



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

October 8, 2017 - Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

dear Padre

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Hours: Monday - Friday

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I know we're all supposed to use our gifts to glorify God, but what is liturgical dance? Is it acceptable as part of Mass? Are there rules surrounding it?

Liturgical dance is dance movement forming a part of official worship. Through it, people in a community express their joy at God's blessings, foreshadowing the joy of heaven.

Dance, in many cultures, is a sign of joy. We dance at weddings, birthday celebrations, and anniversaries. People from both Eastern and Western traditions use dance as a form of expression, and some incorporate it into their religious rites. Jewish worship includes dance on certain feasts, such as the Simhat Torah, where the holy scrolls are part of the sacred movement.

In the United States, the practice of liturgical dance began to grow following Vatican II, but it was not readily accepted. Since dance in Western culture is viewed by some as an expression of love, intimacy, or diversion, the Church's approach is reserved. In 1975, the Vatican repeated this and said that because the Roman rite does not include dance as part of worship, inclusion of dance in liturgy is not appropriate ("The Religious Dance, an Expression of Spiritual Joy," *Notitiae* 11, 202-205).

We see dancing in our parishes and at diocesan celebrations; however, it should occur outside of the liturgy. —Fr. John Schmidt, CSSR



Have you ever been standing around a kitchen and get drafted to work, like somebody saying, "Hey, watch this pot of boiling eggs, and as soon as they all float around the top, turn the burner off." I'm no cook, but I did that once, and it worked out okay. I did receive a share in the chef's praise for her delicious meal (and got in on the eating part, too!) But it may have turned out differently had I burnt them up, broke their shells or snuck some eggs for

myself out of the pot. That is basically what happens in Jesus' parable today. The vineyard tenants have such a sweet deal and do not recognize it! Greed, selfishness or just meanness prevents them from simply doing their duty and providing a good harvest for the owner. They refuse to give the owner his due, and even compound their sin with violence and murder. This parable shows how sin can snowball with a cascade of evil choices piling on, one upon another. What started as simple ungratefulness became greedy theft, then unprovoked assault & even premeditated murder! For us, our daily sins may never explode into murder, but I imagine we all have had the experience of a little lie that grows and grows because our story needs to keep covering up our first lying sin. In the scripture parable today, the vineyard tenants find themselves in that position and they come to a bad end. I understand Jesus to be saying that since we are His followers working in the Father's vineyard, we have our duty and responsibility to fulfill. To avoid sin or keep worsening sin in check, we must simply do our duties, fulfill our jobs for God. The sin of the vineyard workers, began when they took for granted their own good. They failed to see **how good they had it to start with** and they greedily wanted more and more. As a moral lesson from the parable Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22 "The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone." The workers rejected the good, solid foundation the owner provided them and it proved to be their downfall and destruction. Had the workers simply been grateful for their work, and humbly kept to their tasks, then everyone stays blessed. But, their ingratitude and pride consume them. They never realize how good they had it! All they had to do was show up! Matthew 21:33 says the owner "1) planted a vineyard, 2) put a hedge around it, 3) dug a wine press in it, and 4) built a tower." The tenants did not have to worry about any of the hard start-up work preparing the ground, planting the vines, fencing the plot, constructing the wine press pit, and building a watch tower. That was all taken care of for them! And they were blind to how good the owner was to them! Do I realize how good I have it? I need to, if I am to be a faithful worker of the Lord's vineyard. The lesson I receive from this parable is that I need to remain humble and keep to my own God-given jobs. Be grateful. Everything begins with gratitude. If I am truly thankful, I never think more of myself or my achievements than I should. Any good I bring about is by the grace of God. A sure disaster follows if I think I am 'in charge' and think I have done everything myself! That is a set-up for a fall! Like me inheriting that sweet job in the kitchen watching the eggs, I had it easy. I am the servant; God is master. I am the branch, God is the vine. I am the clay, and God is the potter! I always need to remember my humble place. As Psalm 131:1-2 says, "I do not busy

myself with great matters, with things too sublime for me. Rather, I have stilled my soul," Or Jesus himself teaches us the perfect 'servant attitude' in Luke 17:10 where he says, "So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" And Mary said "Let be done to me according to your Word!" (Luke 1:38)

