



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

November 19, 2017 - Thirty-third 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

Our daughter and son-in-law graduated from Catholic high schools, but they're not bringing up their children in the Catholic faith....I feel an obligation to the children, but I don't know what to do.

I understand your concern and sadness, but we must always remember that parents have the primary responsibility for their children's religious education. People such as priests, teachers, grandparents, and godparents can help, but they cannot usurp the role of the parents.

If your daughter is truly alienated from the Church or has truly given up her faith in God, then anything you say or do will probably make her angry. In that case, your best approach is one of kindness to her and her family and regular prayer for her and for them.

Often, however, young parents aren't really alienated from God or the Church but have just drifted away. If they decide they should do something about their children's religious training, they often don't know who to contact. If this seems to be the case with your daughter and her husband, gently inform them that you will be glad to help get the children started. Contact your parish priest (or theirs) for the necessary information. This can be a big help to people who have been away from Catholic practice for a long time.

Adapted from Understanding Scrupulosity: Questions and Encouragement, by Fr. Thomas Santa, CSsR, © 2017 Liguori Publications

Happy Thanksgiving

Masses for the Week

November 20th - 26th

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Manning (MM) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Doris Priest
Thurs	8:00 am	Beavin Thornsberry
Fri	9:00 am	Roy H Bennett
Sat	5:00 pm	Harold Beard (MB)
	7:00 am	Wayne Henning (MW)
	10:00 am	Brenda Monin (BM)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,370.00
Building Fund.....	\$84.00
Children.....	\$3.62
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$47.00
Franciscans of the Immaculate Heart.....	\$1,790.12

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 25th & 26th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Kathy Flood Bryan O'Reilly	Christi Tivitt Lynn Tuell	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Arnold O'Reilly S-Jim Siler	Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor	Karen Huddleston	Pippa
7:00 am	Mike Wiedemer Cara Wilson	Denise Smith	C-Tim Glasscock* C-Cody Mingus S-Don Payne S-Scott Wilson	Benjamin Anthony Madison Anthony	Mike Wiedemer	Pippa
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables Lori Carwile Mary Jo Rankin Volunteer	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Mack Mattingly* C-Chuck McGary S-Chuck Robbins S-Chase Robbins	Volunteer Ryan Whitfill	Volunteer	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Randy Howard Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



Two popular sayings we frequently say in society, come from our gospel reading today: 1) **Use it or lose it** and 2) **Don't bury your talents!** I love hearing these bible references in conversation or in the media. *Maybe the people using these phrases know they are biblical, or maybe they don't know their origin in scripture.*

Either way, God's word is being spread. Maybe not like a direct quote of book, chapter and verse, but for those who know the Bible, it serves as a confirmation of God's wisdom and His providence! Since our weather has

been a topic of conversation lately, (is it ever not?) I love the saying, "Red sky at night is the sailors' delight; but red sky in the morning, sailors take warning" which comes from Matthew 16:2-3. Or have you ever talked about a recurring problem as your "Thorn in the flesh"? Well, thank St Paul who first used it in 2 Corinthians 12:7 to refer to a personal suffering he was undergoing. Or most fittingly, who among us has not said at some time or other, "There is nothing new under the sun"? You can read that line in Ecclesiastes 1:9. But, even better yet, **read the whole book** (from Deuteronomy 6:5-7), because "Lord, I am hanging onto 'your every word'" (Ps 119:31).

So, looking at today's gospel, here we go: 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained', right? (There's one more, see Ecclesiastes 11:4) In the story, an owner leaves to go on a journey, and he entrusts his workers with talents, one worker with five talents, one with two talents and the last worker with only one. The first worker diligently makes the talent work for him by investing or flipping it, and it reaps another five talents of income. The second worker invests his similarly, and he reaps two additional talents. But, the third worker simply hides his one talent in a hole for safe-keeping. When the owner comes home, the workers return the 'entrusted' talents (with extra or not) back to the owner. The first two workers delight the owner, by doubling his investment, yet the third worker only gives back the original one talent (no extra) with an excuse of 'fear' and 'caution'. Hearing the man's excuses, the owner comes apart and angrily blows up. He takes away the man's talent and throws him out, cutting him off. Why such a seemingly 'out-of-proportion' response? Why did the owner react so strongly? I suspect the owner was more upset about the lack of personal concern or relationship from the man with himself and toward the company. One could question what the upset is over, since the man was only given one talent to begin with. I mean, even if the one talent doubled like the others, it would only amount to the owner gaining one more talent. That is nothing to be upset about. But the lack of pride and personal investment in the company to at least 'try a venture' as an attempt to improve the company, is what really hurt and disappointed the owner. Obviously there is not trust or real relationship between the owner, his company and that worker. I suggest that what is behind the owner's 'lecture' and dismissal of the 'fearfully cautious' worker has more to do with a 'failed relationship' than a 'failed business project'.

