



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

www.stromuald.org

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

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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

Why don't Catholics study and prepare for the end times or rapture?

Quite simply, we don't prepare for the rapture because as Catholics we don't believe in the rapture.

We do believe that there is a time when the world will end, but we have no idea when that day will come. Fundamentalist Christians believe that the world will end with a rapture where the good will be taken and the evil left. It is based on a misreading of Revelation 20 that speaks of an angel in the pit who will ravage the earth for 1,000 years. This is called amillennialism, and the Church has condemned this belief (CCC 676). The whole "left behind" series comes from this misreading.

Rather than being afraid of the end of the world, the Catholic Church teaches that the best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is by living the sacramental life of the Church: being baptized, celebrating the Eucharist and reconciliation consistently, being married or professing holy orders in the Church, and partaking in the anointing of the sick.

By doing these things we are participating in the fullness of the Church and life with Christ. This is the best way to prepare for Christ's return. While we as Catholics do believe there will be a day when we will be gathered to Christ, we look forward to this day with anticipation and joy, not fear and anguish.

Patrick Keyes, CSsR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

April 9, 2017 - Palm Sunday

Masses for the Week

April 10th - 16th

Tues	1:00 pm	James Lush (VL) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Harold Payne (BP)
Thurs	9:30 am	Donny Wethington Fam. (AP) (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Anna Muriel Hines
Fri	9:00 am	Good Friday Service
	6:00 pm	Good Friday Service
Sat	8:00 pm	Robbie Hinton (DH)
Sun	7:00 am	Harold Beard
	10:00 am	Brenda Monin (BM)

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14--27:66 or 27:11-54
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13--53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1--19:42
 Saturday: Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35

Liturgical Publications Inc

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection	\$7,938.00
Building Fund	\$5.00
Children	\$7.51
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$45.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$335.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$906.00

St. Romuald Parish Financial Summary

July-February, 2016

Total Income	\$357,100
Total Expenses	\$321,500
	\$ 35,600

Thank you for your financial stewardship!

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Saturdays 4:00 pm



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April 15th & 16th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Whitney Roach Volunteer Volunteer	Rosa Hockenberry Melissa Oelze Jenny Pile Volunteer	C-Jamie Barr* C-Even Barr S-Chris Brumfield S-Volunteer	Benjamin Barr Eric Barr Emily Claycomb		Shannon
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Janet Bland	Buddy Payne	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Darrian Flood Morgan Tabor	Lorena Bland	Deacon Tony
10:00 am	Lori Carwile Rosa Hockenberry Sharon Hale Rhonda Walz	Jennifer Payne Jessica Phillips	C-Mike Hinton* C-Drew Hinton S-Tyler Hinton S-Noah Matthews	Ava Phillips Spencer Wilson	Donny Wethington	P.J./Choir Cantor: Alison
Radio Minister: Joe Hess Children's Liturgy: No Children Liturgy						

Words from the Pastor

+JMJ+

Welcome to Palm Sunday and the opening of Holy Week! Like the excited citizens of Jerusalem who welcomed Jesus to town, we welcome Jesus, too, through our recounting of the events all week that he underwent on his walk to the cross, tomb and resurrection! Our recent long Sunday gospel readings have been a practice for Holy Week, where we will begin today by reading the entire passion narrative account of St Matthew. We read St Matthew's version today because we are in his year A, reading through his gospel every Sunday after Sunday. However, on Good Friday we always read the passion account according to St John. Like any familiar story, we do know how it ends (His Death, followed by Resurrection!), but reading each of the four perspectives over time helps us appreciate details previously missed or overlooked. Every reading brings to my mind some further aspect of God's design to save us in **'just so' a Way!** God's plan includes all the details. While we humans are told 'don't sweat the small stuff', we do know that even little details can take on the greatest importance. So I find **every** gospel reading **detail** to be filled with God's purpose. I often need to slow myself down to absorb the details! Jesus remarked once about the guiding role of the Old Testament Law and Prophets, and he highlighted the place of **every letter and marking** in the sacred writings by saying, "not the **smallest letter** or the **smallest part of a letter** will pass from the law, until all things have taken place" (Matthew 5:18). I hear Jesus saying every detail of God's Word comes loaded with meaning. Again, everything about God's Word reveals His Purpose! So I love to examine what is unique about each of the four gospels' telling of the events of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. So what is so special found in Matthew's account?

