



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

May 21, 2017 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

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, 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

www.stromualdschool.org

Principal, Rob Cox

School Board

Representatives:

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

We are often encouraged to invite non-Catholic friends to Mass, but is it also OK to visit their churches on Sunday?

It is good to invite friends to our Church and share our faith with others. We don't even have to invite or share as a way to convert. We can simply teach others about our Catholic faith. It is especially appropriate at a special celebration, a first Communion, a wedding, or a funeral. You can visit your friends' churches on Sundays or for special occasions in the same vein. It's good to learn about other religions and support our friends in their faith life.

However, as Catholics we also have an obligation to attend Mass every Sunday. Going to another church for a Sunday service is not the same as participating in the Mass, so it would not fulfill that Sunday obligation. Additionally, you won't be able to receive Communion in most other churches, just as your friends can't receive Communion in the Catholic Church.

So if you go to another service on a Sunday, make sure you also attend Mass. Many churches may have the same readings or similar rituals, but as Catholics we need to be nourished weekly through the celebration of the Eucharist.

A few churches believe what we believe about the Eucharist, and they will be listed in most missalettes. If you were to attend one of these churches, it would fulfill your Sunday obligation. For more information from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, do an Internet search for Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms of Ecumenism, and see paragraph 123. It's on the website Vatican.va.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR_sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Masses for the Week

May 15th - 21st

Tues	1:00 pm	Sue Ann Hale (JT) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Special Intention (DW)
Thurs	9:30 am	Casey Mattingly (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Rita McGary (BM)
Sat	5:00 pm	Hinton Family (DH)
Sun	7:00 am	Margaret Schembari (MB)
	10:00 am	Gerald & Rosemary Hinton (FR)

Stewardship of Finance

May 6th & 7th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$8,243.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
Children	\$6.00
Loose change for the Poor	\$46.05
Project Graduation.....	\$1,648.61

Parish Financial Summary

July-April, 2017

Total Income	\$450,000
Total Expenses	\$404,300
	\$ 45,700

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 - May 27th & 28th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Bryan O'Reilly Millie Whittler	Jenny Pile Pam Pollock	C-Corey Masterson* C-Pat O'Reilly S-Danny O'Reilly S-Chase Taul	Caleb Masterson Alaina Taul Madeline Taul	Minnie Nimmo	Shannon
7:00 am	Janet Bland Shirley Bland	Denise Smith	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Madison Anthony Darrian Flood	Mike Wiedemer	
10:00 am	Sally Hinton Sandra Hinton Rosa Hockenberry Lisa Kennedy	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Greg Hinton* C-Drew Hinton S-Mike Hinton S-Tyler Hinton	Mary Grace Mattingly Sydney Mattingly	Pat Whitfill	PJ/Choir Cantor: George
Radio Minister: Joe Hess Children's Liturgy:						



N-O-T-W! Maybe you have seen bumper stickers or shirts with these letters on it like a code, that mean "Not Of This World". Many Christians are using this label to identify themselves, to say that they draw their values from Jesus' Way, and not the Way of the World. For sure, our Savior is Jesus: Not anything or anyone else, world or not. And we follow Jesus. We base our living on Him. And saying this is not a condemning judgement upon the world, because what is the world? The world changes every

day, wherever the popular wind blows, the world goes. Often the world's values are *just what happen to be right now*, without any thought of foundation or persevering guidance. People understand 'the world' to mean just whatever the next new thing coming along happens to be (& unquestioned, too!) Throwing around the acronym/letters 'NOTW' is a Christian effort to emphasize the *unique* view of human life/eternity from the religious perspective of Jesus' Kingdom. Not just accepting what happens to be, Christians are *intentional* about following 'principled' values: the teaching and life of Christ! Recall that back in Holy Week, as Jesus was dragged before Pilate to be judged, Jesus told this earthly prince/ruler "My Kingdom is *not of this world*" (John 18:36). St Paul says the same when he calls disciples of Jesus, *'citizens of Heaven'* (Philippians 3:20). And Peter describes Christians as sojourners in this world when he writes in 1 Peter 2:11 "I urge you as *exiles and pilgrims* to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul." And the letter to the Hebrews chapter 11 describes Christians as *"strangers and aliens on earth"* seeking "a better homeland, a heavenly one"(vs 13, 16). So, 'seeking what is above' (Col 3:1), we keep our eyes on Jesus, and watch for 'heaven to come!' But we must also be careful not to misunderstand this talk of **'NOTW'** to mean we have no care for earthly responsibilities. We still must responsibly live day to day, because Jesus said that we must care properly for what is entrusted to us, in Luke 16: 11, he says "If, then, you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will entrust you with heavenly riches?"

