



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

[www.stromuald.org](http://www.stromuald.org)

## dear Padre

### Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Email: [stromuald@bbtel.com](mailto:stromuald@bbtel.com)

### Pastoral Staff:

*Pastor*, Father Brian Johnson

Email: [Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org](mailto:Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org)

*Deacon*, Tony Anthony

*Deacon*, Mike Wiedemer

*Administrative Asst*, Jane Haynes

*CRE: Adult*, Rosa Hockenberry

*CRE: RCIA*, Lyvenia Anthony

*CRE: 7-12*, Gayle Poole

*CRE: K-6*, Kim Brumfield

### Pastoral Council:

Dana Bland, Harry Mattingly,

Janet Bland, David Morton

Christi Brooks, Kevin Oelze

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Jerry Dowell, Gail Pollock

Betty Heavrin, Pam Pollock

### St. Romuald

#### Interparochial School:

Phone: 756-5504

Website:

[www.stromualdschool.org](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

### School Board

#### Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

***1 Corinthians 10:13 states, "God... will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out..." My brother committed suicide, and I wonder why he wasn't "able to bear it." Please help me to understand.***

The death of a family member is never easy to deal with. I pray for your peace and your brother's eternal rest.

We can't be sure what your brother was thinking when he ended his life, but we can be certain God was with him. God remains faithful to his covenant and will never disappoint the hope and trust of his children. Does this mean your brother failed to trust in God? We don't know that. Only God and your brother know the extent of his condition and suffering.

When we recall Jesus' lament from the cross—"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:2)—we see that in his darkest moment, his Father was with him. In the same way, God was present in the worst of your brother's trials. Why he was nevertheless unable to bear them is a question we may never have the answer to on this side of heaven. It's important to remember that the Church has great compassion for those who commit suicide. To leave your brother in God's merciful hands is to act with the conviction of our faith.

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR [sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)

January 22, 2017 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Masses for the Week

January 23rd - 29th

Tues	1:00 pm	John Roberts (JB)
Wed	5:00 pm	Raymond Wethington (AP)
Thurs	9:30 am	Pat Flood (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Jamie Bland (LB)
Sat	5:00 pm	Fred & Jean Askins (JM)
Sun	7:00 am	Harold Beard
	10:00 am	Merl & Marty Kannapel

### CONFESSIONS

**Wednesday** 4:00-5:00pm

**Saturdays** 4:00 pm

## Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17  
 Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98/Mk 3:22-30  
 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40/Mk 3:31-35  
 Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117/Mk 16:15-18  
 Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96/Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37/Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1/Mk 4:35-41  
 Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Liturgical Publications Inc

## Stewardship of Finance

### Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection .....	\$6,629.00
Building Fund .....	\$5.73
Children .....	\$5.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$39.00
St. Romuald School.....	\$500.00

### St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-December, 2016

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$275,100</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$252,900</b>
	<b>\$ 22,200</b>

**Thank you for your financial stewardship!**



## January 28th & 29th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Shelly Jefferies Bryan O'Reilly	Lynn Tuell Brenda Wheatley	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Joey Flood S-Leroy Henning	Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor Haley Weise	Minnie Nimmo	Shannon
7:00 am	Anne O'Reilly Cara Wilson	Jim Heavrin	C-Chuck Hardesty* C-Michael Kennedy S-Cody Mingus S-Scott Wilson	Gabe Carwile Luke Carwile	Mike Wiedemer	
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables LaDonna Barton Sharon Hale Rhonda Walz	Alvin Mattingly Jennifer Payne	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Chuck Robbins S-Chase Robbins S-Joey Walz	Luke Walz Shelbey Walz	Patsy Whitfill	P.J./Choir Cantor: Alison
Radio Minister: Randy Howard		Children's Liturgy:				

## Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

News of John's arrest comes to Jesus, and Jesus says "Let's Roll!" Okay, it doesn't happen just like that, but pretty close. Tragically, John's arrest only troubles King Herod even more and leads eventually to Herod executing John. So John leaves the public stage. And Jesus knows 'his hour has come'. As John fades from the scene, Jesus ramps up his ministry and mission. First step, is the roll-out of the announcement 'The Kingdom is at hand'. Then, the second step is Jesus organizing his team by electing His closest co-workers, the Twelve apostles (like the selection of His cabinet!) Jesus' organization of troops begins in our reading today of the "Call-Story" of Peter, Andrew, James and John! Two set of brothers (like a call-one-get-another too, or two!!) By Jesus calling all brothers in this one episode, He is already a third of the way to the perfect number twelve for his hand-picked partners in ministry. This also begins his pattern of later sending out on mission his apostles/disciples in His 'two-by-two' style. Every 'Call-Story' I read in the gospels, makes me reflect upon how I answer Christ's call. We do have the 'big call' of our 'state in life', whether marriage, family and children are God's plan for us, or living singly in consecrated, religious life, or in Holy Orders. But we also have the daily call to serve God in whatever our state, through our constant decisions and minute to minute choices that constitute our Christian lifestyle. If we refer to ourselves as Christian, that means we are to 'represent' Christ. And we reflect Christ, or don't, by the faithfulness we exhibit in every thought, word and action we express. Our conduct silently says something about our beliefs.