A few curiosities to consider about Matthew's Gospel account of Jesus' passion and death include the following: **1)** the actual *amount* of money paid for Judas' betrayal-30 pieces silver (Matt 26:15) **2)** Though all the apostles ask 'Is it I?' about the betrayal, Matthew *singles out Judas by name and has him ask* (Matt 26:25) **3)** *Judas tries to return the money, and his actual death-suicide is described* (Matt 27:3-10) **4)** The *warning dream* of Pilate's wife to avoid condemning an innocent man (Matt 27:19) **5)** *Pilate's dramatic washing/wringing of hands* (27:24) **6)** *earthquake* at the moment of Jesus' death and *tombs opening*-bodies rising (Matt 27:51-52) **7)** *Pharisees/Priests request guards* at the tomb site (Matt 27:62-64) **8)** *Priests paid off guards* to spread 'fake news' of body being stolen (Matt 28:11-15). These details are found only in the Gospel of St Matthew. Often we will merge the four accounts to draw the most complete picture. But, it is revelatory of the each gospel writer's personality or life to notice the details unique to that particular one. For example, notice the precise amount of Judas' bribe from the chief priests to betray Jesus: **exactly 30 pieces of silver** as was prophesied in Zechariah 11:12. Zechariah was lamenting over a specific amount that can lead one to turn against God and break the covenant (like, what is your price?) So while this OT reference reveals that Matthew masters a knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures (of the four gospels, Matt quotes the OT most!), this particular detail involves a precise monetary value, to which Matthew would be most sensitive. Another specific Matthew

'accounting' detail is mention of chief priests **paying off** some guards to make up a false story of the crime of 'body stealing-tomb raiding' to explain 'missing Jesus'-body' in Matt 28:11-15. **So, I wonder** among the four evangelists, who had the best sense for money, tracking its presence and exact numbers? Ohhhh, Matthew, the converted TAX COLLECTOR! If anyone could 'follow the money' it would be Matthew! Read about his conversion in Matthew 9:9. Interestingly, Matthew the reformed 'money man' also **uniquely mentions word 'debts'** in his version of the Our Father (Matt 6:12), compared to Luke's use of another word-'sins' (Luke 11:4). Also, one more such good example is that only Matthew tells the unique story of Jesus paying Temple tax with a coin miraculously found by Peter in a 'caught fish' (Matt 17:27)! Matthew can 'sniff' out and find the money. So each gospel text provides glimpses of the particular personality that God is using through the Holy Spirit to communicate His 'Gospel'! I think of us having four gospels in the New Testament as each presenting a view or angle of approach to the events of Jesus suffering, dying and rising to new life. I consider it the four directions to Jesus (approaching Jesus from all directions -east, west, north, and south)! We need to take them all in to receive the fullest picture of God's Plan.

Entering Holy Week, we will be hearing a lot of scripture so I encourage everyone to focus on what most strikes you: maybe a detail, maybe a phrase, maybe an image, maybe even put yourself in the story and reflect upon where you would be or what you would feel and do if you were present at the scene. This exercise can deepen our prayer and deepen our conviction!

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

Sunday: What word or phrase sticks with me from the long passion narrative account of Matthew's gospel? Or what residual feeling left with me after hearing it?

Monday: The Jerusalem crowd 'flip-flopped' on Jesus through the week, from celebrating him to crucifying him. Do I sometimes 'turn' on Jesus when I change my behavior from 'Sunday best' to 'weekday worst'? How can I keep His presence among my work?

Tuesday: Am I preparing to participate in Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services?

Wednesday: Come visit the Church to pray and walk the Stations of the Cross sometime today or before Easter Sunday.

Thursday: Jesus humbly washes his apostles' feet! How can I humbly follow his example? If God can humble himself to serve me, how can I refuse any service to any one? If nothing is below Jesus helping me, how can any service be below me?

Friday: Take on an extra penance or joyfully sacrifice something today honoring the Crucifixion.

Saturday: How will I experience new life this Easter? Can I successfully 'rise above' some past sin or frequent temptation, and remain faithful to new, changed life with Christ?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Services: Holy Thursday Jesus' Washing of Feet Service 6:00 pm, Good Friday Veneration of Cross and Passion Play 6:00 pm, and Holy Saturday Baptism-Confirmation & Holy Eucharist 8:00 pm (no 5:00 pm, as service begins in dark). Regular Sunday for Easter Morning 7:00 am & 10:00 am.