I point out that the real loss in this story is the 'scared' worker who reflects a lack of any personal trust and relationship between him and the owner. He seems to have no relationship to the other workers either! Let's imagine how the scared worker could have used even the small resource of one talent for a benefit. The owner had said that he would have been happy even with least risky investment of just putting it in the bank, returning just interest. Even that safest of investments would show at least a little increase. **But the worker did not 'venture' anything.** He just sat on it! For example, if the man with one talent was a dedicated, involved worker, he would have attempted some gain. Maybe he could buy a product or tool, market it, re-sell it along to another buyer and gain the advantage of a increasing talents. He at least would gain some more experience and new commerce/ trade connections. Maybe he would have profited and maybe not, but he would meet new potential suppliers and consumers. Or thinking out of the box, what if the man had taken an even safer

route of investment and approached the other workers and pooled his talent with their investments and reaped 'in-house' gains (really sharing the risk and the reward with his fellow workers). The Boss would have loved that shrewd move! But what apparently upset and disappointed the owner so much, was the complete lack of initiative shown by the worker with one talent. Even at a minimum he could have asked the owner for advice (As a successful business man, what would he do with only one talent?). Or what might have happened if he had asked the other workers if they knew of some small 'one-bit' investment possibility.. But the man did not attempt anything, to improve his own skills or place, or to benefit the company and owner. So, he is let go and cast out of the company!

*I have been using the word 'company' intentionally, because it brings to mind the relationship aspect of this parable. The 'one-talent' worker's lack of showing any care to further good relationship among 1)him and his boss, 2)him and the other workers and 3)him and the overall enterprise demonstrates the absence of any personal 'investment' from him. He doesn't trust his boss or his co-workers, and he doesn't even care to advance the company. He lacks any personal involvement. If we understand this parable of Jesus as teaching us about the kingdom of God, I think He is saying that **the Kingdom of God is about always deepening trust and growing relationships among people.** Kingdom-Work amounts to people coming together on common projects and working with others to further increase their connections and concern for one another. For example, I imagine that in a company built on trust and a cooperative spirit among the workers, that even if this man's little investment failed, he could have gone straight to the owner. He could have laid out his 'business plan' and trusted that the owner understands the risks of any market. Any person in business immediately realizes the possible losses from 'market bubbles', unforeseen disasters, or other bad actors (probably in their first transaction!). In a good company of good relationships, the owner would have sat down with the dedicated and invested worker. They would study the failure together and put in place new measures to improve future chances of gains. Yes, this assumes good, trusting relationships. Of course for us, **Jesus is the definition of Good Relationship!** He started his Company by laying out his business plan, saying in Matthew 4:19 "You were fishermen. Come after me, and I will make you **fishers of men.**" Jesus embodies a good company, family friendly, when he tells and shows potential new team members, in Matthew 12:48-50 "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. **For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.**" Building 1) good company; 2) good relationships, and 3) building good life: That is Jesus' Kingdom! Have you heard? 'Jesus is hiring!' Apply today, yourself!*

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? Do I feel like God spoke a special message to me?

Monday: As I enter a new week, am I bringing more grace into my workplace and how can I be a better witness to Christ?

Tuesday: Name one talent that you can use to 'serve your neighbor' and glorify God.

Wednesday: Do I cling to my talents, afraid to 'lose' them if I use them?

Thursday: How may I encourage the 'talents' of others to be shared and grow? Point out another person's talent and support their sharing it for God's kingdom.

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

Ministry Schedule: We are working on the December-February Schedule. If you want to participate in one of the ministries at Mass, change the Mass you are presently assigned or wish to be taken off the list, please call the office @270-756-2356.