Recently with our Confirmation class, we discussed the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. A common question that comes up with them, is "what does the Church mean by **'Fear of the Lord'**?" Many people are hesitant to embrace that gift because they misunderstand proper 'Fear of the Lord'. Often people think of 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out all fear..." So does God want us to 'Fear Him' or to 'Love Him'? I always begin with Psalm 111:10 "**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.**" What we mean by 'Fear of the Lord' is a true knowledge of who we are as finite human beings in relation to an infinite God who is our Creator. Like the 'natural nervous tingling' we all feel when we stand before something truly awesome, such as a beautiful work of art or an outstanding experience such as the recent solar eclipse, I call that 'fear of the Lord'. God created and God allowed such grace! When we are aware of God's presence, so much greater than us, and almost overwhelming us, that is healthy respect (fear) of God's Presence! We are acknowledging who God is and who we are. I suggest that 'Fear of the Lord' means understanding that God is God, and I am not! Or think of this 'Holy Fear' as when we properly appreciate everything that God does for us, and that we know **we are always in need of His grace.** Then, to 'stand in fear' refers to dreading ever the loss of God's love. We mean this 'Healthy Fear' when we say things like "I don't want to sin and risk losing God in my life", or "I fear not living up to all God expects of me", or "I fear letting God down by my sin." Consider this 'Fear' similar to the 'healthy respect' we owe our parents, grandparents, elders or any proper authority. If we are humble and know ourselves, we will be expressing 'healthy respect', deferring to proper authority and doing our jobs!

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

Sunday: How was I renewed and recharged spiritually at Mass today? What can I do to increase and prepare better for my 'weekly recharging'?

Monday: Do I enter this week with any specific goal in mind? What is God's mission for me this week?

Tuesday: Did I give God time enough this morning in prayer, expressing my thanks but also opening my heart and sharing my concerns with Him?

Wednesday: How am I serving God? What kind of 'servant of God' am I? Am I grateful? Obedient? Diligent? Supportive to others or a drag on His other workers?

Thursday: Take extra time today to make a list thanks to God of His many blessings!

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice for the good of someone you have hurt in the past.

Saturday: Plan to arrive earlier at Mass and spend time in prayer, preparing to worship.

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!

Family Movie Night: "The Shack" is a movie of one man's spiritual journey. After a family tragedy, Mack plunges into a crisis of faith and questions the existence of God, and life's purposes. Mack is unable to move on, until one day he gets an invitation to an old abandoned shack. Once there, God reveals himself to Mack in the form of three different strangers led by Papa. Mack's journey of self-discovery will draw you in, and make you think. Join us on Saturday, October 14th at 6:15 pm for a night of entertainment and fellowship. Popcorn and a drink will be served.



RCIA is meeting Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the Parish Hall! It's not too late to join us!!

We welcome any interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church!!

For more info contact: Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or

Marie Rose at 756-2356 or, any other team members – Chris Brumfield, Rosa Hockenberry, Dolores Mattingly, Dorothy Payne, Gail Pollock, Pat Whitfill.

Thanks to all who are serving on the RCIA team!

Upcoming session topics:

Oct. 11 – Bible, Divine Revelation

Oct. 18 – Mary, Catholic Prayers and Practices, Prayer life

Oct. 25 – Church Tour (Meet in the Church)

Thanks to all who have provided and served refreshments to date:

Fr. Brian, Rosa Hockenberry, Kim Brumfield, Gail Pollock, and Dorothy Payne!

Refreshment team for Oct 11:

Gwen Matthews, Jill Rhodes, Sheila Sills, Sheila Pullen

Refreshment team for Oct. 18:

Jennifer Roberts, Maria Flood, Rita Whitfill, Cindy Carwile

Thanks to all who have volunteered to prepare and serve refreshments!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS UPCOMING EVENTS

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE: I am asking for volunteers (family members are welcome) to help at our Tootsie Roll Drive on the 13th and 14th of October. We will begin Friday from Noon to 4 pm at Hardinsburg (across from the Car Wash) and at Harned at the Intersection; and again on Saturday only we will begin at 8 am to 4 pm same places. The monies collected from this Drive stays in our community.

5TH SUNDAY BREAKFAST AT ST. MARY OF THE WOODS: I am asking for volunteers to help at this breakfast starting at 7 am and will be serving breakfast after the 8 am Mass at St Mary's. All are welcome.

ANNUAL MONEY RAFFLE DRIVE: K Of C Members will begin selling tickets for the \$1500 -1st Prize, \$1000-2nd Prize, and \$500-3rd Prize for \$20 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be at St Romuald Parish Hall on the 12th of Dec at 6:30 pm.

This Week at St. Romuald

Sun	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Class
Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	5:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	4:30 pm	PTO Meeting
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	RCIA
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	5:00 pm	Altar Society Meeting
	5:15 pm	Finance Committee
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Sat	12:00 pm	Public Square Rosary (Home of Joe Hess)
	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night

UPCOMING:

Oct 15 6:00 pm Parish Mission Begins

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Family Holy Hour will be Friday, October 13th, at 6:00 pm.

The focus will be on the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. There will be confessions and special prayers. We will bless and handout the blue Rosaries for this occasion. All are welcome!

