



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

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

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, 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

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of "pray, pay, and obey" were over.

The Code of Canon Law identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that he engage in pastoral care "with the assistance of lay members of the Christian faithful" (519). It would be fair to assert that the intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the "knowledge, prudence, and integrity" of every member (228).

Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of good will (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone takes a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, "Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?" If honest and prayerful reflection reveal less-than-good intentions, now is the time to change your attitude and acknowledge that a new start is needed.

Fr. Tom Santa, CSSR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

January 29, 2017 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses for the Week

January 30th - February 5th

Tues	1:00 pm	Alberta Curl Family (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Georganne Rhodes
Thurs	9:30 am	Anna Muriel Hines (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning (LH)
Sat	8:00 am	Casey Mattingly
	5:00 pm	Oelze Family (DH)
Sun	7:00 am	Adam Sutton (CS)
	10:00 am	Bryan Mattingly (DM)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Saturdays 4:00 pm

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Liturgical Publications Inc

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

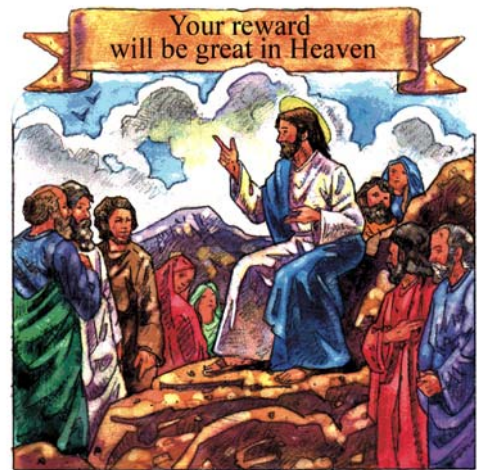
Sunday Collection	\$7,324.50
Building Fund	\$25.00
Children	\$3.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$45.05

St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-December, 2016

Total Income	\$275,100
Total Expenses	\$252,900
	\$ 22,200

Thank you for your financial stewardship!



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February 4th & 5th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Kathy Flood Whitney Roach	Alex Bertschman Dale Board	C-Evan Barr* C-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly S-John Roach	Benjamin Barr Eric Barr Preston Flood	Angie Bertschman	Pippa
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Shirley Bland	Cathy Lewis	C-Kevin Oelze* C-Stephen Oelze S-Don Payne S-Jeff Rhodes	Madison Anthony Morgan Tabor	Crystal Greenwell	Pippa
10:00 am	Lori Carwile Mona Hinton Sally Hinton Tabetha Walz	Suzanne Rose Danny Shain	C-Mack Mattingly* C-Chuck McGary S-Bill Monin S-Griffin Moore	Becca Walz Logan Walz	Rosa Hockenberry	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins		Children's Liturgy:				

Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

"If you say so..." Has that phrase ever come out of our mouths, when we heard something hard to believe, or not fitting into to our life's experience so far? Some people think this when they hear the 'Beatitudes'. Jesus is pairing together 'blessing' with what we might not think of as so good: like Blessing + Poverty = Good, or Blessing + Mourning = Good. They do not *seem* to go together. I remember an old learning game shown on 'Sesame Street' or 'Electric Company' when I was little, called "Which of These Do Not Belong". For example, there might be a picture of a box with four windows having an apple, an orange, a lemon, and a bicycle, and the child is asked, "Which of these does not belong?" Well, some people feel that way when hearing the Beatitudes. 'Blessed', 'Kingdom of God', 'Child of God', 'Mercy', or 'Righteousness': these all seem to go together, but they do not seem to go along with 'poverty', 'mourning', 'persecution' or 'hungering'. Until, we focus upon who is saying and teaching these new connections: Jesus Himself. The Beatitudes do make sense when we realize who makes them so: God. Think of it as God redefining or resetting the world's expectations of blessing and woe. While the world may say 'Wealth is blessing', Jesus says 'Poverty is blessing!' The world says 'Popularity is blessing', Jesus says 'Persecution is blessing!' He surely lived this way among us, and he set a new standard of full life. He himself identified with those undergoing such conditions, as we hear in Matthew 25:40 "When you did this to the least of my brothers and sisters, **you did it to me**" (feed, give drink, give shelter, welcome, comfort and visit those without such things). SO the **blessing** enters the picture of what otherwise is a deprivation when we realize who says this, who has lived this and **most importantly who is with us through these conditions**: God himself. Some people point out that each beatitude can be paired with an event in Jesus' own life. For example if we take Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are they who mourn, they will be comforted", we can then see this fulfilled in John 11:23 where Jesus says to Martha about her dead brother Lazarus "Your brother will rise", and to walk even closer with her in grief he weeps with her in verse 35, just before raising Lazarus to life again. So each Beatitude is a word of promise, which Jesus Himself fulfils in His active ministry. Jesus stands behind, and stands with His followers through these conditions to bring about the blessing in them! His Presence fulfills His Promise! So, we watch our company (Jesus), to find the blessing in Him!

