



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

November 5, 2017 - Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

A priest recently said the Scriptures should set us free. I wish this could happen to me! I feel so trapped by life. My job, my kids, my aging parents, bills, health insurance. Everywhere I turn I'm cornered by responsibilities. How can Scripture help?

Many of us feel trapped by life. Life is complicated because often there is too much to do, too many obligations, too much going on. We feel burdened and many times even guilty that we're not doing more. There's never enough time. People are demanding and sometimes hurt our feelings. We can easily become victims of it all. Or we can become defensive, aggressive, or overly "people pleasing."

I invite you to pray the Scriptures daily. Open yourself to the Spirit's movement that's alive in the word and alive in you. Read a short passage. Think about it. Put yourself into the scene. Picture yourself listening to Jesus speak. Allow him to use your name. Let yourself be comforted, loved, freed, healed, and challenged to change your hectic pace in life. Instead of trying to control all that happens, begin to surrender and trust in God. The word of God can lead us to freedom if only we open our hearts to the wisdom it contains. It will probably lead you to prayer, to ask for God's help. You may find your heart opening to receive the love of God you encounter in the word. Remember, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it" (Luke 11:28).

Adapted from Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications



Masses for the Week

November 7th - 12th

Tues	1:00 pm	Joann Bruington (Extended Care)
Wed	6:00 pm	Beavin Thornsberry (GT)
Thurs	9:30 am	Martha Matthews (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue
Sat	5:00 pm	St. Romuald Parishioners
	7:00 am	Margaret Schembrai
	10:00 am	Fred & John Sulpa (MW)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,587.00
Building Fund.....	\$105.00
Children.....	\$1.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$66.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$1,606.63

Parish Financial Summary July-September, 2017

Total Income	\$123,400
Total Expenses	\$133,300
	- \$ 9,900

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 - November 11th & 12

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Whitney Roach Millie Whittler	Jenny Pile Pam Pollock	C-Leroy Henning* C-Danny O'Reilly S-John Roach S-Carroll Whitfill	Preston Flood Autumn Siler	Dayle Riley	Pippa
7:00 am	Faye Glasscock Denise Hardesty	Jim Heavrin	C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Greg Hardesty	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Margie Wethington	Pippa
10:00 am	LaDonna Barton Sally Hinton Sandy Horsley Rhonda Walz	Deanna Arnold Mariah Critchelow	C-Raymond Critchelow* C-Noah Matthews S-Griffin Moore S-Joey Walz	Luke Walz Shelbey Walz	Laura Frank	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Ann Tritschler Children's Liturgy: Kari & Patrick Critchelow Family						



The 'Chair of Moses'? What is that? Some call it the 'Seat of Moses', but what is it? I searched the Old Testament looking for that phrase 'Seat of Moses' and it is not in there. So, "Who took His Seat?" Joking aside, we know Jesus took it! Or better yet, Jesus fills it forever! Maybe it referred to a specific 'ceremonial' chair, but the meaning of the phrase includes his 'role and office' as the chief teacher. So, Jesus says today that the Pharisees, by their office and role should be exemplary Mosaic teachers. But they are not living up to their office, because they are corrupt and lack wisdom. They claim to follow Moses. Jesus notes that they are good in **saying things that Moses said**, but they **do not do the things Moses did**. They are all words.

