



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

August 6, 2017 - Transfiguration of the Lord

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

RCIA Inquiry: If you or someone you know is interested to knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church please contact Father Brian, Deacon Tony (270-617-8032), Deacon Mike (270-756-0120) or fill out and return this form to the parish office or place in the Collection basket.



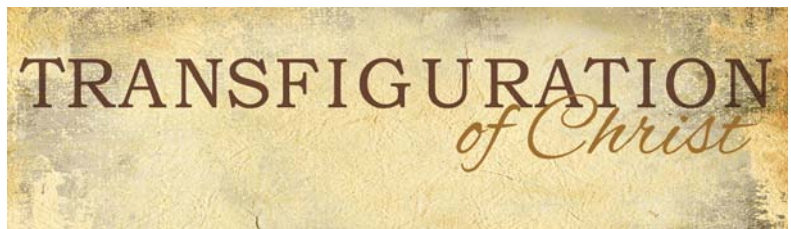
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Name submitted by: _____

Phone #: _____



Masses for the Week

August 7th - 13th

| | | |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Tues | 1:00 pm | Donna Manning (Extended Care) |
| Wed | 5:00 pm | Beavin Thornsberry |
| Thurs | 9:30 am | Minnie Storms (RW) (Medco) |
| Fri | 9:00 am | Special Intention (BW) |
| Sat | 5:00 pm | Martha Matthews |
| | 7:00 am | In Thanksgiving (SA) |
| | 10:00 am | Dalton Phillips (BP) |

Stewardship of Finance

July 29th & 30th Collection

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$8,879.57 |
| Building Fund | \$65.00 |
| Children | \$5.57 |
| Loose change for the Poor | \$41.45 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$1,490.98 |

Parish Financial Summary

July-June, 2017

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Total Income | \$537,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$494,600 |
| | \$ 42,400 |

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 - August 12th & 13th

| | Eucharistic Ministers | Lectors | Ushers | Servers | Rosary Leaders | Music Ministers |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 5:00 pm | Shelly Jefferies Bryan O'Reilly | Alex Bertschman Dale Board | C-Jamie Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Davye Duggins S-Harry Mattingly | Lola Allen Benjamin Barr | Angie Bertschman | Pippa |
| 7:00 am | Janet Bland Cara Wilson | Tom Aull | C-Greg Wethington* C-Leo Wheatley S-Scott Wilson S-Tom Winchell | Gabe Carwile Luke Carwile | Margie Wethington | Pippa |
| 10:00 am | Lori Carwile Ort Critchelow Sandra Hinton Lisa Kennedy | Joellen McGary Jennifer Payne | C-Greg Hinton* C-Bill Monin S-Ron O'Donoghue S-Ethan O'Donoghue | Justin Brown Spencer Wilson | JoAnn Henning | P.J./Choir Cantor: Alison |
| Radio Minister: Randy Howard | | | Children's Liturgy: | | | |



When I was a kid there was an educational TV commercial (School House Rock) that taught about English grammar and proper sentence structure with a catchy song, "Conjunction junction, what's your function?" Remember it? Maybe more fitting to our current political time is another popular one that taught about the legislative process of good government called 'I'm just a bill, sittin' here on capitol hill'! When we hear today's reading, we may

think up our own ditty, "***Transfiguration Duplication!***" Because, didn't we just hear this reading on a Sunday back in Spring? Yes! The second Sunday of Lent is always the Transfiguration account reading, as it looks forward to the Resurrection! The Transfiguration event did that for Peter, James and John to prepare them and help them be ready for the even greater things to come from Christ than that one 'mountain-top' revelation! That is why Jesus tells them in verse 9, "As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, ***Do not tell the vision to anyone until*** the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Why not tell anyone? First, would anyone outside the circle of disciples believe it yet anyway? Jesus is saying to the apostles that the world is not ready to receive or believe the truth of His divine identity (or ***their*** role in sharing the kingdom). Jesus tells them not to be surprised about others' disbelief, rejection and even persecution of them. In John 10:25, he says publicly, "I have told you (the world) and ***you do not believe.***" Then he told the apostles specifically in John 15:18 that when "the world hates you, realize that it ***hated me first.***" And he follows that up by preparing them for worse, when he says in John 15:20 ***If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.***" So, why not tell the vision of the Transfiguration to the entire world? Because it is not time, as Jesus says so often "My hour has not yet come"(John 2:4, 7:30; 8:20). It is not 'full revelation- time' yet! But Jesus does not want the apostles to be unprepared, so he gives them glimpses of His divinity (through all of His other miracles) along the way to strengthen them, like booster shots of faith.