Recently I have been reading the Constitutions and Norms of the Jesuit Religious Order, (I do not personally know any Jesuits, but our Holy Father Francis is a member of the Jesuits, so I wanted to read the foundational and formational materials that guide his living of the Gospel). One of the many guiding principles in their constitutions is this: "The more universal the good is, the more it is divine." Their Constitutions speak of the familiarity with God of "members (Jesuits) for *their own* spiritual progress/edification **and that of the rest of people** among whom they happen to be" (Const 585). Always mindful one's own need of salvation, and cooperating with God bringing it about, **but also always assisting others to come to 'salvation' themselves**, the Constitutions are filled with **concern for one's neighbor**. Being just as concerned about a neighbor or as one is about oneself, and the effect we have on others is vital to Jesuit missions. Such phrases as "the good of **all** souls" and "what may impede or promote the **good of all** souls" appear all over the Constitutions. The Jesuit founder St Ignatius emphasized the love of God expressed in **one's love of neighbor**. Just like St Francis Assisi's command to 'go preach, and consider it a failure of witness if you have to use words", St Ignatius says it this way, "By one's upright life, strive to edify those with whom one deals no less, but rather **even more by good deeds than by words**" (Const 637) I bring this up because we need examples, and we look for models on which to pattern our lives. Pope Francis says as much when he reminds us to serve Christ with the '**credibility of witness**', and by '**loving people into the Truth**'. So Jesus invites 12 partners into his mission to be further examples of living in his Company. Watch as the apostles embody the Kingdom of God to the world. But with human models we easily enough

have breakdowns. Often we look to the Early Church as an example in itself of how to best embody following Jesus. But, notice today, St Paul in our second reading correcting the poor example among the Early Church that fell into rivalry and competition. He mentions church members fighting over whether it is best to be taught by Paul, Apollos or Cephas. In Christ, **we all lose** when anyone is put over another. Or **anyone put down, puts all of us down!** Paul reminds them, "You were not baptized into Paul. Was Paul crucified for you? No, it is only Jesus!" (1 Cor 11:12-13) We do need worthy apostle-examples: holy men and women who consistently portray what it means to be as Christ like as humanly possible. But we never want our **models to mistake their holiness as their own creation** instead of it being the grace of God's spirit within them. St Paul offers us wisdom by offering the rule in 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." Christ is the standard, and only His Way is to be followed. All **Christian** Ministry is His, and His alone is the Glory! A humble Christian attitude is simply to say, "If You see Christ in me, follow me, and if not, stay with Christ--- Yet, love me enough to call me back to Christ, too!" We all need daily examination and periodic review of our lives and witness.

A final note: When the apostles leave their previous way of life and employment of fishing, notice that their following Christ does not wipe out their previous skill sets and experiences. Jesus wants them to keep their acquired skills and apply them to new purposes, as when he says, "You once were fishermen, now you will **fish for men!**" They still use what they know, just now, for new purposes. We will see Jesus tell Peter 'go fish' again when he has him go to the sea, cast a line and draw a fish from the sea, opening its mouth to retrieve two coins to pay the Temple Tax for them in Matthew 17:24-27 or consider all the many times they still sail their boats to move around Galilee and Judea, crossing the Sea of Galilee. We too need to keep handy our life's experiences and skills and allow God to use them for new purposes!

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

**Sunday:** Did any word or phrase stay in my mind after mass today? What do I remember of the readings or message to carry with me into the week as a challenge?

**Monday:** Have I ever felt God call me strongly to do something? Is He now? What is it?

**Tuesday:** Peter and Andrew left behind their boats and nets. Has my following Jesus led me to leave anything behind for a greater work or greater good?

**Wednesday:** Do I consider myself a messenger or missionary for Jesus? Do my actions or my words lead others to know that I am a faithful Christian?

**Thursday:** What practices do I routinely take up to make sure my following of Jesus keeps current and I remain open to doing His will?