Stepping back from this reading for a minute, let me point out that sometimes people are troubled when the New Testament quotes something not exactly worded as it may be found in the Old Testament. The exact word may not be the same, but the idea or concept communicated behind both expressions is the same. This is similar to how people try to make a big deal out of how the exact word '**Trinity**' is not in the Old or New Testament and so they say Jesus did not teach a 'Holy Trinity'. Well, believers know that Jesus referred to His 'Father', Himself as 'Son' and their 'Holy Spirit' to come, so what is that? Sounds like 'Trinity'. The concept is behind and contained in Jesus' words. So when something appears novel and is spoken or used in not just the exact way as before, I caution '**patience in listening** closely and **prudence in interpreting** it'. Examine it closely, and search for similarities/likenesses. Whether we call it organic exposition or natural development, the Bible does bring up things conceptually that may not be entirely spelled out in detail until it is demanded by the circumstances. Many times the scriptures may hint or suggest something without fully and exactly defining every word quoted. Often we run across in scripture the same holy idea in different places but not quoted in exactly the same way. We have to consider it closely, and to understand, we may have to read between the lines, or take the hint and move on. A favorite example of mine is where St Paul refers to a saying of Jesus that is found nowhere in the gospels! In the Acts of Apostles 20:35, St Paul says, "Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, '*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*'" Yet, search the scriptures, and you cannot find that verse anywhere from Jesus' mouth. Now John's gospel prepares us for that because John says in Chapter 21:25 "**There are also many other things that Jesus did**, but if these were to be described individually, **I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.**" St John the Evangelist says that! Or here is another New Testament mystery, St Paul refers in his **first** letter to the Corinthians about already writing an earlier letter to them, but where is it? Paul says in 1Cor 5:9, 11 "**I wrote you** in my letter not to associate with immoral people....**But now I write** to you...." But this is his first letter (1 Corinthians)? So we don't have the earlier (first) letter of St Paul that is out there somewhere. Or how about in Colossians 4:16 St Paul says, "When this letter is read before you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and you yourselves **read the one from Laodicea.**" Where is Paul's letter to the Laodiceans? **Truly**, we do not need to worry ourselves about any lost letters referred to, because if we needed them for salvation, God would have included them in the New Testament. But I simply use them as examples of how

commonly it occurs that we have to seek what is behind and contained within the actual words of scripture. Understanding God's word begins with the 'literal' marks on the page, and most of the time that is sufficient. Yet, it occurs at times that we have to seek through the words, the deeper concepts contained within them and the meaning implied behind the words. So, today we hear about the 'Seat of Moses' and have to understand that '**The Moses Chair represents and signifies the teaching office/role of Moses**'.

So, where does the concept of a 'Moses chair' even come from? We do read in Exodus 18:13 that "The next day **Moses sat in judgment** for the people, while they stood around him from morning until evening." In verse 14 his father-in-law asks about Moses' work and office, "What is this business that you are conducting for the people? **Why do you sit alone** while all the people have to stand about you from morning till evening?" And in verse 16 Moses says, "**I make known to them God's statutes and instructions.**" There you have it: the teaching office of Moses '**seated**' among the people! Sounds like a 'teaching position'! Most especially, Jesus takes that 'seat of Moses' when in Matthew 5:1-2 with the Sermon/ Teaching on the mount occurs. It says, "After **Jesus had sat down**, his **disciples** came to him. **He began to teach them....**" We keep in English the same concept when people refer to the "Parish Council **Chairperson**" leading a meeting, or the best violinist sitting in 'first chair' at the symphony, or even at the university when we hear about "Professor Taylor holds the 'Psychology Department Chair'. Maybe even like my grandfather sitting at the head of the dinner table talking wisdom while everyone stands around the kitchen listening to his experience and learning some history!

To summarize, Jesus tells us that the Pharisees were taught the right thing, and they are likely to tell us the right thing, they just don't do what they say. Count on them to tell you the right thing, just don't look to their actions as a model of behavior. They know what the right thing to do is, and will be glad to tell you, but they don't live it themselves. So our model is Jesus himself, both what he says, and what he does! It is one! Again, St John understands this and tells us in 1 John 3:18 "let us love not in word or speech alone but in act and truth."

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

Sunday: What message did I hear from Mass this week? What word stayed in my head from Sunday prayer, or did I feel like God spoke a special message to me?

Monday: As I enter a new week, how will my faith go with me? Do I bring more grace into my workplace and how can I be a better witness to Christ?

Tuesday: Am I a good teacher of my faith, both with my words and deeds?

Wednesday: Do people look to me as a measure of what is the right thing to do?

Thursday: Do I practice the 'golden rule', and give to others the courtesy I expect in return? Am I treating others similarly to how I wish to be treated?

Friday: Perform a random act of kindness as a penance and for someone's conversion.

