



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

November 26, 2017 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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

When I was younger the stance of the Catholic Church was that if you were not baptized, you did not get into heaven. Is this still the case?

The Gospels present to us various passages that, when looked at together, give us a sense of whether or not baptism is necessary for salvation. Jesus says, "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5), and "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). These passages show that salvation is the combination of baptism and believing. Those who "see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ," but who also purposely reject it, remain in darkness (see 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6).

The First Letter of John 4:7 tells us that "everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God." Here the gift of salvation comes to us in loving. Also, in Matthew 25, we have the great scene of the Last Judgment, where people are saved because they ministered to Christ in the poor and the hungry, even though they might not even have been aware of Christ's presence. Salvation here comes because of kind action. Baptism, then, combined with believing is certainly one of the means to salvation, but it's not the only means. In God's goodness, other roads can lead us into the kingdom. God's mercy and goodness are not limited to the sacrament of baptism (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1257-1260).

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



Masses for the Week

November 28th - December 3rd

Tues	1:00 pm	Martha Elder (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Bryson Manning Miller (MM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Loretta Duggins (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	J. Paul & Mary W. Henning (RO)
Sat	8:00 am	Joann Bruington (RD)
	5:00 pm	Carroll Anthony (TA)
	7:00 am	Margaret Hinton (DH)
	10:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue (PO)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$
Building Fund.....	\$
Children.....	\$
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$

Will be published in next Sunday's Bulletin

Parish Financial Summary

July-October, 2017

Total Income	\$180,300
Total Expenses	\$172,500
	\$ 7,800

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 - December 2nd & 3rd

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Amy Flood Anna Flood	Alex Bertschman Melissa Oelze	C-David Basham* C-Jim Bland S-Sam Bland S-Will Bland	John Bertschman Claire Flood	Angie Bertschman	Shannon
7:00 am	Janet Bland Shirley Bland	Pete Anthony	C-Michael Flood* C-Blake Flood S-Byron Flood S-Scott Wilson	Darrian Flood Morgan Tabor	Lorena Bland	
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sandra Hinton Sandy Horsley	Jennifer Payne Jessica Phillips	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Greg Hinton S-Jim Sills S-Allen Wheatley	Ava Phillips Spencer Wilson	Sandy Horsley	PJ/Choir Cantor: Alison
Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



Here comes the King! Here comes the King! Happy Feast of Christ the King! A couple of weeks ago we were shocked into being more alert to God's Return and Visitation to us, when we heard the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Today we hear of Jesus visiting us and the possibility that ***we may not even realize it is Him!*** Like a test, or surprise visit, Jesus comes to His People and we recognize Him ***or we don't!*** Yet, either way, we pray we will respond and serve just as Jesus has taught us to, so that he will find

a welcome reception with us. If so, then we will hear his most welcome words, of "Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." (Matt 25:34) That is what I want to hear from Jesus! So, my best readiness to meet Jesus, would be thinking that my every telephone call, every chance meeting, every single encounter and even my every passing word as coming from or being given to Him!

This parable reminds me of what scientists call a 'double-blind' experiment, wherein both the subjects and the researchers do not know 'who is who,'--which subjects are 'test' and which are 'control' in experiment-- or 'what exactly is being tested'. The purpose behind 'double blind' experiments is to eliminate all possible bias and to avoid slanting the results, consciously or not. For example, let's suggest that I am part of an experiment testing whether eating Cheetos increases the likelihood of a person from catching the Flu. But if I know what is being tested, and if I become more careful about washing my hands and avoid ever licking my fingers (you know the orange finger treats!), then my changed behaviors will tilt the experiment results away from the likelihood of me catching the Flu! So the experimenters do not want me to know what is being tested so they can keep the result from being tainted through my intervening awareness/bias. This keeps the science pure and the results robust. And doubling the control against bias, if the actual research-helper ***also*** does not know what is being tested, that piece of possible bias is isolated out of the result, too! So this parable about sheep and goats looks like a 'single-blind' experiment where all behavior is being watched by the Lord, and we are expected to act with the same love,

whether we know it is Jesus we are serving or not! What makes our charitable action good is that Jesus Himself commands us to do it and He sets the example of it for us. I love how this parable brings up the problem of keeping faithful to doing good work ***regardless of reward or risk.*** We do good work because Jesus calls us to, not because it is easy or as a favor to receive something in return. Jesus cautioned against doing good deeds only for rewards, when he said in Matthew 6: 2 "When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have already received their reward." ***AND*** Jesus also put us on alert to not avoid doing good deeds when they become difficult, such as when we do not like who we must serve or because they do not look like us. He said in Matthew 5:44, 46 "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you..... For if you love only those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same?" ***So, Christian Service to others in Jesus' name is right and good, whether the whole world is watching or no one is watching.*** We do not love and serve others only because it is being noted toward our credit! And we love others even when it becomes difficult, even if they oppose us or persecute us for doing good for them!

