



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

June 11, 2017 - Most Holy Trinity

St. Romuald Picnic

JUNE 17, 2017

3:00 PM

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, Lyvenia Anthony

CRE: 7-12, Gayle Poole

CRE: K-6, Kim Brumfield

Pastoral Council:

Dana Bland, Harry Mattingly,

Janet Bland, David Morton

Christi Brooks, Kevin Oelze

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Jerry Dowell, Gail Pollock

Betty Heavrin, Pam Pollock

St. Romuald

Interparochial School:

Phone: 756-5504

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne



Chicken, Mutton
and Pork
Serving begins at
3:00 pm

Bouncy House

Bingo

Raffle

Games



The Most

HOLY TRINITY

©LPI

Masses for the Week

June 12th - 18th

Tues	1:00 pm	Beavin Thornsberry (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Special Intention (DW)
Thurs	9:30 am	Edwina Neel (Medco)
Fri	8:00 am	Martha Matthews
Sat	5:00 pm	J. Paul & Mary W Henning (RO)
	7:00 am	Special Intention (MW)
	10:00 am	Linda Carwile (RC)

Stewardship of Finance

June 3rd & 4th Collection will be published next week

Sunday Collection
Building Fund
Children
Loose change for the Poor

Parish Financial Summary

July-April, 2017

Total Income	\$450,000
Total Expenses	\$404,300
	\$ 45,700

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 - June 17th & 18th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Janet O'Reilly Pat O'Reilly	Pam Pollock Lynn Tuell	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Davye Duggins S-Leroy Henning	Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor Andrew Tate	Karen Huddleston	Pippa
7:00 am	Denise Hardesty Jean Oelze	Tom Aull	C-Greg Hardesty* C-Chuck Hardesty S-Don Payne S-Jeff Rhodes	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Crystal Greenwell	Pippa
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sally Hinton Sandra Hinton	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Greg Hinton* C-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary S-Bill Monin	Hunter Ashcraft Spencer Wilson	Laura Frank	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Laura Skillman			Children's Liturgy:			



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit..... I know that one! **The Glory Be Prayer!** I remember as a child having to learn our basic Catholic Prayers, and being excited about starting with the shortest one: the Glory Be! After that little victory, came the longer prayers, but another reason to begin with the Glory Be is because it is a concise summary of our Catholic Faith! This short prayer is the central piece of Catholic doctrine

around which every other Christian belief circulates: the revealed identity of God. I say **'revealed'** because it's the very word of Jesus that grounds this identity of God for us. The Trinity is no human invention. God had to reveal Himself to us. We might still be worshipping creations or creatures of God, instead of the Almighty Creator and Author of Life Himself, had Jesus not opened our minds to God's fullest self! So the Glory Be (like the **Gloria** and **Creed**, sung and recited in every Sunday Mass) is our Catholic Faith in a nutshell! We can find this specific revelation of God's Identity in a couple of places in the New Testament. 1) In Matthew 28:19 Jesus himself commands us to go baptize, teach and disciple all nations in the "Name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**". 2) St Paul prays in 2 Corinthians 13:14, "May the grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love of God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all." 3) St Peter opens his letter in 1Peter 1:1-2 saying, "To God's elect...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through the sanctifying work of the **Spirit**, for obedience to **Jesus Christ**". There it is from Jesus' own mouth and it is faithfully repeated on the lips of the Holy Apostles, St Peter and St Paul!

Such a summary statement as the **'Glory be'**, is a quick response and introduction of the core teaching of Christianity, much like the 'Shema' prayer is for Judaism, or the 'Shahada' is for Islam (Those prayers state their religion's specific belief in God's Name and Identity-But that is an issue for us to discuss on another day!). But our belief in the Trinity is founded upon the very teaching of Jesus, which can also be found all throughout His words recorded in the Holy Gospels! A couple of obvious references we are all familiar with would be first **1)** Jesus' own teaching for us how to pray found in Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13, calling God **'Our Father'**. Next, **2)** Jesus referred so often to Himself as **'Son'** like just after Peter called Him "Son of the Living God", Jesus answered "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but **my heavenly Father** has (Matthew 16:16-17). And Jesus continually calls Himself 'Son' like in Matthew 11:27 "No one knows the **Father**, except the Son and anyone the **Son** wishes to reveal Him to..." or in John 5:19 when Jesus says, "the Son cannot do anything on His Own" for He came "not to do My own will, but the will of the Father who sent him" (John 6:38). And **3)** the Holy Spirit's identity is revealed through Jesus' own teaching when he says in John 14:16-17 "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, **the Spirit**", and in 15:26 "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, **the Spirit**". So without a doubt, we have the doctrine of the Trinity taught clearly from Jesus' own mouth!