Saturday: For what am I especially thankful to God for, as I go to Mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Sr. George Mary Hagan, O.S.U. gave a wonderful presentation on the history of Catholic settling in Kentucky from Maryland, and the deep roots of our Catholic faith in our US history. **(Oct 25, 2017 photo by Marie Rose)**

Missionary Coming: Nov 11-12 at weekend masses, Sister Consolata of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will be with us, to invite us to help her religious order's work throughout the world. She is currently working at the St Gerard House in Owensboro, a housing shelter for pregnant, unwed women age 18 and older. Protecting life and helping provide for needs of mother and child are such a needed ministry. Please be generous to help Sister's work.

Church Bus Survey: The Parish council is conducting a survey to determine if there is a need for the parish to purchase a van or small bus. The vehicle would be used to bring parishioners to mass who do not have transportation to the weekend masses. Please contact Janet Bland 270-617-8156, email janetbland@att.net or Gail Pollock 270-756-2547, 270-668-3338 email pollockl@bbtel.com to share your thoughts. Thank-You.



Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming a Catholic???

If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!

7-12 Religious Education Classes:

3rd Annual Deanery Activity will be held on Nov. 12, 2017 at St. Romuald from 2 to 6pm. We will have mass during this event and it will meet the obligation for their weekend mass.

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.

Knights of Columbus: Please join me at our annual Memorial Service for Departed Brothers and their Families at St. Romuald's 7 am Mass on November 12th.

Thanksgiving Baskets: The Knights of Columbus are putting together a meal consisting of a frozen turkey, dressing, potatoes and the trimming for about \$25. If you would like to sponsor family just drop your money in a blank envelope in the collection basket or give it to Fr. Brian or the Deacons. Must be turned in by November 12. You may suggest a family that needs help with food for Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generosity.

Daylight Savings Ends

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	No School
	1:00 pm Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	No School
	10:00 am Scripture Study
	1:00 pm Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm Rosary
	6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul
Wed	4:00 pm Confessions
	5:00 pm Mass
	6:00 pm RCIA
Thur	9:30 am Mass (Medco)
	3:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am School Mass (Fr. Jason McClure)
Sat	9:00 am SRIS Holiday Bazaar
	Franciscans of the Immaculate Heart Appeal
	5:00 pm Youth Mass
Sun	Franciscans of the Immaculate Heart Appeal
	2:00 pm Deanery High School Youth Activities
UPCOMING:	
Nov 15	10:00 am Senior Day

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

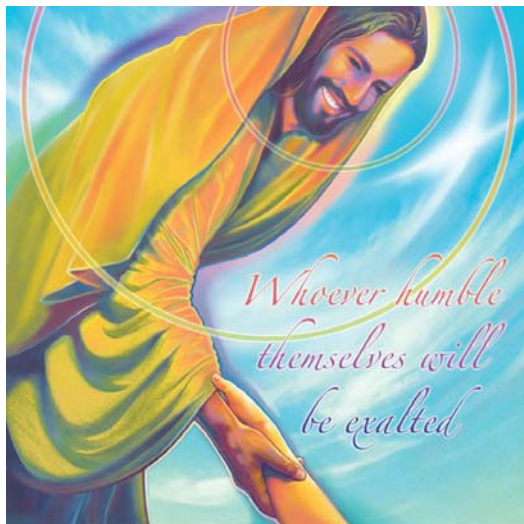
A Word from Pope Francis:

"Today, there are people who are greedy for more money and worldly goods, people who already have so much, but they walk by hungry children who have no medicine, who have no education, and who are abandoned. This amounts to an idolatry that kills and makes human sacrifices to the god of money. Just think of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people who have been displaced from their home in Burma, due to ethno-religious persecution. There are 800,000 Rohingya people in refugee camps, and 200,000 of them are children. They are malnourished, without medicine. So, prayers against money-idolatry must be strong. We should pray: "Lord, please, touch the hearts of these people who worship... the god of money. And God, touch my own heart so I do not fall into the same thing. Help me see clearly". Life is so much more than wealth and physical possessions. God ultimately puts a limit on our attachment to money, since at the end of life, riches becomes worthless. Faith and trust in God alone lasts: Faith in God is our treasure. To make ourselves rich in what matters to God: that is the only way. (Homily 10-23-17)

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

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.