It is interesting that both the sheep and the goats,

miss Jesus. They do not remember serving or not serving Jesus. They both say, "***When did we serve you*** (or not serve you?) (Matt 25:37, 44). More than any other line in the gospels, ***this line calls for humility*** among all Jesus' followers. It is so humbling to consider that any good done for Jesus' glory is ***no credit to us.*** Maybe even on a good day, when I feel so 'successful' about meeting goals, and tasks being accomplished, I have to remember God is doing the good -not me; God is the 'driver of all good'. St Paul is once tempted to claim all the credit for his good ministry, but he points out the real source of his good, when he writes in 1 Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; ***not I, however, but the grace of God that is within me.***" St Anselm, a bishop-theologian writing in the 11th century, said of any good work that he might do, that it was not him but God moving within him that accomplishes the good through him, when he too wrote "...I do not credit it to myself, for it is not my doing but is the work of God's grace in me." (De Concordia 3.14) What a good-servant of Jesus attitude! That is the attitude of a good sheep belonging to the Good Shepherd! I hear this same selfless, simple servant attitude in the workers that Jesus admires in Luke 17:10 when he says to his disciples, "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded of you, you should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" This humility, this mother of all virtues, was perfectly mirrored from Jesus and reflected in the life of the Virgin Mary, too, when she said in Luke 1:38 "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." As we enter Advent, and since I think of it as such a maternal season, may we think of each of its days as leading us to welcome and bring to birth the presence of Christ in one another and in the world. May we always watch for Him, and work for Him!

Blessed Mother Mary, You see all of us as reflections of Jesus, pray for us that we may be such faithful servants to Jesus as you are, recognizing others and treating everyone as Christ's own Self!

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

Sunday: What challenged me at Mass today? What can I work on this week to deepen my faith and grow in relationship to Christ?

Monday: Am I a charitable person? Does charity come easy to me, or do I have to work at considering others' needs before my own? How can I improve my generosity?

Tuesday: Do I look for Jesus everywhere and in everyone? Appearing where or in whom might Jesus most surprise me?

Wednesday: Take a moment to call or send a card to someone on our prayer list for the sick. Offer some prayer for them, too.

Thursday: Sheep or goat? Is my conduct more like a sheep or a goat? Do I like to stay close to others and look out for others, or do I think of myself more than others and only focus on my own concerns?

Friday: Perform a random act of kindness or anonymous good deed today for someone!

Saturday: What do I need to pray about at Mass that happened this week? What am I going to be thanking God for at Mass?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Practices for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday	Dec 7	3:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	Dec 14	3:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday	Dec 21	3:00 - 5:00 pm

All children are invited to participate. For more information please call Patty Curran at 270-945-8155

December 3-Holy Hours throughout the Diocese: Come pray in solidarity with the whole Diocese Sunday afternoon **December 3, from 2:30-3:30 pm in St Romuald Church.** The Bishop has asked all parishes to observe a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration to pray for renewed evangelization efforts and eager application of Pope Francis' call for 'Joyful Witness and Encounter with Christ' in us all!

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.

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month: Father Brian will offer the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm) on December 6th. 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).

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.



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!

Advent Giving Tree: The Advent Giving Tree is a wonderful opportunity to assist those in our parish and community who are in need of support. All giving tree gifts must be returned by December 3rd. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Pastoral Council
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass at Medco
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
	3:00 pm	1st Reconciliation Prayer Day
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Sun	1:00 pm	1st Reconciliation
	2:30 pm	Advent Holy Hour
	6:00 pm	Women's Jail Ministry

UPCOMING:

Dec 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"We have to ask ourselves: If this was my last day on earth, am I prepared? Am I cooperating with God's grace? This is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is not to wait for the last moment of our life to cooperate with the grace of God, but to do it already, starting now. What does Jesus want to teach us with the parable of the wise and foolish virgins? He tells us to be prepared always, to meet Him, which means not only having faith, but also living a Christian life full of love, charity, for our neighbor. Yes, watching for Him on the last day, and also in our neighbor in between. The oil is a symbol of charity which acts as a light for our faith, making it shine and become fruitful. On the other hand, if we live a life based on self-centeredness and our own interests, then our lives are made sterile and our faith extinguished. If, however, we are vigilant and try to do good, with gestures of love and service to our neighbor in difficulty, we can remain calm while we wait for the bridegroom's coming." (Angelus 11-12-17).