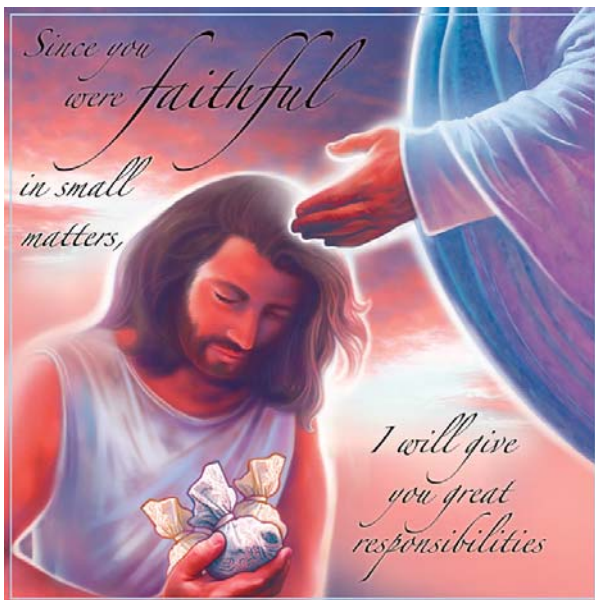
Also if you would like to volunteer for any of the Christmas Eve (4pm, 8pm & 12am), Christmas Day (9am), New Years Day (9am) Masses please call the office or email stromuald@bbtel.com.

Thanksgiving Day Mass: Start your Thanksgiving Day with an offering of thanks at Mass. Our mass will be at 8:00 am! 'Eucharist' is New Testament-Greek word for 'giving thanks'. What better way to celebrate thanks than with the Holy Eucharist!



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!



© J.S. Palach Co., Inc.

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.

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.

Sister Servants of Eternal Word Coming: We welcome Sr Mary Anthony (daughter of Ronnie and Jamesetta Whitfill) and Sr Joseph Marie who have come to share a vocation message with our young people, in the school and our parish. We thank them for their 'answer to God's call' living the 'consecrated life', but also for generously giving their time to visit and inspire our youth to consider their own vocation.

Parish Council & Finance Committee Reports: At their last meeting, parish council discussed how best to communicate with the parish matters that are discussed at meetings. Please find multiple copies of their meeting minutes in addition to the detailed monthly financial reports posted on the bulletin boards. They will be always be available there or just take a copy with you.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	AI-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Harned UMC
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	8:00 am	Thanksgiving Day Mass
Fri	9:00 am	Mass

UPCOMING:

Nov 28 6:00 pm Pastoral Council

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Christ says in today's gospel that "the scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses" and Jesus does command his followers to "do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you". Jesus is saying that the Pharisees by their position, have the authority to teach what is in conformity to the Law of God. But, the Lord immediately adds, "do not follow their example; for they preach but they do not practice." This is a frequent defect of those in authority. They are demanding towards others, and they are often correct; but while their directions are just, they fail to practice it themselves. This attitude is a wicked exercise of authority. Leaders should lead by their own living witness and example. In this fuller way, they help others practice what is right, supporting them in the trials that they encounter on the path of goodness. The poor behaviors of the scribes and Pharisees, which Jesus denounced, are temptations that come from human pride, among those who live solely for appearances. We disciples of Christ should not seek titles of honour, of authority, or of supremacy. It saddens me personally to see people psychologically running after the vanity of honorific titles. We disciples of Christ should not do this. If we have received special gifts from God, we should put them at the service of our brothers, and not profit by them for our personal satisfaction. (Address 11-5-17)

In Sympathy

Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Dorothy Mae (Priest) Morris, who was buried at St Romuald this past week. Also, for John McClellan (Sylvia Priest and Shirley Robbins' brother). Please keep all of the families in your prayers.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 19, 2017

"Well done, my good and faithful servant"

How can you make a return to the Lord for all that he has given you? We respond to God's love for us by loving him in return, by giving to him our lives as he first gave his life for us. If you feel that God might be calling you or someone you know to give yourself to him as a priest or religious brother or sister, contact the Diocese of Owensboro Office of Vocations: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com or jason.mcclure@pastoral.org

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!

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44
Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

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.

Al-Anon Meeting: Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

Pray to end abortion: Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support. With God, all things are possible! Archbishop Kurtz is known to show up and pray with everyone too!

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

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, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, **Rufus Tivitt**, 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



Thanksgiving Community Church Service: Come celebrate our community church Thanksgiving Service Tuesday November 21 at 6:00 pm in Harned United Methodist Church. We have so much to be thankful for, so come give thanks!

Kick the new year off right with a public reading of God's word on the Court House lawn! January 1-4, there will be teams to recite the Word of God, over 90 straight hours. Teams from different churches will take on a three hour watch shift (a total of 30 watches) to ensure the proclamation of the Bible starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation. If you are interested in taking a reading shift or being a 3hour team captain, please let Fr Brian know as we try to assemble a reading team.

St Vincent DePaul October Report: St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. In October, a total of 20 families amounting to 62 persons (of which were 35 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$1,379.63 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

AROUND AND ABOUT



Office of Vocations
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
Called by Name

Do you know a future priest?