So, some people do misunderstand this type pf talk to mean that disciples do not care about earth, this world or anything to do with creation. Some use such talk to escape taking an active role in seeking to better the 'world' we find ourselves in. They remain 'indifferent' about worldly matters. We have two extremes to avoid in navigating our way through this world. We avoid 1)Saving all our eggs in this world's passing basket, and 2) Trashing all our eggs because this world's basket is doomed. We balance, finding the perfect middle. The Old School Latin Teachers said, 'Truth resides in the middle'- 'In medio stat veritas.' But I like the Cistercian Monk Reformer St Bernard of Clairvaux, who says, "**Truth does not love corners; it does not like diversions from the way**"(Non amat veritas angulos; non ei diversoria placent'). In other words, "Keep to the center, in the fullest, clearest sunlight. Avoid nearing the limits, the shady corners." So, we do not put all our hope/happiness in this world, and we also do not delay and put off seeking joy/fulfillment until the next 'world'!

We know creation/earth/world began 1)good in itself and 2)good for us, and retains that divinely designed imprint of goodness, yet we realize full well that we find ourselves in a fallen world, from Adam and Eve until now. Human pride and sin have abused God's creation and repeatedly manipulate creation for selfish, sinful ends. But, just because sin is in the world and in us, does not mean we 'torch' the whole operation. No, we daily take up the cross of salvation,

setting aside our ego-designs and seek to live within the divine design of our heavenly creator! I find Jesus to give this exact counsel when he prays at the Last Supper, saying "**I do not ask that you take them out of the world** but that you keep them from the evil one"(John 17:15). So even now, we want to do what we can for good. We seek to constructively contribute good within the world, as we say in Lord's Prayer "God's will be done *on earth*, as it is in heaven ..." God knows the Earth-World is a land of grace and capable of giving Him glory. Yet, we know we are not here forever, we also seek a 'restored' creation like the "new heaven and new earth" spoken about in Revelation 21 (a 'restored to grace' creation). St Paul said it this way in Romans 8:22-23 about "all creation groans in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but that we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we await adoption, the redemption of our bodies." We seek the redemption of this world, including our redemption within it. Redemption began with the sign of the 'first fruit' in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus! Our responsible role participating in this plan of redemption is what Pope Francis refers to all the time as our 'caring for our common home'. We need to stand up and accept our responsibility for stewarding what we were given first-the world we're in now!

Our Sunday gospel has Jesus highlight the topic of NOTW when he says 'the world cannot accept (the Spirit of Truth), because it neither sees nor knows it.' (John 14:17). Since Jesus is the 'Way, Truth and Life', **We** claim to know and see! We do not wait for the world to lead us, to do what we should already be doing. As followers of Jesus we don't have the excuse of ignoring what goes on in the world around us. We begin, placing ourselves in the service of God's 'restoration of grace'. I remember long ago in Lent (March 2017), I shared a quote from some special reading I did of our previous Pope Benedict's book *Jesus of Nazareth* where he said 'As for me, I trust the gospels!' I thought it would be a good follow-up to share now in this Easter season another quote that summarizes today's gospel. Jesus is the resolution of our problem of the fallen world. Pope Benedict says, "Man lives on *truth* and on being *loved*: **on being loved by the truth**. He needs God, the God who draws close to him, and interprets for him the meaning of life, and points him toward the path of life" (*Jesus of Nazareth* San Francisco: Ignatius Press 2007, p. 279) The best Easter news for us and the world: The Truth named Jesus loves us! By knowing Him, we live! I pray this changes us, and how we hear the tired quote of John 3:16 "God so loved thethat we may have life!"