I know Trinity-talk can quickly become way too technical! This may sound funny, but I remember arguments in the seminary on how to properly say the 'Glory Be' or refer to the Trinity! Can you imagine? It amounted to watching closely your prepositions: keeping co-equal "ANDS" used to name each of the three divine persons, and grammar rules about their specific relations, needing to use **'to'** when referencing the Father, **'through'** when referencing the Son; and **'in'** referencing the Spirit! A lot of the early Church History and Councils involved defining 'clear and trustworthy' teaching and determining what amounted to 'heresy', so, I say, "Whew! I hope I stated everything here all right!" But that brings up a most important point about our Faith and the Trinity! More than a teaching, our faith is a way of life! We profess our faith with our lips, but we practice our faith with our lives! So what does the 'Trinity' mean for our daily living of faith? Everything! God reveals His identity as Trinity, Three-in-One, as a Community of Persons, an always Self-less and Other-centered Sharing of Life, Love and Glory. And we are part of this Life, Love and Glory of God by baptism through Jesus Christ: He who taught us who God Is! Think of the implications, the Father gives all to the Son, the Son comes to serve and not be served and so Jesus returns all glory to the Father, and the Holy Spirit is the mutual sharing and giving between them. St Paul will say it this way in Acts 17:28 "In God, we **live and move and have our being**". God is an overflowing openness, whose love, life and glory are forever moving, including and expanding! Sound like 'Love itself', or sound like 'Purest Goodness'? That is God revealed to us through Christ Jesus! Another even shorter statement of our Christian Faith, I believe, is our simple beginning and ending of every prayer: **In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit! The Sign of the Cross!** There in the Cross, Our God is Seen! The Cross, as Sacrificial-Life-Giving Love Shared! I believe as disciples of Jesus we do share God with others through the action of our lives way more, than with any spoken teaching or words. So on this Trinity Sunday, more than going about explaining God as Trinity to others, I encourage us to keep 'experiencing God as Trinity' with others by the work and prayer of our lives offered to Father's glory, imitating Jesus' ministry of charitable, up-building service, in the Holy Spirit for the salvation of all the world!

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

Sunday: Am I intentional and careful about making the sign of the cross as a statement of my faith when I pray, as it does identify me as 'one-with-Jesus' and a disciple of His?

Monday: What communities do I belong to? Am I active about my membership in communities, most especially my Church Community?

Tuesday: What does it mean to me, to be a disciple of Jesus? Can others tell I am?

Wednesday: Am I giving enough time every day for prayer and recollection with God?

Thursday: Read over the 'Gloria' Hymn or the Nicene Creed that we pray every Sunday. They both summarize our Christian Faith. Use them in your prayer, too!

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice or penance as a specific act of sharing God's grace with someone. What return do I offer for Jesus giving to me on the cross?

Saturday: Try to arrive early at Mass to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for blessings you have received and to pray the Rosary for world peace! Our Lady Fatima, pray for us!

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again. We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth, Stuffed Animal Booth and The Memory Wagon. This year we will be debuting our new booths thanks to T.G.H.

Drop off items at the parish office.

RAFFLE TICKETS: Tickets are available at the doors of the church, also at Trent-Dowell and the church office. We receive 100% profit from the raffle, this is the most profitable part of the picnic, so please do all you can to sell these.

Picnic Meat Donations: Rudy & Kathy Brumfield will be collecting meat donations again this year. You may mail your check for \$50 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. If you would like to donate to the meat next year let us know before August 1st.

Senior Day: For the month of June we will be hosting Julie and Sarah from BeeHive Assisted Living facilities. Julie and Sarah will give a talk on the facilities and how it operates along with a question and answer session. We will serve fried chicken and ask that you bring a dish to pass if possible. Bring a friend or two along with you and let's enjoy a day of prayer and fellowship. That's Thursday June 22 from 10am to 1pm, hope to see you there!