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Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b; Ps 131:1bcde-3; Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15
Sunday: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 [13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: Sammy & Donna Aubrey will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on Nov. 5th.

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

National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov 5-11)

Did you know that in our country, compared to 50 years ago, there are 20,000 fewer priests and 130,000 fewer religious sisters? At the same time, the Catholic population has continued to grow steadily. Many factors have contributed to the decline: growing secularism, a lengthened period of adolescence, attitudes about celibacy, etc.

During the week we encourage all Catholics to:

- ◇ Take time to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- ◇ Reflect on our own vocation and strengthen our personal relationship with Christ.
- ◇ Participate in the **CALLED BY NAME** process
- ◇ Invite and encourage young people to consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life and to consider participating in our discernment opportunities
- ◇ Educate our young people about the importance of silent prayer and taking the time to truly listen to God's voice in our hearts

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Roy Bennett, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Kayla Christian, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Vonda Decker, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Cindy Getz, Jenny Ginn, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Janet Hallway, Kay Harris, 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, Brenda Kelly, Louise Kennedy, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Emma Nottingham, Don 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, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucy Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Calla Stith, Paul Tucker, Tessa Wadsworth, Fallon Wen, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, 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



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!

Trinity High School in Whitesville, Kentucky will be hosting a shadow day for all current 8th graders. If you are interested in your child attending the shadow day or would like more information, please contact the Director of Admissions and Advancement, Anna McDaniel, at (270) 233-5533. We would love to partner with you in continuing your child's Catholic school education!!!



prayers.

Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Dorothy Morris who passed away this past week. Please keep her and her family in your

We would like to say thank you for the many prayers, cards, flowers and gifts given to our family during this time of great loss of our dear Eddie. A special thank you to the ladies of St. Romuald for their assistance in preparing the meal provided to our family and friends. Thank you also to Fr. Brian for making the Funeral Mass so beautiful and memorable. The outpouring of love is so greatly appreciated and it is a comfort to be surrounded by such a caring community. May God Bless each and every one of you. The family of Eddie O'Donoghue

AROUND AND ABOUT

Saint Paul School - Principal: Saint Paul School, a small unique Catholic School in Leitchfield, KY, has an immediate and for the 2018/2019 school year an opportunity for a Principal who is committed to the mission of Catholic Education. Working under the supervision of the Pastor, the Principal will oversee a PreK - 8 school; the position is a dual principal teaching role. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, and have at least five years of teaching experience, a strong academic background, and must be able to successfully pass a background check.

Contact Details: Saint Paul School is an equal opportunity employer that provides a wide range of benefits. All interested applicants may submit a resume, cover letter and teaching certificate to: stpaulgrayson@windstream.net or Fr. Steve Hohman, 1812 St. Paul Road, Leitchfield, KY 42754

Please call Saint Paul School at 270-242-7483 with any questions.

Watch a FREE Live Stream of Dave Ramsey's Smart Money Event: On November 7, Dave Ramsey will be live streaming his Smart Money event & Financial Peace University classes at the site of St. Pius X Catholic Church located at 3418 Hardinsburg Road, Hwy 144, Owensboro, KY 42303. The best part? It's absolutely free for you to attend! Dave and his daughter, Rachel Cruze, will take the stage on November 7 in Phoenix, AZ at 7 PM and the live stream will begin at that time. St. Pius X would love for you to join them and learn the steps you and your family can take to live like no one else. Sign up today and be a part of this amazing event. For more information, contact either Gary Estes at 270-314-4419 or Carolyn McCarty at 270-929-8946.