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 or older. During National Vocation Awareness Week, we are asking you to recommend young men whom you believe might have a vocation to priesthood. Any man you recommend will receive information from the Vocations Office and will be invited to participate in our discernment opportunities such as retreats and our vocation camp. Recommendations may be made online at vocations website:

<http://www.owensborovocations.com/called-by-name/>

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.

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: Wayne & Judy Hardesty will be celebrating 55 years of marriage on November 24th and Stefan & Michele Cesarz will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on November 28th.

BIRTHDAY: George Walz, November 28th.



Sunday, Nov 19, 2017

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Dust off the tradition**

Three servants are entrusted with their master's "talents"; the one who fearfully buries his is reprimanded while those who grow theirs earn the "master's happiness" and trust. Today we take the hint. We try to share the gifts God gives us. But earliest versions of the parable repeat the phrase "to hand over," meaning the transmission of religious tradition. And so perhaps it's time to review our portfolio. Is our Catholic heritage a buried treasure, or do we pull it from our pocket regularly? Has our participation in the Eucharist collected dust, like a keepsake of First Communion, or has it grown into a larger way of life?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 (157).* "Master, you have handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more."

Monday, Nov 20, 2017

Envision your faith

One of the greatest blessings any of us ever receives is insight into another person's soul—seeing the truth of another's sadness, sensing their loneliness, feeling their pain, understanding what would bring them joy, and then with an open heart offering ourselves in service to that hurting human being. Most of us can call to mind at least one act of compassion on our parts where we knew we had done something genuinely good for another person. At that moment we were true disciples of Christ. Try to regain your Christian vision and see into the souls of others today and every day.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497).* "Immediately the man regained his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God."

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Be present to the Spirit

How did the Virgin Mary come to be a woman "full of grace"? It was her close association with the holy Temple, as today's feast reminds us. Although not recorded in the Bible, an early document attributed to the apostle James tells us Mary was born to Joachim and Anne in a Jerusalem neighborhood near the Temple. According to legend, she was presented in the Temple at age 12 and lived in seclusion there to learn the Law. The meaning of this story is that Mary lived in God's presence until God chose to reside in her. Live mindfully in the presence of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498).* "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Wednesday, Nov 22, 2017

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Let your faith sing

A legend says that during her wedding to a young pagan (who later became a Christian), Cecilia (d. 117) "sang in her heart to Christ." Thus she is the patron saint of music. She was also a martyr, killed in connection with the ministry of giving burial to Christians who had already died for their faith in Roman persecutions. Does your faith feel like something to sing about? Or is it more like uninspiring background music? How can you make your faith more a source of joy?

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499).* "I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my word."

Thursday, Nov 23, 2017

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanks are in order

"Imagine a country whose . . . people realize that all human beings belong together as one family and must act accordingly, a country guided by common sense. To the extent to which we show ourselves not hateful but grateful, this becomes reality." Benedictine monk Brother David Steindl-Rast wrote these words shortly after 9/11 transpired. The Pilgrims and Native Americans laid the foundation for such a country in 1621 when they shared in the feast they had gathered and prepared through cooperation and trust. Be cooperative and trusting as you gather for a Thanksgiving meal today. Most of all, practice the art of gratitude. Simple thank-yous are a start.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Mass for Thanksgiving Day (943-947): 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500).* "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Friday, Nov 24, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW DŨNG-LẠC, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Give it your all

How much are you willing to give? Some make the ultimate sacrifice and give their very lives. Andrew Dũng-Lạc was a priest and one of 117 saints martyred in Vietnam during persecutions there in the 19th century. Three U.S. archbishops returning from Vietnam in 1989 said, "The church in Vietnam is alive and vigorous, blessed with strong and faithful bishops, dedicated religious, and courageous and committed laypeople . . . The church in Vietnam is living out the gospel in a difficult and complex situation with remarkable persistence and strength."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501).* "Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things."

Saturday, Nov 25, 2017

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Be a legend in your own time

Catherine of Alexandria was said to be a very learned young woman, a philosopher, and eloquent speaker who persuaded many of the Roman persecutors of Christianity of the errors of their ways. For this, Emperor Maximinus II ordered her tortured to death on a spiked "breaking wheel," but legend says it burst into flames when she touched it. Today, there is a firework named the Catherine Wheel that spins in a circle showering sparks. But underneath all the colorful legendry, there is the witness of someone who "spoke truth to power," even when the personal cost was high.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502).* "My friend, I am not cheating you."

©2009 by TrueQuest Communications, L.L.C. PHONE: 800-942-2811; E-MAIL: mail@takefiveforfaith.com; WEBSITE: www.TakeFiveForFaith.com. Licensed for noncommercial use. All rights reserved. Scripture quotes come from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.