**Friday:** Perform some act of kindness or work of mercy today for someone anonymously.

**Saturday:** Have I reread the mass gospel or epistle for this weekend? What am I especially thankful for to offer God at Mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

**Marriage Help** – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples who are disillusioned or even experiencing misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 13, 2017, call 270-852-8346, or email: fl Elliot@audubon-area.com or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

**Marriage Enrichment Retreat:** The Family Life Office is pleased to bring Mario Sacasa, to our Diocese for a "Married Couple's Retreat-Living the Gift of Marriage" on March 25-26, 2017 at Lake Barkley Lodge in Cadiz, Kentucky. TO register or for more info, please call the Family Life office 270-683-1545

**Catholic Men's Conference featuring Cardinal Timothy Dolan:** Saturday February 11 at the RiverPark Center (101 Daviess Street, Owensboro, KY 42303) is the 6th annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference. Come participate in day of men's spirituality. For ticket info, visit [www.kycatholic.com](http://www.kycatholic.com)

**A Word from Pope Francis:** Speaking recently about the example of Mother St Teresa, Pope Francis said, "she bent down to comfort the poorest of the poor left to die on the streets, and recognized in each of them their God-given dignity. She accepted every human life, whether unborn or abandoned and discarded, and she made her voice heard by the powers of this world. She called on the world powers to use their minds and talents to address human needs, fostering a better sharing of the world's goods. If we want to follow that path of St Teresa of Calcutta we must first overcome our indifference to the needs of the poor." (Homily 1-14 - 2016)

**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.

**Matthew 25:36 "I was sick and you cared for me..." Are you being called to be a Communion Minister to the Sick?** If you are interested in joining this caring ministry to the sick and administering Holy Communion please contact Deacon Mike 270- 756-0120 or Fr Brian 270-756-2356.

**Abortion Update:** Last week 83 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

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



**Prayer Service for Christian Unity:** We are hosting at St Romuald, the Prayer Service for Christian Unity Sunday evening at 6:00 pm January 22. The local Ministerial Association sponsors a time of prayer for churches to gather and pray for greater unity in offering to Christ and His Gospel Mission. Plan to attend and pray (& sing) together with our other Christian brothers and sisters.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (Jan18-25), where Christians denominations gather to offer common prayer together and work toward greater unity among ourselves. We do share much in common: 1) our love of Jesus 2) our commitment to be His disciples 3) our belief in His Word 4) our works of charity and service in His Name 5) our commitment to daily prayer in Christ. So, Christian Unity Prayer Week gives an opportunity to gather and pray! **We are hosting the ministerial association's Prayer Service next Sunday January 22, at 6:00 pm.** Please plan to come and pray with our other Christian brothers and sisters.

**We thank our advertiser for making the bulletin possible!** Please take a moment to read the back of the bulletin and note the generous advertisers from the business community who provide our bulletin each week! Each time you visit their business, let them know you are thankful for their support of our parish's weekly bulletin!

**Advertiser of the week:**  
**Trent-Dowell Funeral Home**  
**270-756-2172**

**Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!**

## Celebration

**BIRTHDAYS:** Betty Payne, January 26 and Alice Bland, January 31st

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mack & Dolores Mattingly, January 24, 58 years

Jimmy & Mary Rita Whitworth, January 27, 58 Years

Logan & Judy Tivitt, January 30, 52 Years



Day of Prayer for  
the legal protection  
of unborn children

January 23, 2017

**Prayer List: Beginning with the first Sunday of February we will be starting a new list. If you would like a name left on our prayer list, please call the office by January 27th.**

### We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Joe Ammons, Jim Ball, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Bradley Berry, Ronnie Bruner, Juanita Burch, Joann Butler, Waylon Carman, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Janet Chambliss, Diane Charlebois, Sharon Church, Joan Clark, Mary Crook, Debbie Critchelow, Vonda Decker, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Davye Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Mary Catherine Edge, Shelby Elder, Rodney Elliott, Michael Ernest, Carroll Ferguson, Rhett Flener, Donny Flood, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Shannon Ford, Andrea Fuqua, Barnard Gagel, Henrietta Gibson, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Laura Beavin Hawley, Davy Haycraft, Jessica Henderson, Dale Henning, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Steve Hodson, David Horsley, Daniel Hoskins, Rick Hurley, Braddock Inman, Mary Lois Irwin, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Don Jerrell, Kiara Jo, Jerry Johnson, Jim Johnson, Mary Ann Johnson, Jack Jolly, Lovel King, Tracy King, Faith Klingsmith, David Lane, Angie Lawrence, Linda Ledford, **Ahlyah Lefebre**, Annette Lucas, Jennie Maiden, Mark Masterson, Keith McDaniel, Oleta McDaniel, Ann Medlen, Kevin McHugh, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Ian Moore, John Moore, Barbara O'Connell, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Peggy Phillips, Judy Popham, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Tracy Ralston, Jamie Riley, Rita Roach, Julie Robbins, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Annelise Sebastian, **Judy Seelye**, Terri Shiffer, Colleen Simmons, Jerry Sosh, **Virginia Standford**, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Dorothy Tillberg, Paul Tucker, Brook Tyler, Bobby Upchurch, Gil Urban, Johnny Vessels, Nancy Vincent, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Weise, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Judy Whitley, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Robert D. Wilson, Shaun Winstead, Anne Wolfe, Sandra Zanone. **Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Jack Hayes, Stevie Higgs, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, SSgt Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Cody Simmons, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



