out to St. Romuald Church, this money is for class materials. Please contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-863-0117 if you have any questions concerning these classes which will be hosted by Dr. Lawrence McCrobie.

Corpus Christi 2018

Bishop William F. Medley will lead a procession through the streets of Owensboro on Saturday, June 2, starting at Brescia University at 10 AM and ending at St. Stephen Cathedral at approximately Noon. This is in honor of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi. Everyone from across the diocese is invited to attend.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, **Charles Alloway**, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Debbie Bowlds, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, Ashley Carwile, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Bonnie Gail Fentress, Ginny Flood, Don Ford, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Joe Hess, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Jacqueline Huddleston, Mary Hurt, Robert Jackey, Alfred Jarboe, Joe Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, Rebecca Logsdon, Mary Ann Flood Lynch, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Joe Miller, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Janet O'Reilly, Peggy Phillips, Bobby Potts, Joan & Tom Powers, **Marilyn Preher**, Joe Priest, Mary Jo Rankin, Rita Roach, Kimberly Rolan, Suzanne Rose, Darcy Satterly, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, Deborah Sue Stevens, Pam Sturgeon, Adalee Taul, **Pauline Thorn**, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, **Raymond Wethington**, Diane Whitney, Leona Whitworth, Tom Winchell, 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



Stories of Hope & Healing: The Tribunal Office will hold information sessions, as a follow-up to the panel discussions, to address specific questions and issues regarding Declarations of Invalidity (Annulments).
Tuesday, May 22nd - 6:30 pm Holy Spirit Parish
Tuesday, June 5th—6:30pm Our Lady of Lourdes


You're Invited!


An Appreciation Potluck Dinner for Fr. Brian

When: Sunday, June 10

Time: Following the 10 AM Mass, at
approximately 11:30 AM

Where: St. Romuald School Gym

Bring: Each family is asked to bring enough vegetables, salad, or dessert to serve several people. The parish will provide meat and drinks.

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

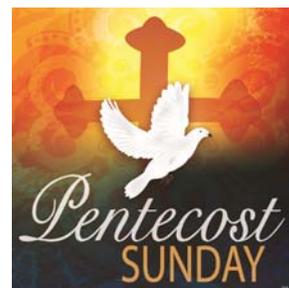
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!!

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.

2018 Kindred Fest: A Day of Praise Through

Song: June 23rd music begins at noon! At Tradewater Music Festival Amphitheater located 5 miles west of Providence, Ky. Music Lineup includes Matthew West, Plumb, Stars Go Dim, Abandon & Leanna Crawford. Group pricing available, for more info, visit www.KindredMusicFest.com or box office 270-635-2969.

Senior Day: Come join us on Wednesday, May 23rd when our guest of honor will be Fr. Brian, as the Seniors of St. Romuald gather to celebrate with him. Join us for lunch, as usual we will serve fried chicken and rolls, and ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. We invite all to come and share in this day, so bring a guest if you like. Saints of the month are Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras, and St. Phillip Neri. Don't forget it's a celebration for Father Brian.





Sunday, May 20, 2018

**SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
Do something useful**

Be honest: Do you think prayer is useful? While we might describe the act of praying positively, we may not be convinced it actually “works”—at least not as we intend. Here’s the shocker: Many theologians agree it’s a trap to consider prayer in terms of utility. Prayer is not an effective activity; that is, it’s not a penny in, gumball out procedure. Prayer’s not an activity at all. Rather it’s a form of relationship, an unveiling of the self before the God of love. Loving relationships, however, are very effective. Just ask the Pentecost gang what love can do.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Day: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25; John 20:19-23 or 15:26-27; 16:12-15 (63). “And [they] began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”*

Monday, May 21, 2018

**MEMORIAL OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
Thank you, Mother**

Pope Francis recently added a memorial to celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as “Mother of the Church” every year on the Monday after Pentecost as a way to foster Marian piety and the “maternal sense of the church.” The Marian title of “Mother of the Church,” was given to the Blessed Mother by Blessed Pope Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council. With its addition to the General Roman Calendar, it will now be celebrated by the whole Roman Catholic Church. Ponder how your own faith has been nurtured within the church community, and take a moment to thank Mary for serving as mother of us all.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Gen. 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34 (572A). “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.”*

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

**MEMORIAL OF RITA OF CASCIA, RELIGIOUS
Support gentle, loving relationships**

If you knew you would be canonized a saint and could choose your patronage now, for what cause would you cheerfully accept intercessions? Be careful in your selection: Saints become the patrons of causes they know all too well. Rita of Cascia is the patron saint of bad marriages, victims of spousal abuse, and loneliness, among other conditions she endured personally. There are still many who seek her help today. Support local programs that assist families in trouble.

TODAY’S READINGS: *James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37 (342). “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

The Lord loves those who love wisdom

At times biblical poetry sets theological distinctions aside. In some places in Hebrew scripture, for example, divine wisdom is feminine and spoken of in a way almost indistinguishable from God. While the church often uses the masculine term “Father” for God, that is not to say God is male but that God acts toward us as a loving father does. Scripture and tradition have other names for God as well. Of course the Supreme Being is ultimately beyond gender—and all description really—but human beings need human terms to express their experience of God, including that of “wise woman.”

TODAY’S READINGS: *James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40 (343). “For whoever is not against us is for us.”*

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Pass the salt, please

What might humble table salt have to teach us about God? Surprisingly, a lot! The *Catholic Encyclopedia* has an entire entry devoted to salt, noting that historically it almost always has had a sacred and religious character. As a seasoning, salt gives a kick of flavor and taste to what might otherwise be a bland meal. It’s also a preservative to keep food from going bad. The gospels use the symbol of salt to refer to Christ’s new life within us, an ingredient that indeed transforms our whole lives. How can you add some more seasoning to God’s activity in your life?

TODAY’S READINGS: *James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50 (344). “Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another.”*

Friday, May 25, 2018

**FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE DE’ PAZZI, VIRGIN
Suffering can be service**

Jacqueline de Decker had gone to India to serve the poor and wanted to join Mother Teresa’s newly founded Missionaries of Charity, but a spinal injury ended her dream. Or so she thought. In 1952 Mother Teresa sent Decker a letter with a proposal: “I need souls like yours to pray and suffer for the work” who could “do much more while on your bed of pain than I running on my feet.” Decker’s vocation sounds a lot like that of the 16th-century Carmelite sister Saint Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi, who withstood years of physical and spiritual suffering yet had a mystical prayer life and later even rose from her “bed of pain” to become a wisdom-figure in her community. Jesus calls us all to serve. Consider your strengths not your weaknesses when answering that call.

TODAY’S READINGS: *James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12 (345). “Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged.”*

Saturday, May 26, 2018

**MEMORIAL OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST
Stepping out for Jesus**

Saint Philip Neri (1515-95) must have had a good cobbler, because he sure put a lot of miles on his shoes. He sauntered through Rome, striking up conversations with whomever he met, beggars or bankers, warming hearts as he talked about God. Often, he’d bid them walk and talk with him en route to a church or hospital. Later, after becoming a priest, he organized pilgrimages to churches in the city, inviting people to walk and pray together. As the one who brought the Forty Hours Devotion to Rome, Philip would like today’s practice of walking in procession as a prelude to adoring the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes we need to wear out our soles to touch the souls of others.

TODAY’S READINGS: *James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16 (346). “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”*

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