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

Sunday: Did I feel moved at Mass this weekend about any problem or issue I face? Did I remember to pray about it at Mass?

Monday: Do I sense the 'Advocate' in my life? Do I allow the Holy Spirit to guide me? Do I give time enough in prayer to realize He is with me?

Tuesday: Did I use the word 'truth' today? What about and why did it come up?

Wednesday: How am I doing holding to the commands of Christ? He said 'the one who loves me, keeps my commands'? How are doing showing our love?

Thursday: Have we felt the Holy Spirit direct us to 'help' and be with another person in meeting their needs?

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice or penance for someone you do not know.

Saturday: What special intention am I taking to mass to pray about & seek a resolution for?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

Picnic News

Picnic Time is here again. We need donations for the beautiful Green "Nothing Runs Like A Deere" Booth, The New Sporting Goods Booth, Stuffed Animal 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.

Picnic Meeting: Picnic time is growing closer and closer! Please join us on Thursday, May 25th at 5:00 pm for our next meeting. We still need lots of help and we are looking for help from our parish family. Please plan on attending this meeting to help us get ready for our annual picnic. We are just weeks away from our summer celebration, come join us!

RAFFLE TICKETS: Tickets are available at the doors of the church, also at Trent-Dowell and the church office. We receive 100% profit from the raffle, this is the most profitable part of the picnic, so please do all you can to sell these.

Picnic Meat Donations: Rudy & Kathy Brumfield will be collecting meat donations again this year. You may mail your check for \$50 to Rudy & Kathy Brumfield, 333 Hillside Drive, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked meat donation or drop it by the church office. If you would like to donate to the meat next year let us know before August 1st.

The Blessing of the Child in the Womb: On May 20th & 21st, Father Brian will be offering a special blessing to any expectant mother who would like to participate. We invite the mother and other family members to stand and experience the "Gift of Joy." The blessing is bestowed upon you and you will receive a booklet as a point of reference to read during the time you carry your child.

All expectant mothers are welcome to receive the blessing at any of the Masses during this weekend.

Celebration

BRITHDAYS: Jim Flood, May 31st

Family Movie Night: "A Strange Brand of Happy" is the story of David who is pushed into hiring a life coach named Joyce. Joyce invites David to join a volunteer group only to find to his dismay that his ex-boss is a part of the group. Watch as David's life turns into a hilarious and zany mishap, one after the other. So, come join us on Saturday, May 20th, at 6:15 pm for a laugh out loud good time. Enjoy a drink and some popcorn on us and a little family time together.

Flags over the Veterans' Memorial The new set of flags flying over the Veterans' Memorial were donated in memory of Bobby Joe Hinton.

Nuts, Nuts, Nuts: On the weekend of May 20th & 21st the Altar Society will be selling nuts after each mass. Black and Light Walnuts, along with almonds and cashews will be sold at the discount price of \$8.00 per bag. Pecan halves and pieces will be \$10.00 per bag. Stop by after mass and stock up for your summer baking needs.

From the Diocese: DRF Update : The totals for the Disciples Response Fund Appeal for our parish as of May 21, 2017: Parish Target Amount: \$12005.35 Pledged: \$7470 Paid: \$6902 Rebate Paid to Parish 5/1/2017: \$0

(Our Parish receives a rebate of 50% for all dollars paid over Parish Target Amount.)



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 (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 (Medco)
	5:00 pm	Picnic Meeting
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass

UPCOMING:

May 29 8:00 am Memorial Day Mass

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

“Two or three degrees in theology do not mean anything, if you are not carrying the cross. Priests, don't lay on the shoulders of the faithful, burdens that they cannot carry and that you couldn't either. That is the reason Jesus rebuked the doctors of the law and called them hypocrites. You were chosen by the Lord not to advance your career, but to carry out service. Please, don't be 'lords,' but pastors who model their service on Jesus, the good shepherd. He expressed his authority in service, leading his flock by giving his life, not selfishly demanding the sacrifice of theirs for his benefit. One can trust such a leader, like the sheep listen to the voice of their shepherd, because they know that with him they will be led to good and abundant pastures.” (Priest Ordination Homily 5-08-2017)

Made For More Summer Camp for High School Men

What are you supposed to do with your life? What does God want you to do with your life? This camp is for young men (high school) who have the courage to begin asking those questions and who want to give their lives to the One who first gave His life for us. Made for More is about giving your life to God. Seek more to life than just getting by, this camp is for you. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance. Contact the Vocations Office: 270-683-1545, www.owensborovocations.com, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, for more information.