Think of the Transfiguration as a 'peak experience' to remind you of what can happen and to uplift you when you feel you are in the valley! Feeling low? Remember a high time, and say, 'This too, shall pass!' A peak experience for me, anytime, is to be able to sit on a river bank (most likely) or on a sea shore (less likely) and listen to the water waves break along the beach. The regularity of the sound is comforting. But what is more exhilarating is the thought that I am only hearing *the slightest piece* of the action of what is really going on all along the surface and most ***especially underneath the water.*** The last 'ocean experience' I had was about thirteen years ago, after I had a retreat among the Benedictine monks of St Bernard Abbey, Cullman Alabama. I figured I would drive on to Panama City, Florida for a day or two after the retreat ***on my way home!*** But mostly I just wanted to have that early morning experience of hearing the ocean waves break on the shore as the sun rose. Of course, it was worth it as a 'further peak experience after the retreat (Look what it still means to me today!) So, Peter James and John have this mountain top revelation to strengthen them for what lies ahead of them and as personal

confirmation of who Jesus is as Divine Savior. He is with them and us! Everything is going to be okay!

Have you ever wondered why it was Peter, James, and John that went up that mountain alone with Jesus? Because of their unique leadership positions among the Early Church. St Paul refers to them in his letter to the Galatians 2:9 as those "who were reputed to be pillars of the church". St Peter, of course as 'chief shepherd' (1st Pope) in Rome, St James, head of local church in Jerusalem, and St John, leader of church in Ephesus and guardian of the Blessed Mother. As the next leaders of Jesus' church, He was bolstering their faith through this personal revelation of His Divine Identity!

Still, how about the question of this gospel reading being repeated on two Sundays this year? Well, certain Holy days pre-empt and take precedence over Ordinary Sundays, replacing the regular readings, the proper prayers and normal music. In addition to the High Holy Days of Obligation (which are only we Jan 1-Mary, Mother of God, Aug 15-Assumption of Virgin Mary, Nov 1-All Saints Day, Dec 8-Immaculate Conception and Dec 25-Christmas), the solemn feasts also take precedence over regular Sundays. These universal feast days are Feb 2-Presentation of the Lord, Jun 29- Sts Peter & Paul, Aug 6-Transfiguration of the Lord, Sept 14-Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Nov 2-All Souls Day and Nov 9-Dedication of St John Lateran Basilica. So, it is not very often, but it does come up every once in a while that one of these special days falls on Sunday. So, their special readings, prayers and music take over the regular schedule! And that is what happens today-kind of like the solar eclipse (total for some) we are all about to experience on August 21, that will likely take over routines for a day. But as with everything, soon after we will pick right back up with the 'ordinary' and keep moving along!

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

Sunday: Was I moved to any particular action this week from listening closely to the gospel and from my personal prayer?

Monday: Recall a high point or strong faith experience you have had. Did it comfort and carry you through a low point or difficult struggle you went through sometime?

Tuesday: Have you ever helped another person to have a 'peak experience' or reminded them of the 'good times' to help them through a bad one? Pray for them again, today.

Wednesday: Have I given good time this week each day to 'listen' to Jesus? Be sure to set aside some time to simply sit in silence and let God speak to you.

Thursday: Why do you think Moses and Elijah were up on the Mount with Jesus? What do they represent or bring to this revelatory encounter?

Friday: Make a loving sacrifice willingly for someone today without any recognition.