A Word from Pope Francis:

"No one is unemployed when it comes to spreading the message of the Gospel, because each one of us is called to take up the task and to do our own part in God's plan of salvation. And for everyone there will be the compensation of divine justice – not human justice, fortunately! And that divine justice is the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and resurrection. It is "not merited, but a gift, which is why Jesus says "the first shall be last and the last shall be first." And all receiving the same wage of salvation is nothing to complain about, because the joy of salvation overwhelms any sense of counting or measuring each one's contribution. What God gives is the measure, not any human measure!" (Homily 9-24-2017)

Our Lady of Fatima 100th Anniversary: Come for a special Holy Hour and Prayer here at St Romuald commemorating the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's historic appearance. We will be having special prayers message, and Benediction. Confession will be available, too. Come Friday October 13 at starting at 6:00 pm.

Senior Day will be on Thursday, Oct 26th from 10:00am till 1:00pm. We are hosting a very special guest from the Mount, Sr. George Mary Hagan. She will be chronically her life's journey that has led her to where she is today. "Did you ever think about where your ancestors came from, and why they came to Western Kentucky and why they stayed? You can find out more about the pioneers of Western Kentucky by attending the **presentation by Sr. George Mary Hagan on Wednesday, Oct. 25th at 6:00 pm and at our Senior Day.** Invite your friends and spend a day of fellowship with Sr. George Mary. If we have time I will have information on St. Bruno, St. John of Capistrano, and St. Hedwig for discussion. Please bring a dish to pass if you can, we will be serving fried chicken along with the side dishes.

Picnic Meeting: Our next picnic meeting is set for Tuesday, October 10th at 5:00 pm. We are still making plans for next year's picnic. All are welcome to attend, bring along any and all ideas you may have. The picnic meetings are for everyone, so let's gather together and aim high for Picnic 2018!

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 [1-10]

Next Sunday Scripture Sunday: As the Year of Mercy ended, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the universal church suggesting the celebration of mercy never ends. Toward honoring the merciful example of our Savior, he recommended one Sunday a year be dedicated to studying the role God's Word plays in our lives. He calls that 'Scripture Sunday'. Pope Francis continually speaks about what drives each person's faith: that person's 'encounter' with Christ! And our pre-eminent experience of God's grace is through God's own telling: The Holy Scriptures! Romans 10:17 "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Be sure to pick up your Bible each day and spend time praying, listening and responding to God from in His Word!

Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES: Greg & Angie Tivitt will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on October 15th.

BIRTHDAYS: Walter Harper, October 17th

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.

Abortion Update: Last week 53 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

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!

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Becky Brown, **Ava Bruner**, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Kayla Christian, 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, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, Janet Hallway, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Danny Herdt, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Johnny Howard, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Dorothy Morris, Emma Nottingham, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Patsy Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Bob Rankin, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, **Haley Sloan**, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Calla Stiith, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Tessa Wadsworth, **Fallon Wen**, 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, Christian Hansen, Jack Hayes, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



Please join us for the 2017 Public Square Rosary Crusade. Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. In the historic year of the Fatima Centennial (1917-2017), we ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother.

Please join us in praying for our nation on October 14 at 12:00 noon. The local Public Square Rosary Rally will take place at the home of Joe & Mary Jo Hess, on Main Street, across from the Fire Department. Please contact Jamesetta Whitfill 270-756-6157 for more information.

St. Romuald Altar Society will be meeting on Thursday, October 12 at 5:00 pm, nuts will be our main topic as we get ready for the fall season. An estimated nut cost and profit was submitted. Quilt raffle tickets are still on sale at the office. Join us.

In Sympathy

Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Eugene Hazelwood (Cathy Lewis' father) who passed away last week. Please keep him and his family in your prayers that God may console and strengthen them.



AROUND AND ABOUT

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat-Hope after Abortion:

This retreat offers a unique approach to healing the wounds of abortion. An experienced team accompanies you on a spiritual journey back to God, a journey in which we reflect on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior and Healer, and allow Him to do what only He, our God, can do – to heal us and restore us to emotional and spiritual health. Next retreat is November 10-12, 2017. More info, please call Debbie: 270-570-4717 or contact her through debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com

RCIA Topic this week—The Bible, Divine Revelation

The RCIA is our introduction program and basic instruction in the Catholic Faith. Each week we cover foundational topics outlining our weekly Scriptures, and our Catholic beliefs/traditions. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Church, or maybe any returning Catholics after having spent some away from the Church, or any Catholics desiring a 'refresher' course, please come out. We meet every Wednesday evening in the parish hall from 6:00-7:00 pm.

St. Theresa Community Fall Festival, Sunday, Oct 29, Turkey Dinner from noon to 3:00 pm in the Meade-Breck Center/Matt Pike Memorial Gym, 9255 Rhodelia Road, Payneville. Games and booths for all ages!