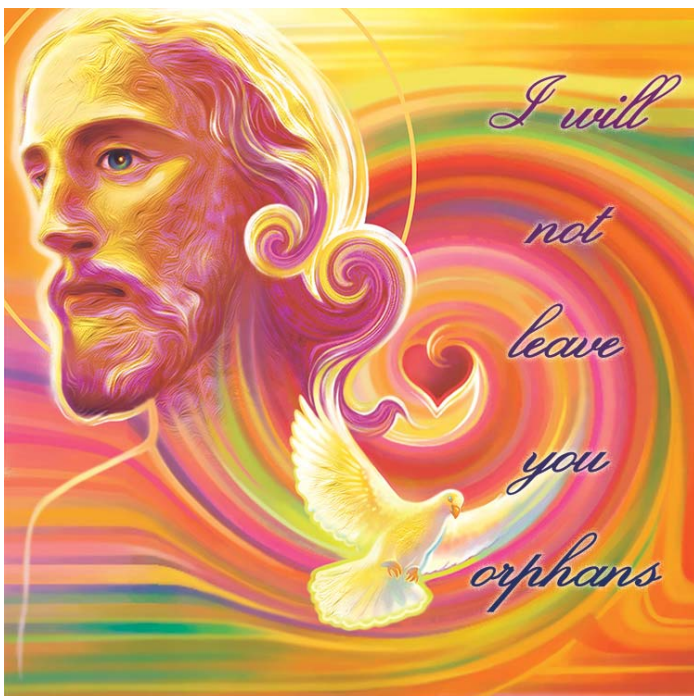
Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
- Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday: Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20
- Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
- Sunday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20



Five talented Saint Romuald Parish and School alumni students were recently accepted into the Governor's Scholars and Governors School for the Arts Programs. GSP is a five week summer program that builds the next generation of civic and economic leaders. The program provides academic and personal growth through the balance of a strong liberal arts program with a full co-curricular and residential life experience. Congratulations to **Autumn Siler, Deanna Arnold, Abby Tivitt and Amelia Barr** for being named 2017 Governor School Scholars! GSP (Governors School for the Arts) is a three week summer program for talented high school sophomores and juniors (rising juniors and seniors). The program currently offers nine artistic disciplines: Architecture + Design, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, New Media, Visual Art and Vocal Music. Congratulations to **Cameron Howard** for being accepted as a Governors School for the Arts recipient! Your school and parish families are so proud of you!



© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Billy Carwile, Jerry 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, Lottie Eauer, Carroll Ferguson, Rhett Flener, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, 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, Sharon Morgan, Dorothy Morris, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, Earl O'Reilly, Janet O'Reilly, Libby Osborne, Martha Payne, Brian Phillips, Peggy Phillips, Bobby Potts, Doris Priest, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, John N. Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Regina 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, Ryan Critchelow, 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



Congratulations Graduates!

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



AROUND AND ABOUT

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

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people ages 15-19 (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 25-June 30, 2017, at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 26th. Registrations after May 26th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email robin.tomes@pastoral.com for more information.

Awareness Event for Veterans & Families: May 18th at 6:30 pm we are hosting an event to raise awareness and support for Veterans dealing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Wired Rooster Coffee House in Hardinsburg. The event is free. 40% of the cost of beverages purchased will go towards Cody's Cause.

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!

Thank you to our advertisers for making the bulletin possible! Please let them know that you are thankful for support of our parish bulletin.