Solemnity of Christ the King, November 26, 2017

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

By virtue of our Baptism, we are all called to imitate Christ's self-giving sacrificial love. Each of us is called to serve in a way unique to our personal vocation. If you feel that God might be calling you to serve others in the vocation of priesthood, contact the Diocese of Owensboro Office of Vocations: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com or jason.mcclure@pastoral.org



February Men's Conference: Mark your calendars- February 17th at RiverPark Center, Owensboro 8:30-4:30. Speakers will be national catholic evangelists Christopher West and Doug Barry, to order tickets visit www.kycatholic.com or email msullivan@smsmlaw.com

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: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

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!

DRF Update for St. Romuald, Hardinsburg:

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish goal target:

St Romuald Parish Target Amount: \$12,069.67

Pledged for year: \$8,492

Contributions so far: \$3,732

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, **Baby Barr**, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Roy Bennett, **Lorena Bland**, 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, **Joe Hess**, 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, **Elaine 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, **Stella Prewitt**, Bob Rankin, **Kay Ray**, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, **Beth Smith**, 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



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.



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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.

Eucharistic **First Friday 24-hour Adoration:**

Following the 8:00 am Mass on December 1st we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour if prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



Adoration



Sunday, Nov 26, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Get your passport stamped

The man we call the “good thief” turned his life around in the final hour when he encountered Jesus on the cross at Golgotha. One good act of repentance was all it took for him to enter the Kingdom. The passport to the reign of God is still the same. Repentance involves a change of heart followed by a change in direction. What needs to change in your habits, relationships, attitudes? Take that step and claim your citizenship in a Kingdom not of this world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."*

Monday, Nov 27, 2017

Move beyond pity

Widows in ancient times were to be pitied and granted favors, but of course, those filled with the Spirit had a tendency to turn perceptions upside down. So we find widows in the Bible who are models of faithfulness (1 Kings 17), insight (Luke 2), righteousness (Luke 18), and generosity (Luke 21). Whom do you pigeonhole as pitiable? Homeless people? The undocumented? People with mental and physical disabilities? No doubt the people you feel sorry for can benefit from your concern and care, but they might surprise you with gifts of their own that will enrich you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). "But she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."*

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2017

Here he comes now!

If you ever hear doomsday theorists say the end of the world is due any day now, it makes sense to be a little wary. And we have this advice from a good authority: Jesus. Of course we believe Jesus will return to bring the reign of God to fulfillment and judge the world. But only God knows the timetable. We get ready best by always looking for Christ's coming, not only at the end of time but in our everyday lives. If we're ready for him now, we'll be ready for him later.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). "Do not go after them."*

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2017

Would you testify to that?

Testimony has always been part of being a Christian. For the first few centuries, just getting baptized was practically a death sentence, as Christians were regularly hauled into court to profess their faith and accept the consequences. Even after Christianity was no longer outlawed, in times and places throughout history it still hasn't been safe to wear a cross or go to Mass. Christians in some parts of the world today face persecution, but even those who don't must still testify to their faith. How do you?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). "You will be brought before kings and governors. This will give you an opportunity to testify."*

Thursday, Nov 30, 2017

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

Take a closer walk

Andrew was a seeker. As a young man he went out to the

desert to find out what that wild man, John the Baptist, had to offer. What the Baptist offered was the best advice any of us could ever get: “Follow Jesus.” Andrew sought out Jesus, became one of the first apostles, and followed him to his own death. Today is a good day to honor the seeker within you. In each of us there is a little voice that spurs us on to seek a truer relationship with God. In memory of Andrew, listen to that little voice within.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). "Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'"*

Friday, Dec 01, 2017

Do you ever wonder?

Every age has its own particular mindset through which the people view their world. Our 21st-century perspective could be called “scientific.” Whatever we can see with our eyes and measure with our instruments, we believe. Eight hundred years ago the prevailing attitude was “wonder.” In the Middle Ages all of creation was viewed as a symbol. It was a book in which every living thing was a word charged with meaning. The faithful were called to look through the visible to the invisible and, by reading nature, read the thoughts of God. Our amazing and helpful advances in science have sometimes come at the expense of wonder. Today, pray to the Holy Spirit for the lost gift of wonder and awe.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words not pass away."*

Saturday, Dec 02, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary through the ages

One wonders how much honor artists have given the mother of Jesus over the centuries by imagining her as impossibly idealized, the “lovely lady dressed in blue” of sentimental verse. Yet once in a while someone breaks through the pastel pallet. Sister Helena Steffensmeier, for example, a School Sister of St. Francis in Milwaukee, carved an image of Mary from a gnarled linden tree stump. The result: Mary not as child-bride or queen but as an old woman, a “grand” mother who has seen both terror and glory, with a face lined and wrinkled but a voice still singing: “The Lord has done good things for me. Blessed be his name.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). "Be vigilant at all times."*