Saturday: Make a list of blessings to offer God thanks for at Mass this weekend. Come early to spend some time advance-reading the gospel or pray the rosary with others.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:

Nationally recognized and dynamic Evangelist Mike Cumbie of the Micah Project, will be our Mission Speaker each night October 15-17th. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

Welcome to our newest Parish Council

Members: Gera Jarboe, Joellen McGary, Mark Rhodes and Danny O'Reilly. Thank you for your willingness to lead and serve the parish community on the council!

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!

Family Movie Night: All of her life Riley dreamed of being a world class dancer. Victory in a regional competition gained her recognition and a shot at the nationals, but a horrific accident crushes all her dreams. Turning to horseback riding as a form of therapy to regain mobility, Riley begins a special bond with a horse named Grace. But disaster strikes and it seems all her efforts have come to an end. That is, until God's grace appears from an unexpected place. Join us on August 19th at 6:15 for an evening of family entertainment as we watch "Healed by Grace." Popcorn and a drink will be served, so please join us then.

Senior Day: The month of August will be much quieter for us, as we learn about the saints and enjoy a day of round table discussions. We will be discussing St. John Vianney, St. John Eudes, and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. We will provide the chicken and ask that you bring a dish. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us on Thursday, August 17, from 10am to 1pm. Hope to see you there to celebrate a day of fellowship.

"The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide" was created to bring hope and healing to divorced and separated Catholics." With the help of trained counselors Deacon Mike (270-756-0120) and Rosa Hockenberry (270-614-1669), "you can go from pain and loneliness to hope and healing." For men and women seeking healing from divorce, join us beginning August 7, 2017 every Monday thru October 30, 2017. Cost is \$20.00 for 12 weeks of sessions. Tell your loved ones who might be going through the same struggles, there is help out there, remember everything is kept private. Contact Deacon Mike, or Rosa, or call the office at 270-756-2356, you can sign up now!

Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES:

Larry & Pattie Mattingly, August 11, 55 Years
Raymond & Margie Wethington, August 13, 57 Years

BIRTHDAY:

Judy Dowell, August 8th and Juanita Burch,
August 13th

BBO Chickens: The Knights of Columbus will be selling barbecuing chickens on the 6th of August at St Romuald's, St Mary's and St. Anthony's after Sunday Mass. Knight of Columbus Members: If you can help cook chickens please text or email me @ 270-617-0754 or jpat_oreilly@yahoo.com respectively. Cooking starts at 3:30 am at St Romuald's Pit. Thank You, Grand Knight Pat O'Reilly Also, we want to thank Tyson Foods for providing the chickens.

Thank You The family of Karen Miller Herbert thanks everyone for their prayers for the past 15 months. Karen attended high school here and played on the Lady Rebels team. May she rest in peace.
Margie Wethington, Jim Heavrin, Dayle Riley

This Week at St. Romuald

| | | |
|------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Mon | 1:00 pm | Blue Army Rosary |
| | 6:00 pm | Divorce Group |
| | 7:00 pm | Al-Anon Meeting |
| Tues | 10:00 am | Scripture Study |
| | 1:00 pm | Mass (Extended Care) |
| | 4:00 pm | Rosary |
| | 7:00 pm | Knights of Columbus |
| Wed | 4:00 pm | Confessions |
| | 5:00 pm | Mass |
| Thur | 9:30 am | Mass (Medco) |
| | 5:00 pm | Picnic Meeting |
| | 6:00 pm | Family Holy Hour |
| Fri | 9:00 am | Mass |
| | | Barton/Hutchison Wedding |
| Sat | 5:00 pm | Religious Education Registration |
| Sun | 7/10 am | Religious Education Registration |

UPCOMING:

Aug 15 Feast of the Assumption (Holy Day)

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The disciple of Christ gains so much more than is given up. He or she is not one who is deprived of something essential, but rather, His disciple has found the fullness of joy that only the Lord can give. The Kingdom of God is available to all – it is a gift, a favor, a grace – but it is not made offered on a silver plate, it requires active seeking-action, it is to search, to walk, to do. Evaluating the priceless treasure value leads to a decision that also involves sacrifice, detachment and renunciation. It is not a matter of despising everything, but of putting all things in the proper order. Those who are saved by Jesus are freed from sin, sadness, emptiness, and isolation. With Jesus Christ, meaning and joy are always born and reborn." (Homily 7-30-2017)



**ANOINTING
of the SICK.**

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month: Father Brian will begin offering on a monthly basis the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the first Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm). The first offering will be August 2nd. The Catechism specifies that those who can be anointed include 'anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age' yet also includes anyone 'prior to a serious operation', or 'for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced' (Catechism #1514-1515).