SRIS NEWS

SRIS Fall Festival: The St. Romuald School is holding their annual Fall Festival Auction and Dinner on October 27, 2017. We would like to reach out to any parishioners or school alumni that would like to donate an item to our action. We have auctioned benches, toys, tickets to ballgames or events, cakes, paintings, furniture, etc. If you would like to donate something for the auction, please call Jennifer Barr at 270-617-0274 and she can arrange pickup. The school would love to see you at the auction and meal!



SRIS Booster Club's Holiday Bazaar: Booths are still available for rent for the Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 11, 2017. Booths cost \$40. If you need more information please call or text Jessica Phillips 270-863-1896 or email jphillrdh@yahoo.com

The Rebel Café is looking for a new or gently used electric meat slicer. If you have one that you would consider donating to the cafeteria please contact Brenda Elder 270-580-4218 or email caferomuald@yahoo.com



Sunday, Oct 08, 2017

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Forgiveness first

Feeling the sting of personal offense, our first response is often to fight back. Forgiveness may occur to us, but we'll push that idea aside as too soft. After all, we've been injured! Someone has done wrong and should be punished, and it's our job to do the punishing! No matter what choice we make in the short run, sooner or later the business of forgiveness comes back around as the only viable solution. We could save ourselves a lot of trouble by employing forgiveness first.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139).* "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

Monday, Oct 09, 2017

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Send a message

All martyrs' stories seem to end alike, with blood on the ground. But behind all these bloody endings are some pretty remarkable beginnings, each one as unique as you are to the person next to you. Each starts with an individual on fire with the beauty, hope, and truth of the gospel. Take Bishop Denis, future patron saint of France, who got together with six of his fellow bishops around the year 250 to bring the message of Jesus to Paris. It has been said that nothing is more eloquent than the blood of martyrs. These men became the message they brought. What message can you bring to the world?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461).* "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017

Witness through your daily routine

Let dust bunnies multiply and guests go hungry? It's what Jesus seems to imply when Martha of Bethany grumbles about her slacker sister. But to the delight of moms and church ladies everywhere, centuries of Christian tradition have come to Martha's defense. Thérèse of Lisieux won the hearts of millions with her "Little Way" of serving God—helping to launch the Catholic Worker Movement and its houses of hospitality by influencing Dorothy Day. Brother Lawrence, doing chores around the monastery, taught us how to practice the presence of God while washing dishes. Give witness to Christ today by showing love—especially in the smallest of gestures.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462).* "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?"

Wednesday, Oct 11, 2017

MEMORIAL OF JOHN XXIII, POPE

Heal the breach

The Second Vatican Council opened on this day in 1962, under the leadership of Pope John XXIII. One of the council's greatest achievements was its recognition of the wisdom and value found in other faith traditions. Today, in an era where we face so much conflict in the world based on religious differences and misunderstandings, interfaith dialogue is needed more than ever. Make a point today to reach out to someone of another faith tradition—via a phone call, an email, a short note. Begin a dialogue that can help heal the world. Carry on the legacy of Vatican II and John XXIII.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463).* "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you."

Thursday, Oct 12, 2017

Be persistent in prayer

Do you have friends like this? They've got an endless stream of needs, and they bombard you with them by phone, email, and the old-fashioned doorstep method. They always seem to want your approval, advice, or sympathy for their latest crisis. They think nothing of asking you to bail them out of their lack of preparation for life in general. Sometimes you help them out of compassion and sometimes just to make them go away. Jesus promises God will be even more responsive when we ask!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464).* "Even though he will not get up because he is his friend, because of his persistence he will give him what he needs."

Friday, Oct 13, 2017

The cycle is unbroken

Jewish communities today celebrate *Simchat Torah* ("rejoicing with the Torah"), the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. The last section of the Book of Deuteronomy and the first section of the Book of Genesis are read out loud in the synagogue. In this way the cycle of readings is unbroken. The Roman Catholic cycle of liturgical readings also comes up for renewal every year on the first Sunday of Advent, about six weeks from now. The Judeo-Christian community is part of the never-ending story of salvation. Now is a good time to reflect on how important the cycle of holy readings is to your own sense of religious identity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465).* "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Saturday, Oct 14, 2017

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

Drop the stone

Saint Callistus I, pope from 217-222, was proof of Paul's proclamation to the Galatians that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free"—that through faith, all are one in Christ despite social status or even a checkered past. Callistus himself was a freed slave and later sentenced to hard labor for fighting in a synagogue. Yet he became deacon to a pope and later pope himself, his imperfect past making him tolerant of remarried clergy as well as returning heretics in the early church. Though some thought him too lax, Callistus challenges us to forgive as Jesus did.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466).* "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

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