Family Movie Night: "Heaven Is Waiting" is a meaningful story, years after his wife Kate died, Ned still hates the idea of dating. After all, why should he start dating again when he has his daughter Liz to take care of? Ned's world is turned upside down when his little girl comes home from college with David, a know-it-all who drives Ned crazy. Ned tries to sabotage the relationship, but Liz diverts his attention to Carol, a woman Ned sees jogging every morning. With Liz and David's help, Ned will learn that with love, there are always second chances. Join us on Saturday, June 10, at 6:15 pm for a night of family entertainment. We will serve popcorn and a drink, so pull up a blanket or a chair and join us (bring your friends).

OPERATION ARCTIC

*"Exploring the Coolest Book on the Planet!"
Monday, July 10th - Wednesday, July 12th
6:00PM - 8:30PM*

Age Groups - 4 Yrs. Old by July 10th - students who completed 4th Grade.

Registration will be at the weekend Masses on June 10th & 11th and June 24th & 25th.

Volunteer Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, July 22nd & July 29th @ 5PM. You ONLY have to attend one meeting.

On Thursday, July 13th, we will have a fun-filled night in the Church yard w/ VBS music, hot dogs/ hamburgers, cotton candy, snow cones, games and slip-n-slides!

If anyone has any questions, please contact Kim Brumfield at 270-945-2787.



We need donations of CLEAN empty gallon size milk jugs and water jugs! They will be used for Vacation Bible School! Please leave them in the containers at the front and side Church doors! Thank you!

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	5:00 pm	Set up stands for Picnic
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	8:00 am	Mass
Sat	3:00 pm	St. Romuald Picnic
Sun		Father's Day

UPCOMING:

June 22	10:00 am	Senior Day
June 24/25		VBS Registration

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Weekend with Mary, Our Blessed Mother:

Friday, July 14- Sunday, July 16, 2017 at Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center. Director Fr Noel Mueller OSB will be exploring Mary's important role in presenting the Savior to our world. A highpoint of the weekend will be the Sunday celebration of Our Lady of Einsiedeln - patroness of our Archabbey Church, and visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino to pray the scriptural rosary. Fee: Single \$255 to register or any questions, please call Fr Maurus at 1-800-581-6905.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN INQUIRING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 270-756-2356 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"On that day, the day in which you live the Christian life most faithfully to Jesus, you will know all things and no one will be able to take your joy away from you. No one, because you have the memory of your encounter with Jesus; you have the certainty that Jesus is in heaven in this moment and He is interceding for you. He is with you; having been given the Spirit as Advocate, you pray and have the courage to speak, to go out of yourself, and to speak to others and bear witness with your life that the Lord is risen, He is alive. These three words summarize discipleship: Memory, prayer, mission. May the Lord give us the grace to understand this map of the Christian life and to go forward with joy, with that joy that no one can take from us." (Homily 5-26-17)



Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-7; Ps 34:2-9; Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129-133, 135; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday: 2 Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: 2 Cor 3:15 — 4:1, 3-6; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 5:20-26
Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 116:10-11, 15-18; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

St Meinrad Sunday: We welcome Benedictine Father Bede to our parish next Weekend, to share with us the work and prayer of St Meinrad Abbey and Seminary. St Meinrad has trained 48 active and retired priests (including Bishop Medley), 18 permanent deacons, 4 religious and 83 lay people in the Diocese of Owensboro. The monks of Saint Meinrad encourage you to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. They ask for your financial support and partnership to continue this work of serving the Church. You will be receiving a brochure and letter from Archabbot Kurt describing the work of Saint Meinrad. Please respond as generously as you can. To learn more about Saint Meinrad, visit: www.saintmeinrad.org and www.saintmeinrad.edu.

Listening Session with Bishop Medley. The Church is listening – and wants to hear from you. In 2018, the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held, featuring the theme: "Youth, faith and vocational discernment." Pope Francis has asked bishops around the world to gather input on this topic from the faithful in their diocese. **Please join Bishop Medley on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Bowling Green, for an upcoming listening session,** and add your voice to the discussion on youth and young adults in our local church today and your hopes for the future. Your input may also be given online by completing the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VM28TY7>

From the Diocese: DRF Update to be Published in Parish Bulletin
St. Romuald, Hardinsburg: The totals for the Disciples Response Fund Appeal for our parish as of May 21, 2017: Parish Target Amount: \$12005.35
Pledged: \$7470 Paid: \$6902 Rebate Paid to Parish 5/1/2017: \$0
(Our Parish receives a rebate of 50% for all dollars paid over Parish Target Amount.)

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Regina Walz, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rebecca Wilson, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone.

Serving in the Armed Forces: Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Ryan Critchelow, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Jack Hayes, Stevie Higgs, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, SSgt Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Cody Simmons, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



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!