Chrism Mass: Consider participating in the Chrism Mass Tuesday April 11, 2017 @ 6:30 pm in Owensboro at the Sportscenter. The Holy Oils are all blessed at this annual celebration for distribution and use in all of the parishes and Catholic institutions in the Diocese at this one mass, as a sign of local Church Unity. Come join with other parishes and our Shepherd Bishop Medley this Holy week.

Breckinridge County Ministerial Association Palm Sunday Service: Plan to attend tonight (April 9) at 6:00 pm at Hardinsburg Baptist Church.

Good Friday Ministerial Assn Cross Walk: Come walk the steps of Christ's Cross Carrying with others as we meet at Save-A-Lot Parking at 11:15 Good Friday and make our way through town, praying or singing along the path of Christ.

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again, well in 3 months. We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth and The Memory Wagon. This year we will be debuting our new booths thanks to T.G.H.

Drop off items at the parish office.
Thanks and God Bless.

Celebration

ANNIVERSARY: Andrew & Rhiannon Basham will be celebrating 5 years of marriage April 14th.

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.

PARISH NEWS

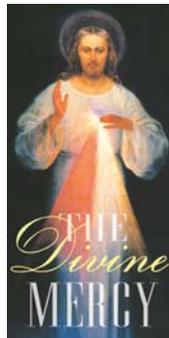
Family Movie Night: "Trolls" will be featured on Saturday, April 8, at 6:15 pm in the parish hall. Come join Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and Branch (Justin Timberlake) in a music filled original adventure to save their pals from the giant Bergens. This is a great storyline with great music (original music is by Justin Timberlake), a movie worth seeing and is highly recommended., I don't know who loves "Trolls" more, me or my granddaughter! One of the best movie we've ever shown, so put us on your calendar. Popcorn and drinks for all who come...

FATHER BRIAN'S BIRTHDAY:

The parish will be celebrating Fr. Brian's birthday on Sunday, April 9, 2017, by hosting a potluck lunch following the 10:00 am Mass. The church will provide the meat and drinks. Please join us with your family and bring a covered dish of vegetables, salads and desserts. Let's celebrate!!

Operation Rice Bowl: Traditionally, Rice Bowl donations are turned in at the end of Lent, either on Holy Thursday or Good Friday. However, they can be dropped in any time during Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday.

Senior Day—Hop on over to the parish hall on Thursday, April 20, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for a day of senior fellowship. We will come together to celebrate the Easter holiday and enjoy a day of faith and knowledge of the saints. Saints we will discuss are St. Isadore, St. Fidelis and St. Louis Grignon, so put your thinking caps on and let's dig into their historical backgrounds. Fried chicken will be served and we ask that you try to bring a dish to pass. Invite your friends or other loved ones and let's make it a day of heartwarming friendships, hope to see you there.



Divine Mercy Sunday: Plan to celebrate God's Mercy towards us on the Sunday following Easter. We will be having a special celebration of divine forgiveness on April 23, with a 3:00 pm Mass. We will begin at 2:00 with Holy Hour and praying of the Chaplet, and confession will be available through the hour. Mass will begin at 3:00 (the Mercy Hour-Jesus' death on cross for us!) Plan to come!

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)
	6:30 pm	Chrism Mass (Owensboro)
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Holy Thursday Mass
Fri	9:00 am	Good Friday Service
	6:00 pm	Good Friday Service
Sat	11:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt
	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil
Sun	7:00 am	Easter Sunday Mass
	10:00 am	Easter Sunday Mass

UPCOMING:

April 20	10:00 am	Senior Day
	5:15 pm	Finance Committee
April 22	2:00 pm	Tiffany Whitfill/Clint Board Wedding
April 23	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Classes

Rosary Leaders: We are in need of Rosary Leaders at all the Masses. Please volunteer for this ministry. Call the church office if you would like to volunteer!