Advertiser of the week

Tony Brown Chevrolet
270-422-2141



SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Get into the Spirit

When Jesus was saying farewell to his disciples in the Gospel of John—praying that farewell, really, because what he had to say to them he said to God in prayer—he promised he would not leave them alone. He would send his Spirit, an

Advocate, to be present to them until he returned. And lo and behold, at Pentecost it happened. Christ did not go away; he remained in a different form. So if you want to know what the Holy Spirit is, just think of it as Jesus' ongoing presence, which is always with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21 (55). "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

MONDAY, MAY 22

MEMORIAL OF RITA OF CASCIA, RELIGIOUS

The holiness code, embodied

The life of Saint Rita (1386-1457) reads like a soap opera. She wanted to be a nun, but she was married against her will at the age of 12 to a cruel and unfaithful husband until his violent death 18 years later. Her two sons took after him. As a widow she was rejected three times trying to enter an Augustinian convent. She persisted and was finally accepted. It is fitting that she is the patroness of desperate situations. In spite of and because of life's difficulties, we can all achieve some level of holiness. What has happened to you lately that can bring you closer to God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a (291). "When the Advocate comes, the Spirit of truth, he will testify on my behalf."

TUESDAY, MAY 23

EASTER WEEKDAY

Carry a get-out-of-jail holy card

It's a jail break! Paul and Silas, in the Acts of the Apostles, were arrested, beaten, and thrown into the clink by the authorities. But God caused an earthquake that sprung the doors of the prison and set the apostles free. Their first act was to comfort the jailer who was so upset by the escape that he was ready to kill himself. The jailer, moved by their kindness, brought them home with him, fed them, and bandaged their wounds. We, like the jailer, misjudge others and put them in prisons of our own self-righteousness. Let's not wait for an earthquake to set them free.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292). "When the Advocate comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

EASTER WEEKDAY

Mi Espiritu es su Espiritu

Very rarely do we give another person complete access to our lives and possessions. "Mi casa es su casa" is something we say only to a spouse, child, or privileged friend. Otherwise, the access people have to our lives is fairly restricted to what we choose to tell them and how long they can stay until we kick them out. Jesus tells us his relationship to the Advocate he is sending is quite intimate. Listening to the Spirit is as good as hearing it from Jesus himself. Live more thoughtfully attuned to the indwelling Spirit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293). "The Spirit of truth will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

THURSDAY, MAY 25

MEMORIAL OF BEDE THE VENERABLE, PRIEST

Venerate lifelong learning

Bede the Venerable was the embodiment of the lifelong learner. In his own words, "I ever took delight in learning and teaching and writing." Apart from his many theological works and scriptural commentaries, he wrote on subjects as varied as history, music, arithmetic, medicine, and science. Living in the Dark Ages, Bede's influence was so great that a century later a Swiss monk would write, "God . . . who raised the Sun from the East on the fourth day of Creation, in the sixth day of the world has made Bede rise from the West as a new Sun to illuminate the whole Earth." Bede's example can inspire each of us to continue our own lifelong learning.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:1-8; John 16:16-20 (294). "A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me."

FRIDAY, MAY 26

MEMORIAL OF PHILIP NERI, PRIEST

Smile at your own imperfections

Can you imagine a cheerful saint? Saint Philip Neri was one. Born in 1515 in Italy, Neri was an itinerant scholar who grew weary of knowledge for its own sake. He sold his books, gave the money to the poor, and spent his years tending to the sick. He enthusiastically invited others to join in this holy pursuit. No gloomy Christian, he said, "Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and makes us persevere in a good life. Therefore the servant of God ought always to be in good spirits." He was also realistic about his own imperfections, praying, "Lord, watch Philip, for he will betray you!" A realist with a positive outlook: What a fine holy role model.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295). "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice."

SATURDAY, MAY 27

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

A Canterbury tale of respect

In the sixth century Pope Gregory I sent Saint Augustine and 40 other Benedictine monks on a daunting journey to bring the gospel to England. As a missionary, Augustine was sensitive to cultural differences and sought not to coerce the English with the Good News, telling the king, Ethelbert, "Do not see us as coming to force upon an unknown people benefits against their will. Be assured that only a great love constrains us to do this." In witnessing to what we believe, we should start where people are at, not where we want them to be, and try to show them that the way of faith will enrich their lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). "Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."

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