Children's Liturgy: We had 3 teachers to step away from their positions as teachers for Children's Liturgy this last cycle. We are now in the process of trying to replace them before September when the classes start up again. Children's Liturgy of course is held March, April, May and then September, October and November. Safe Environment and a background check are required to work with the children. All questions and information can be gotten from the church office, stop by or call 270-756-2356, or you may contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-314-1669 (cell) any hour of the day or week. Please take some time to prayerfully think over coming to join this very special ministry. Our children need you!

Foster Care: Nearly 7,000 children are in foster care in Kentucky. In our region, almost 200 foster children have the goal of adoption. We are short on homes that will accept children and many children in Kentucky are waiting to be adopted. Will you be a forever family for one of Kentucky's waiting kids? Please call Jennifer Barr at 270-756-2194 for more information.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

August 6th: The Transfiguration of the Lord *"Rise and do not be afraid."*

The Transfiguration of the Lord gave Peter, James, and John a glimpse of Heaven. Our celebration of the Transfiguration reminds us that we are not made for this world. Our vocation is God's plan to get us from earth to Heaven. If you feel that God might be calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources and support. 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, www.owensborovocations.com.



Rosa Hockenberry, Kim Brumfield & Deacon Mike attended the Parish Catechetical Leadership workshop at St. Meinrad

PRAYER REQUESTS

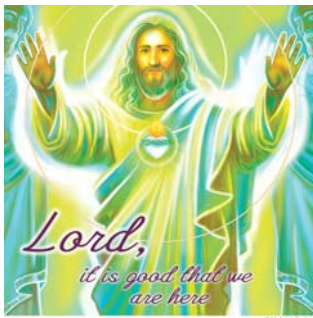
We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Jim Bandy, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, **Becky Brown**, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, **Cindy Cashen**, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, **Jenny Ginn**, Rita Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, **Janet Hallway**, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, **Robert Jackey**, 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, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Stoy Priest, Bob Rankin, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, 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, Gina Thornsberrry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Tessa Wadsworth, 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, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Please pray for the repose of the soul of JoAnn Bruington who passed away this past week. Pray for her family to be comforted.

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.



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
Flood's Appliance, LLC
270-756-5411

AROUND AND ABOUT

St Theresa Custom Car Show/Picnic and Auction: August 12, begins at 2:00 pm: Car show entry fee \$10, with prizes. For more info call Marvin Stull 270-496-4123, or St Theresa, 9245 Rhodelia Road, Payneville, KY 40157 at 270-496-4362.

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

Brescia Sunday Weekend: August 12-13th
Across the Diocese, a special collection is taken up in every parish to help the work of Brescia University providing Catholic Higher Education. For a Diocese our size, we are so blessed to have a Catholic University. We are blessed with many Brescia graduates in our parish!

15th Annual Rural Life Celebration
Sunday, August 13, 2017, 5:00 pm
Owensboro Convention Center

You are invited to a celebration of rural life in the air conditioned comfort of the Owensboro Convention Center on West Second St and Locust St. A free meal will be served start at 5:00 pm with a short program. This year, special recognition will be given to the lives of service of Bishop John McRaith and Rick Kamuf both of which we lost earlier this year. Come help us honor their contributions to our community.

Knights of Columbus Member and Families. Are you interested in having a family outing (meal, games for kids, corn hole tournament, etc., please let me know Yes or No. If yes can you help out? My number is 270-617-0754 or email me at jpat_oreilly@yahoo.com. The following dates are open for the Parish Hall to have our meal and use their grounds for activities: Sept 9, 23, and 30th. I need to know by 12th of Aug to start getting things together. Thank You. Pat O'Reilly, Family Director/Grand Knight.

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.