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Regina Walz, George Walz's sister. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.



God gave
his only
Son
that all
who believe
might have
eternal life



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AROUND AND ABOUT

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people ages 15-19 (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 25-June 30, 2017, at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 26th. Registrations after May 26th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email robin.tomes@pastoral.com for more information.

"More for More" Summer Camp for High School Men:

What are you supposed to do with your life? What does God want you to do with your life? This camp is for young men (high school) who have the courage to begin asking those questions and who want to give their lives to the One who first gave His life for us. Made for More is about giving your life to God. Seek more to life than just getting by, this camp is for you. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance. Contact the Vocations Office: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, for more information.

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!

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.

Thank you to our advertisers for making the bulletin possible! Please let them know that you are thankful for support of our parish bulletin.

Advertiser of the week
Alexander Funeral Home
270-547-2712



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Circling in on the Trinity

Dante, the writer of *The Divine Comedy*, created images of eternity more enduring than most theology. His description of the Trinity is curious: "In the profound and clear substance of the supreme light, three circles appeared to me; of three different colors and one single dimension." In our Creed, we affirm the relationship of Jesus to God as "light from light." Circles represent infinity, and one dimension absolute unity. But the colors? Dante isn't telling. He does call this unity Knower, Known, and Knowing, as well as Lover, Loved, and Loving. By any other name, our God is One.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; John 3:16-18 (164). "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."

MONDAY, JUNE 12

Fear not, Jesus is near

Pope John Paul II called Jesus the "Good Samaritan of the human family." Jesus comes among us as a stranger yet proves himself to be our best friend in time of need. He dares to come close to us in situations where even those around us draw away in dread and fear. His presence heals the wounds life inflicts, and when he finds us in a fatal hour, he brings us back to his Father's house. For this reason we are deeply blessed in times of loss and sorrow, persecution and lowliness. There is nothing to fear, because Jesus is with us.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 1:1-7; Matthew 5:1-12 (359). "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Get to it!

You never see a statue of Saint Anthony that's short and fat, but he was. Perhaps we can all expect a makeover with canonization! But when folks looked at Anthony, they saw a radiant holiness that made some drop to their knees. His magnetic personality attracted criminals and heretics alike to conversion. His preaching was greatly in demand, and at the age of 36 he basically died of exhaustion. He was canonized within a year. Anthony wasted no time in giving his gift, and it didn't take the church long to decide what a gift he was to us. What you have to give, offer it today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 5:13-16 (360). "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Heavenly news

The passing away of heaven and earth is not necessarily the literal end of the universe. Rather, heaven and earth were radically changed with Jesus' death and Resurrection. Anyone who hears the Good News of Jesus lives in a new age with a new understanding of universal truths. So for us Christians that means not only must we respect others, we must love them, even our enemies. This is undoubtedly a new concept of heaven and earth.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11; Matthew 5:17-19 (361). "Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law."

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Be a generous giver

Catholic Relief Services, founded in 1943 by the U.S. Catholic bishops, offers emergency assistance where it's most needed around the world. CRS reaches more than 60 million people in 94 countries and territories in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. One way we can atone for some of the missteps we've made along the way is to give generously to those in need—that is, after we've reconciled with those we have hurt, whenever possible. So make your amends, and then consider supporting CRS, the second largest distributor of U.S. government relief food in the world (www.crs.org).

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Matthew 5:20-26 (362). "Go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

God's mercy keeps us from the cutting edge

Imagine if every time we do something wrong, we have to cut off parts of our bodies in order to get to heaven. That's what Jesus suggests to those who think that the only way to avoid hell is to eliminate all sin from their lives. Virtue is good, but it won't get you to heaven. Only God's forgiveness opens those pearly gates for us. Better to depend on God's faithful love than the shaky prospect that we might be successful in the quest for perfection.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 5:27-32 (363). "It is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Yes, we can write salvation history

Was there ever a yes surrendered to God as graciously and completely as the fiat of Mary of Nazareth? "Let it be done to me," this sturdy teenager agreed, to the outrageous proposal of an unexpected angel caller. This was a yes shouted into the darkness of history, reverberating into an unknown and possibly perilous future. This was a yes that affected everyone who ever lived and ever would live. Did Mary know on that ordinary day that salvation history was being made? Or was it that she was always keenly aware—as perhaps we are not—that salvation history is made in every hour, with every human decision?

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Matthew 5:33-37 (364). "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the Evil One."