### THIS WEEK:

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	6:00 pm	Pastoral Council
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	5:15 pm	Finance Meeting
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	2nd Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
Sun	7/10 am	2nd Collection for St. Vincent de Paul
	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes

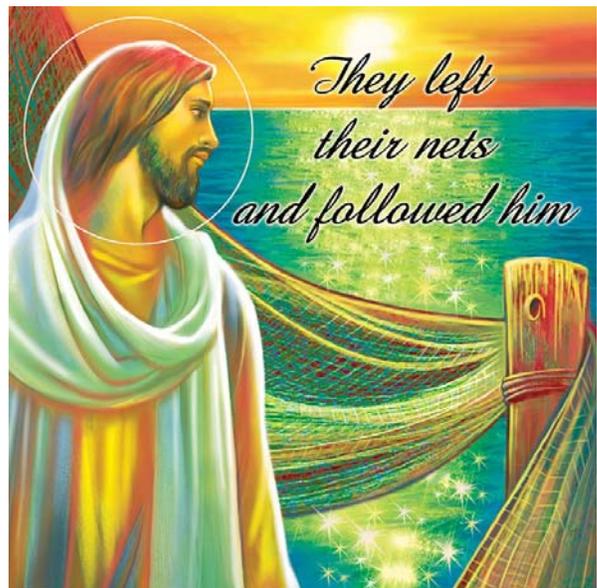
### UPCOMING:

Jan 29/Feb 4 Catholic Schools Week

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 22

*“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men”*

It was just another ordinary day at work for Peter, Andrew, James, and John before Jesus stopped by. Have thoughts of a religious vocation interrupted your daily routine at work or school? Jesus may be calling you to serve him in an extraordinary way. For more information on vocations to the priesthood contact the vocations office: [www.owensborovocations.com](http://www.owensborovocations.com), 270-683-1545, [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org)





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

Following the 9:00 am Mass on February 3, 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 in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **January 24th - Pastoral Council:**

Pastoral Council will meet January 24th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

### **January 25th - Picnic Meeting:**

It's picnic time again as we need to gather and discuss what our future plans are for Picnic 2017. All are invited to attend this very important meeting so we can start making plans for our June Picnic. All interested in attending this meeting, please join us on January 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. Bring any and all ideas you have to get us under way for a picnic for all to remember. There are no ideas too big or too small—just bring it!

### **January 26th - Finance Committee Meeting:**

Our quarterly finance committee meeting is this Thursday January 26 at 5:15 pm in the front office, to review the parish's budget and actual operations.

### **February 2nd - St. Romuald Altar Society:**

St. Romuald Altar Society will kick off the New Year with the first meeting being held on Thursday, February 2nd at 5:00 pm. Please plan on attending this meeting. We will be discussing several topics. Hope to see you there.

The Catholic Church teaches that sexual abuse is a grave moral evil. In addition to reporting incidents of sexual abuse to civil authorities, please contact the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator to report any instance of sexual abuse by a person working, either paid or unpaid, for the Church. Please use the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380.

A full explanation of the diocese's response to sexual abuse concerns can be found in the revised sexual abuse policy, which can be found in the back of church, parish office, religious education classrooms, or school office and also on the diocesan web site ([www.rcdok.org/safe](http://www.rcdok.org/safe)).

# Mass Etiquette Column

**How should one dress for Mass?** Dress modestly and appropriately. AS a sign of respect for our Savior in the Eucharist, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) out to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest." (1387) We should endeavor to be modest in dress, clean and decent. Any clothing that is revealing is never acceptable. Wear your Sunday best! After all, we are dressing for a fine Heavenly Banquet!