Sunday, Aug 06, 2017

**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
The power of love**

On this day in 1945, humans unleashed a power so deadly that we've spent decades trying to prevent its use in warfare again. Here's how President Harry S. Truman described the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in a press release sent out 16 hours after the attack: "It is an atomic bomb. It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East." Jesus, too, harnessed the power of the universe, but his energy was used to bring light and life. Pray for your enemies today, and call on God's power to help us transfigure hatred into love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9 (614)* "Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun."

Monday, Aug 07, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, MARTYR
Power of the people**

When the Roman Empire hit hard times, Emperor Valerius ordered the execution of Christian leaders. The church, still young and wrangling over rules, was already agitated as persecution came. Enter Sixtus II, the pope trying to hold everything together, "a good and peace-loving priest," says one biographer. But enter, too, those who follow leaders—the mob, wielding a power all its own. Because Sixtus wanted to protect his assembled flock, he didn't flee the soldiers who stormed a worship service to behead him and his deacons. Crowds also moved Jesus to multiply loaves and fishes. If we must follow crowds, let's make them good ones.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407)* "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

Tuesday, Aug 08, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF DOMINIC, PRIEST
Mary and Martha shake hands**

The contest between action and contemplation in the spiritual life is an old one. Just think "Martha and Mary" and you get the picture. Saint Dominic (1170-1221) had the advantage of an early experience with contemplative life to shape his sense that the two impulses should be combined. When he founded his Order of Preachers, the idea was to fuel the ministry of itinerant preaching with a strong dedication to prayer and study. Dominicans today continue to model this unity of purpose. How do you balance the "ins-and-outs" of faith: praying and doing?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408)* "Heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it."

Wednesday, Aug 09, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS,
VIRGIN, MARTYR**

A martyr of two faiths

Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein, 1891-1942) was a brilliant woman who earned a Ph.D. in philosophy. She was brought up Jewish, but during her student years she read Saint Teresa of Ávila's autobiography, and as a result she not only decided to become a Catholic but also joined the Carmelite order. After the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, though the Carmelites tried to protect her, she was arrested because of her Jewish heritage. She was sent to Auschwitz, where she

was gassed. In contemplating the possibility she would be "driven out into the street," she wrote, "Certainly we ought to pray that we shall be spared the experience, but only with the deeply sincere addition, 'Not mine, but thy will be done.'"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28 (409)* "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Thursday, Aug 10, 2017

**FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR
The true wealth of the church**

Saint Lawrence was a deacon known as the keeper of the church's treasures. That means he disbursed donated alms to the needy. In August of 258 A.D., Emperor Valerian outlawed Christianity, and Roman authorities demanded that Lawrence turn over the wealth of the church. Lawrence appeared before the authorities followed by a multitude of Rome's crippled, blind, sick, and needy. He had given away everything the church possessed to these people and told his persecutors, "Here are the true treasures of the church." Though Lawrence was executed, this story is a reminder of the true treasures our church holds—all of us who need its tender care.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618)* "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain."

Friday, Aug 11, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF CLARE, VIRGIN
Are you imagining things? Good!**

Before Saint Clare's birth, one biographer wrote, it was revealed to her mother that the child "would be a brilliant light in the world." As abbess of the first convent of Franciscan sisters, Clare rose from her sickbed to pray for the protection of her sisters from marauders and heard a voice say, "I shall always watch over you." At her death in 1253 she saw the Virgin Mary coming to meet her. Were these things only products of the imagination? Even if they were, imagination is necessary to making something real. With faith, that imagination might soar all the way to heaven.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28 (411)* "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Saturday, Aug 12, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, RELIGIOUS
All God wants is our heart**

Widowed young and suddenly, Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641) faced a difficult life raising her six children alone. Then she chanced to hear Francis de Sales preach and became his lifelong friend. She was taken by the notion that "all God wants is our heart," and her writings are centered on the two facets of love: devotion to God and neighbor. She was convinced a life of simple contemplation would provide the grace necessary to serve others. She urged the victory over self-absorption with "great gentleness," never wanting to force or oblige. Pray for the gentle victory over the self today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412)* "Nothing will be impossible for you."

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