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Russel Carwile, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rugene Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Barbara Jarboe, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Oleta McDaniel, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Eric Severs, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. Taul, Beavin & Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, David Walz, Buddy Weatherholt, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rebecca Wilson, Robert D. Wilson, 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



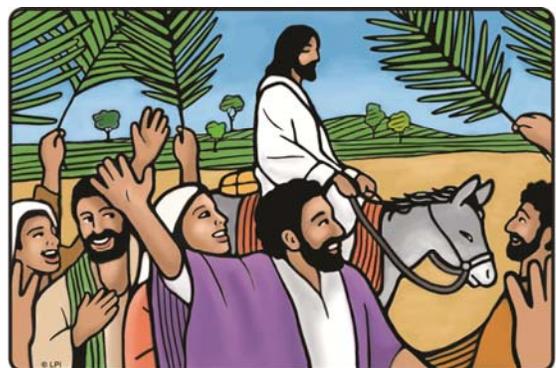
EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday—April 15th at 11AM

Holy Saturday

- ◆ The Egg Hunt will be held RAIN OR SHINE!
- ◆ **Age Categories:** 0-23 months (hunt in gym)
24 months-3 yrs old (hunt in gym or outside)
4-6 yrs old (hunt eggs by school)
7-9 yrs old (hunt eggs in Church yard)
- ◆ Each family is asked to bring 1 canned good item to the Egg Hunt which will be donated to the Good Samaritan Center.
- ◆ Each family is asked to donate 1 dozen **NEW** eggs and the candy for the eggs.
- ◆ **Please put these items in the containers at the Church doors by Monday-April 10th!**
- ◆ **All teenagers needing service hours**—We will be stuffing eggs on Tuesday-April 11th after school til 4:00 in the Parish Hall. PLUS all teenagers are welcome & encouraged to help at the Egg Hunt.
- ◆ If you need service hours or have questions about the Egg Hunt, please contact Kim at 270-945-2787.
- ◆ We always have a FUN & EXCITING Egg Hunt with lots & lots of kids! It wouldn't be possible without all your generosity! Thank you! Kim Brumfield

Don't miss out on all the fun!!!



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

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

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:

**Sandra Baier—Shelter Insurance
270-756-5253**

Thank you for supporting St Romuald Church!

SRIS Announcements

Attention Grandparents and Parents: 2017 Spring SRIS Tuition Raffle is going on now and will be until March 31st. Winning ticket will receive 1 year K-8th Grade Tuition Valued at \$2,800, and the winning ticket has control over when and who the paid tuition is given to. Only 250 Tickets will be sold at \$40 each so see a faculty member of SRIS or purchase one at our fish fries. If you have questions please feel free to call [270-756-5504](tel:270-756-5504).

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

St. Romuald Interparochial School and Pre-school are now accepting applications for anyone wanting to pre-register their children for next year. We welcome your inquiries about an education at St. Romuald Interparochial School. A quality education at SRIS is truly a family experience. We have a proud "tradition of excellence." Call 756-5504, email Lori Carwile lcawile@hotmail.com for pre-school or Sheila Drane srissecretary@hotmail.com, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

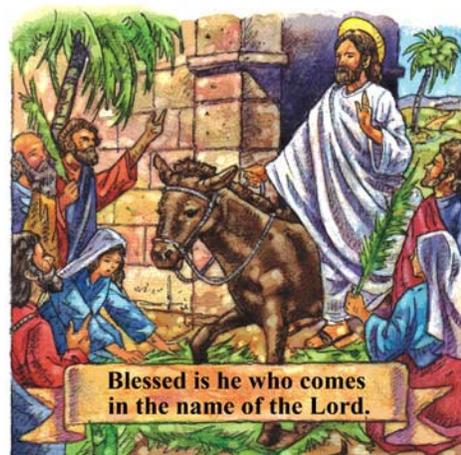
Mass Etiquette Column

Reading your bulletin during Mass? Imagine how you would feel if you invited a guest to your house and before dinner (or during) they decided to read a magazine or play games on their cell phone instead of talking to you. That is what is happening in God's house when you read the bulletin or use your cell phone inappropriately.