I like to use the example of how in life we have probably been through all kinds of difficult experiences, or times of desperation or deprivation, yet after making it through, we look back and see that **what made it bearable and maybe enjoyable was the company we kept (who was with us)**. I think of many a road trip in my college or seminary days where we were crammed in packed vehicles for long journeys together, and or had to camp out overnight in less than nice accommodations, but what eased the time and even made it a good memory, was the company with us. So, the beatitudes become true blessings when we discover that **Jesus is with us in it**. Jesus brings the sanctity to it (and sanity). The Blessing is Him being with us. This is why many of the Beatitudes have as a conclusion, phrases like "The Kingdom of God is theirs", "They shall

See God", and "They shall be 'children of God'. **All those descriptions speak of God's presence**. *Where is the King-God, but in the Kingdom? Where are the children, but with the Father? **And to see God, He must be there!*** Maybe that is not our experience in the world, but it is with God. By teaching the Beatitudes, Jesus is saying that being poor, mournful, persecuted, deprived, and misunderstood are not bad in themselves. Human dignity is present even in conditions of suffering just as dignity is present in conditions of satisfaction. These times of distress or loss are **opportunities**, opening us to greater graces. Most especially when voluntarily taken up, these situations of service, actually fulfill our lives and reveal God's Glory overcoming any lack. Think of Jesus bringing life to us through **death** (accepting crosses as true living!) St Paul is a living witness to Beatitude Life in the scripture when he says in 2 Corinthians 12: 10 "Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." Also in Philippians 4, he begins by saying, "Rejoice, Rejoice!, for "I know indeed how to live in humble circumstance; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need" (Philippians 4:12). Because he knows Christ with Him! Earlier in that letter he had said, "For His sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ (3:8). Above all, seeking to be in Christ's presence is what makes the blessing! I love how Jesus always enacted and embodied such Kingdom Living and invited others to enter with Him. Just after he surprised his disciples at the Last Supper by washing their feet (not a worldly or Lordly thing to do by popular social expectations), he told his followers and he tells us today, "**If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it!**" (John 13:17).

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

Sunday: Did any words or phrases jump out at me during Mass and my prayer today? What is God trying to say to me?

Monday: As I go back to work, am I recharged spiritually? What do I have today spiritually that I did not have before the weekend Mass? Is it something I can share?

Tuesday: Did I miss seeing someone at Mass? Take a minute to call or check if they are okay.

Wednesday: Enact a Beatitude! Take one of them and imitate it as a new practice of faith.

Thursday: Do I think of myself as a 'Gospel person'? A Person of Joy! What can I do to strengthen joy in my life and spread joy among others?

Friday: Perform some anonymous work of mercy or act of kindness for someone today! .

Saturday: Have I pre-read the mass gospel or epistle for this weekend? Do a little preparation.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

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

A Word from Pope Francis:

"We have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a constant focus on "bad news" (wars, terrorism, scandals and failures of all sorts). We must be realistic and not naively blind to evil, but we must let shine through the darkness. I propose that all of us work at overcoming feelings of growing discontent and resignation that can at times generate apathy, fear or the idea that evil wins. Moreover, in news industry which thinks that good news does not sell, or where the tragedy of human suffering and the mystery of evil are turned into entertainment, there is always the temptation that our consciences can be hardened or pessimistic. I want to contribute to the search for an open and creative style of communication that concentrates on solutions and inspires responsible approaches on the part of its recipients. This can be 'Good News'. Ask, what are we going to do about it? " (Homily 1-24 - 2017)

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 75 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!

Senior Day New Year Celebration

Please join us for our Valentine Celebration on February 14 at 10:00 am.



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:
The Cecilian Bank
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Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Jim Tate, February 2.

Family Information: If you have a new address or phone number, please call the office at 270-756-2356 to update your information. Thank you.

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, Paula Anthony, 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, **Mallorie Collins**, Mary Crook, Debbie Critchelow, Vonda Decker, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, **Treyten Drake**, 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 Klinglesmith, 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:

Sun/Sat		Catholic Schools 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)
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	10:00 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Sun	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes

UPCOMING:

Feb 14	10:00 am	Senior Day
Feb 24	6:00 pm	Family Movie Night

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 29

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The beatitudes, “Blessed are they...” are sometimes translated, “Happy are they...” There is no greater happiness in this life than following the will of God. Pray for the courage to follow Christ. For more information on vocations to the priesthood or for support for your discernment, contact the vocations office: www.owensborovocations.com, 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org



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Eucharistic 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.