Called by Name Program: Every young Catholic man should consider all vocations, including whether or not God is calling him to priesthood. However, if not invited or encouraged to think about priesthood, it may never be considered. Many young men may have the burning question within of God calling them to priesthood, but they may be waiting for a confirmation from someone else, to nudge them into seriously pursuing God's priestly call for them. Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students and older. Any man you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation, as well as invitations to discernment retreats and other events. Tell Fr Brian, Deacon Mike or Deacon Tony, to approach them or to invite the vocation director to reach out to them.



Sunday, Nov 05, 2017

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Follow the law of love

We know the Pharisees were arch-villains in the gospels, but it's surprising that these enemies of Jesus actually had some things in common with him. Both wanted to reform their religion, and both saw personal faithfulness to be the way to that renewal. For the Pharisees, though, this effort meant zealous observance of Jewish religious law, while for Jesus it meant rethinking that law in a whole new way. The Pharisees allied themselves with those in political power. Jesus, on the other hand, was a victim of politics, and his authority was a conduit for God's healing love, not a means of control. How can you exercise your authority for good?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12 (151).* "Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah."

Monday, Nov 06, 2017

Pay it forward

The idea of repaying a favor or someone's generosity by doing the same for a third party has been around a long time. In fact it's at the core of Jesus' radical challenge to love without condition, because God loved us first—to help the "least among us," who can't possibly pay us back. In extending a loan to a friend, Benjamin Franklin wrote: "When you . . . meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending this sum to him, enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation . . . I hope it may thus go thro' many hands . . ." Extend the chain of giving today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 11:29-36; Luke 14:12-14 (485).* "Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you."

Tuesday, Nov 07, 2017

RSVP

In the gospel parable of the great feast, many are invited, but one by one each declines the invitation. Sometimes saying yes feels too much like hard work. We've got so many other things to do! But are we really too busy? Maybe we just don't recognize the invitation. Or maybe the place Jesus is inviting us doesn't look like a banquet. Today, let's remember that Jesus invites us every day: to say a kind word, to think of someone else first, to forgive. Then let's resolve to accept the invitation. We might be surprised.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 12:5-16b; Luke 14:15-24 (486).* "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many, saying, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'"

Wednesday, Nov 08, 2017

Look at the bright side

When Jesus talked about being his disciple, he warned us that the road would be difficult and rocky. Instead of looking at Christ's words in a negative way, try looking at the rewards of sacrificing everything to follow him: the promise of eternal life, true happiness, joy, and peace. Now it doesn't sound so bad, does it? Keep a positive outlook as you travel the path of discipleship.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33 (487).* "Every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

Thursday, Nov 09, 2017

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Come on in

Finding God in the marketplace is very difficult for most of us because we are easily distracted by the mundane or *profane* (from the Latin meaning "outside the temple"). A sacred place, like anything sacred, is something set apart or different from what is normal for us. When we enter a cathedral filled with masterpieces and architectural wonders or a simple country church set amid a breathtaking landscape, or any place where we know holy things have happened, we are readily transported to the dwelling place of the divine, where souls are stirred, minds are enlightened, bodies are healed, and sins are forgiven. Step out of your routine and enter a sacred space.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671).* "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Friday, Nov 10, 2017

MEMORIAL OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Seek wisely

Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God is among or, in an equally valid translation of the Greek, within us. But how do we recognize the Kingdom that is among and within us? What do we look for? Solomon suggests a very good place for us to start, with his poetic words of praise for wisdom in the first reading. Where we find wisdom, we find the presence of God—within us and among us. Cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear the wisdom that comes from your own heart, and from the words and example of other prayerful people. Seek wisdom and you'll find the Kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8 (489).* "For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

Saturday, Nov 11, 2017

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

Cross violence off the list

It may seem odd that we remember Martin of Tours from the fourth century on Veteran's Day because he was the first Christian pacifist on record. But he, too, was a soldier who came from a Roman military family. Serving in a war he came to view as unjust, he joined the vanguard that carried the cross ahead of the troops, risking his life rather than taking the life of another. In the centuries since Martin's time, Christians still feel ambivalent about saying no in time of war. Martin reminds us that the cross is also a response to the violence in human hearts.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Luke 16:9-15 (490).* "Those who lose their life will keep it."

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