### **"I was in prison and you visited Me"**

Jesus says in Matthew 25:36. Is Jesus calling you to join in jail ministry? We visit, offer prayer and study the bible every first Sunday and First Thursday at Breckinridge County Detention Center. Pray about joining one of the teams. Please call Deacon Mike at 270-756-0120 with any questions about what is involved in this needed and rewarding ministry.

### **Praying the Psalms in the Office-St Meinrad Retreat**

Thursday, March 9- Sunday, March 12, 2017. The office is a place for work, but in the liturgy the Office is also a time for prayer. While the office staff/team might or might not pray together, the Psalms offer lots to reflect on in a given day. This retreat will examine some of the psalms to help sustain the work of the office by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB For more info or to register, email [mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu)

**Many Many Thanks** from the Breck County Detention Center and St. Romuald for the generous outpouring of gifts from our Parishioners to the inmates this Christmas.



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **Please keep moving**

Do you feel different this year? What insights have you gained over the past 12 months? In what ways have you changed? What areas in your life need your attention? You may feel like resting for a while. But remember, you can't stand in one place indefinitely and be a disciple of Jesus. Christianity requires transformation and conversion, and these changes can take a lifetime. Invest in the resources (people, periodicals, books, and worship) that will serve as your walking shoes on your never-ending spiritual journey.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 8:23—9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23 (67). "Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Jesus."*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23**

**MEMORIAL OF VINCENT OF SARAGOSSA, DEACON, MARTYR**

### **Can you help?**

Saint Vincent of fourth-century Saragossa is one of the most famous deacons of all time. As a deacon he participated in one of the oldest ministries of church: *diakonia*. *Diakonos* is the Greek word for "minister" or "helper," and it was first used in Acts 6:1-6 to describe the people needed to facilitate the apostles' ministry. Learn more about the vocation and ministry of deacons on the U.S. Catholic Bishops' [website](#).

*TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 9:15, 24-28; Mark 3:22-30 (317) or Genesis 1:1—2:2 (41); Romans 11:33-36 (121); Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414). "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24**

**MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

### **Get it write**

Back in the day of Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622), print publications were the emerging technology. De Sales is considered patron of Catholic writers and journalists because he made innovative use of the new technology, developing flyers and booklets widely used in spiritual direction and religious education. To this day Catholic journalists look to him as a model and inspiration, and the St. Francis de Sales Award is the highest award the Catholic Press Association presents. If you have a knack for the communication arts, consider a career in religious journalism. Perhaps you are called to be the Francis de Sales of the internet generation!

*TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:1-10; Mark 3:31-35 (318). "Who are my mother and my brothers?"*

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

**FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF PAUL THE APOSTLE**

### **Make history by collaborating**

Saint Paul would agree that faith isn't a matter of words but of how we live. In 1963 the Catholic theologian Yves Congar wrote an essay in which he observed how unity is fostered more by personal contacts than formal decrees. Congar dreamed of a research center in which Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Protestant students would publish great church histories—but only after all of them could sign his or her name to each volume. How different would history sound if written by collaborators rather than partisans?

*TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519). "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26**

**MEMORIALS OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS**

### **Be a friendly Christian**

Though the letters of Saint Paul to Timothy and Titus were written by someone other than Paul long after Timothy and Titus were dead, the church honors these companions of Paul's because of the significant influence they had in shaping the early Christian community. They were revered followers of Jesus' way and remained loyal and trustworthy friends to Paul even during the most difficult times. Friendship is the primary Christian relationship. Jesus calls his disciples—including you—his friends. How have you acknowledged this friendship?

*TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5 (520); Mark 4:21-25 (320). "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you."*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

**MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI, VIRGIN**

### **Share some homespun Good News**

Saint Angela Merici didn't set out to form a typical religious community of women. An orphan herself, she began by giving religious instruction to the poor children of her neighbors. Before long, other women were attracted to join her. By the time she was 50, she began a community of women called the Ursulines, who embraced virginity, poverty, and obedience. But they took no formal vows. They didn't formally congregate as a religious community either, but stayed at home to evangelize their family, friends, and neighbors. Evangelism can begin with even the tiniest seed. With whom will you share a bit of the Good News today?

*TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34 (321). "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?"*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

**MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

### **We are aided by Aquinas**

Thomas Aquinas was born in 1225 at his family's castle near Naples, Italy. Despite many social and political opportunities, he chose to join the Dominican friars when he was 19—much to his family's dismay and anger. Thomas went on to become one of the greatest of Christian scholars, known for bringing together ancient philosophies with Christian theology and systematizing the whole of the church's wisdom and teachings. Pray for spiritual aid today using Thomas' own prayer: "Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you."

*TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41 (322). "He asked them, 'Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?'"*

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