A Word from Pope Francis:

"When Jesus saw a lame man lying by a pool and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him: "Do you want to be well?" Instead of the man saying "yes" he complained there was no one to put him in the pool while the water is stirred up and that someone else always got there ahead of him. His answer was a complaint, and he was complaining that life had been unjust with him. The man was 'blaming' others. This sin of sloth can creep into our hearts, creating bitterness and leading to always blaming others. Sloth causes one to live without the desire to move forward, to do something in life. Sloth causes one to lose the memory of joy. But Jesus did not rebuke the man, he only raised him up, strengthening him to "Take up your mat, and walk". The Lord tells each of us, to take hold of our life, be it beautiful or difficult and move on. Do not be afraid, go ahead, carrying your mat." (Daily Homily 3-28-2015)

The Maryland to Kentucky & Beyond 2017 Genealogy Reunion/Conference will be June 22-25, 2017 at Brescia University in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky. For more information, please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/mdtoky3> and Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/MDtoKYandBeyondInc/> Phone 502-366-4962/ email: marylandtokentucky@gmail.com



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SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Acknowledge your state of denial

The palms used in the rituals of Palm Sunday signify victory over one's enemies; yet the scripture reading for today offers an account of Judas' treachery toward Jesus. How odd.

Somehow we're saying that despite being betrayed, tortured, and murdered, Jesus is our hope and our salvation. That is the outrageous truth of Christianity. Jesus draws life from a source that conquers death. And consider this: Many of Jesus' most beloved disciples denied and deserted him before his death, but only one is called a traitor. The reason: All but one repented. In your own Christian discipleship, remember that it is your willingness to acknowledge your failings and undergo conversion again and again that is most important.

TODAY'S READINGS: Procession: Matthew 21:1-11 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 (38). "Blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord."

MONDAY, APRIL 10
MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Let's prep for this

The motto of the Boy Scouts, "Be prepared," seems almost quaint in our contemporary world of instant communication. How can we possibly find the time to be ready for anything that might happen, good or bad, in our lives? As we begin Holy Week, the most profound mysteries of our faith are about to unfold. Mary prepares Jesus for his death by anointing his feet with oil. At the same time she is preparing herself for his redeeming love. There is time before Holy Thursday to prepare ourselves. Take some time today and reflect on what has happened to you this Lent and what awaits you this week.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 (257). "Mary took costly perfume, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair."

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Mirror, mirror

Unlike the disciples, we don't have to ask, "Who is it?" when it comes to learning the name of the Lord's betrayer—a quick glance in the mirror will do. But can we who are the betrayers of Christ also be the ones who believe in him? If we are not faithful to him, will he still be faithful to us? Thankfully, that's what Christianity is all about. We are not worthy to receive Jesus. He is a gift given out of love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 (258). "Simon Peter, while reclining next to Jesus, asked him, 'Who is it?'"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Betrayal never pays

When we read the daily headlines, we might get the impression that crime definitely pays. Drug lords drive enviable cars and flash diamonds. White-collar criminals live in multiple mansions. Even Judas got paid handsomely for his betrayal: 30 pieces of silver for one little kiss. But Judas got more than a bag of silver. He got the anguish of watching his friend suffer and the burden of self-loathing. Money couldn't buy him free of that.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259). "Judas Iscariot went to the chief priest and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?'"

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK (HOLY THURSDAY); EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Wash up for supper

Tonight Lent ends, and the church enters into three holy days, the Triduum, with the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Tonight's liturgy is a Mass, but with a significant difference: the rite of foot-washing, which involves water and service. It ritualizes for us the fact that we are baptized into Jesus, and we live out this Baptism in giving ourselves to one another. It's a pattern we see throughout these three days. It's also one we repeat in every Mass. Union with Christ and service: Make it the pattern for your whole life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39). "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

A day to be cross

Solemnity, prayer . . . and delicious baked goods? It must be Good Friday. There are many ways that people throughout the world honor this sacred day of remembering the death of Jesus. A custom in England, Ireland, and in other countries is to bake hot cross buns. These sweet pastries are typically scored or iced with a cross. Whatever you do this day—bake, work, pray, fast, care, smile, mourn—remember that you and all of creation are blessed with the sign of the cross.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 (40). "Let us confidently approach the throne of grace."

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
HOLY SATURDAY

Tonight's the night

"This is the night!" exclaims the Exultet, sung this evening at the Easter Vigil. Indeed this is the night we have been waiting for through these long weeks of Lent. This is the night toward which we have aimed all our preparations, our efforts to be more prayerful, generous, and focused on God. On this night the many readings of scripture bring us from darkness to light, bondage to freedom. This is the night we welcome new members of the Body of Christ—and rejoice in our own membership. This is the night: Exult!

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10 (41). "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. . . . so we too might walk in the newness of life."

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