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

Mass Etiquette Column

Men take your hats/caps off. It is impolite for a man to wear a hat into a church. While this is a cultural norm, it is one that we ought to follow closely. Just as we take off hats for the Pledge of Allegiance, we do so in church too; as a sign of respect.

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.

"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.

The Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate are considering House Bill 162 and Senate Bill 102. This legislation would create a Scholarship Tax Credit Program in Kentucky which would increase tuition assistance and provide students with the opportunity to obtain the education they deserve at a school that best suits their needs.

House Bill 162 and Senate Bill 102 will establish a nonrefundable tax credit for individuals and businesses who donate to fund K-12 scholarships for students. These scholarships help families afford the cost of nonpublic school tuition or other important educational services. You may use the link below or call [1-800-372-7181](tel:1-800-372-7181) to urge your State Representative to co-sponsor House Bill 162 and Senator to co-sponsor Senate Bill 102. If you call, the operator on the line will assist you in getting the message to the correct Representative and Senator. If you use the form it will direct your message to the correct legislators based on your address.

Thank you for your continued effort to expand educational opportunities in Kentucky!

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/-m1JVybbBqBeL3KcNA9dFw>

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Father Gary Clark

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dollars and sense

Twenty billion dollars a year. That's how much it's estimated Catholic schools save the United States annually. As we observe Catholic Schools Week, celebrate the accomplishments behind these statistics: 6,600 parochial schools are staffed by more than 150,000 dedicated teachers K-12. The graduation rate from our schools is 99 percent. The percentage of our students who go on to college is 84 percent. Just as our teachers make sacrifices to create these "communities of faith, knowledge, and service," so too do parents surrender comforts to ensure their kids learn faith and character along with the facts. Support our schools!

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a (70). "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Lord, come to our assistance

The expression "inner demons" captures something of the helplessness that those in the grip of negative behaviors feel. The ancients took that phrase literally, believing that illness was due to divine punishment for sin or demons taking up temporary residence in a person. The remedy was to seek forgiveness or a healer who could rid you of the bad spirits. While most people nowadays don't believe that sicknesses and personality problems come from evil spirits or God's wrath, there is still the need for reaching out to others for help when you cannot help yourself. Medical and other professionals, counselors, family, friends, and especially Jesus the Healer in prayer provide that assistance.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323). "Go home . . . and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

MEMORIAL OF JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Give your all

Saint John Bosco was born in Italy in 1815 into a family of farm workers. He became a priest and a teacher, devoting his life to the care and education of abandoned and neglected children. His approach was considered novel at the time: He used love instead of the threat of punishment to shape the behavior of his students. How can you support teachers and those who care for children? What are some ways you, in the spirit of John Bosco, can extend love, compassion, and respect to children, especially those most in need?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43 (324). "Jesus took the child by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha koum,' which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise!'"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Drop everything, it's the Lord!

Would you ever consider stopping all you are doing and going in an entirely different direction? With obligations to family and jobs it's unlikely you would suddenly turn your back on your responsibilities to pursue something else, but in a way that's what the first apostles did. Their recognition of Jesus as the savior was immediate and their decision to literally drop everything was just as abrupt. They saw something so compelling and necessary for their lives that they had no hesitation in following him on the spot. You might not imitate their footloose example to the letter, but their actions do show

how quick disciples of Jesus should be, whatever their situation, to respond without hesitation!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325). "They left everything and followed him."

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Let Christ light up your life

In addition to being the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Jerusalem Temple, the church also calls today Candlemas. From early times the church has blessed candles for the year on this day. Your parish may be blessing candles sometime this week. If so, take some candles to church to be blessed. Their light will warm your home, especially in the darkness of winter, and remind you of Christ, the Light of the World. Even the lowly groundhog gets into the act today, emerging from his hole to look for the sun.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). "My eyes have seen your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

MEMORIAL OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR; ANSGAR, BISHOP

A full-throated blessing

People instinctively turn to friends for help in difficult times. Because Catholics believe that in the communion of saints all believers, living and dead, are connected in Christ, we turn for help to saints who may intercede for us. Today is the feast of Saint Blaise, fourth-century bishop of Sebastea, Armenia. Legend has it that before his martyrdom he healed many, including a boy choking on a fish bone. In churches around the world today, Catholics will be getting their throats blessed and hearing, "Through the prayers of Saint Blaise, may God free you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil." Amen.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Take it to heart

The monk and author Thomas Merton wrote: "There is no true solitude except interior solitude." Solitude does not have to be a physical place, though it can be, nor does it have to involve silence, though it might. Rather, as Merton said, solitude is an inner space where you can rest quietly and alone in God's presence—with no expectations and perhaps no words either—and experience the grace of God for what it is: a freely given gift you do not have to earn. Today, a Saturday and the traditional day for remembering Mary, join her in solitude to keep "all these things in your heart."

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328). "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."