



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

June 4, 2017 - Pentecost Sunday

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

Why don't Catholics recognize confirmations from other Christian churches if we accept their baptisms?

Baptism signs us with an indelible mark, it defines our character. It can never be repeated. A baptism is always held to be valid if a person is baptized with water using the Trinitarian formula (CCC 1256). If a priest is unsure of the validity of a person's baptism, he would baptize the person conditionally, recognizing the earlier baptism if it happened and was valid. The minister of baptism is usually an ordained minister, but in necessity anyone can baptize, including a non-Christian if he intends what the Church intends.

Confirmation also leaves an indelible mark, as does holy orders, and they also cannot be repeated. What makes confirmation different from baptism is that the minister of confirmation is ordinarily the bishop because this expresses the Apostolic Unity of the Church (CCC 1312). If someone was confirmed in a Church that has apostolic succession, her confirmation would be considered valid. But if she was not confirmed in a church with apostolic succession, the Catholic Church wouldn't recognize the confirmation as valid, and she would have to be reconfirmed.

All Christian churches have a common understanding of what the sacrament of baptism is, but while other churches might have Communion, confirmation, and even ordination, their celebration of the sacraments may not include all the requirements necessary for the Catholic Church to consider them valid.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR sundaybulletin@liguori.org

PENTECOST  **SUNDAY** ©LPI

Masses for the Week

June 5th - 11th

Tues	1:00 pm	Mary Catherine Payne (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Robbie Hinton (DH)
Thurs	9:30 am	Jerry Schlesinger Fam (Medco)
Fri	8:00 am	Special Intention (WB)
Sat	5:00 pm	Patricia Flood Harris (PF)
Sun	7:00 am	Sharon Winkler (DS)
	10:00 am	Gerald Hinton (FR)

Stewardship of Finance

May 27th & 28th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$7,840.00
Building Fund	\$5.00
Children	\$2.00
Loose change for the Poor	\$52.03

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 - June 10th & 11th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Shelly Jefferies	Autumn Siler Brenda Wheatley	C-David Basham* C-Chase Taul S-Carroll Whitfill S-Matthew Whitfill	Alaina Taul Madeline Taul Haley Weise	Brenda Wheatley	Shannon
7:00 am	Faye Glasscock Cathy Lewis	Pete Anthony	C-Bryce Glasscock* C-D.J. Glasscock S-Kenny Glasscock S-Tim Glasscock	Benjamin Anthony Madison Anthony	Lorena Bland	
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables LaDonna Barton Ort Critchelow Rhonda Walz	Kathy Kiper Carlos Matthews	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Alvin Mattingly S-Joey Walz S-Allen Wheatley	Luke Walz Shelbey Walz	Susan Arnold	Volunteer
Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins			Children's Liturgy:			



Happy Pentecost! What an exciting event! The Spirit is a-moving; and not just the Spirit but the Whole House, and the whole assembled group of apostles and first believers, as they mill out into the street and begin speaking in tongues with fire above their heads! Have you ever been in a mob group of people, maybe standing down front at a concert in the general admission area, as the whole mass of people shifts from left to right, then back and forth? It can be quite an unsettling feeling, especially around the fenced edges! At one music festival I went to, the person I was

alongside shouted to me, "My feet aren't touching the ground!" That is some group movement, or spirit waving through the crowd! The Pentecost scene sounds a lot like that, as Acts of Apostles 2 tells of a huge crowd being moved, all fired up and animated with voice and song. The crowd is so moved that Acts 2:41 says 'over three thousand' came to salvation that day after the Holy Spirit stirred their hearts and Peter inspired them with speech! I hope I can say about myself and my fellow concert-goers from way back when, that Jesus has brought us that saving joy and peace that only He can! Might everyone receive Christ's peace!

I really wonder how those first Christian believers experienced that day. Acts 2:2 reads, "From the sky came a strong driving wind, and rushing noise that filled the house....." Reading that I imagine hearing those sounds we have all heard in our homes when a sudden storm blows up, and the wind presses against the house, making every joint in the roof trusses pop or crack (yet with Pentecost even more)! Or I imagine the experience is similar to the sensation of hearing sounds and imagining movement when the floor creaks due to changing temperature, as if I have unknown company and someone is walking across the floor. So Pentecost has the apostles gathered, united in prayer, and then suddenly, the building begins to move, rattle, shake and sway. This action moves the group out into the street where many other visitors in Jerusalem are mixing around and a divine encounter begins. The apostles share their jubilant song, speak the Spirit's language to everyone and Peter delivers a message of Jesus' universal saving mission. God is active! The Spirit is a moving with sights, sounds and sensations! God's uniting Spirit has arrived!

God's goal is to draw all people to himself, uniting the many tribal nationalities into one, again! Think of this scene as an undoing of the Tower of Babel with its confusion of languages and scattering of peoples. With Pentecost, we find God's Spirit creating one language of the heart, drawing all people together. At Babel, people celebrated their individual human pride and said, "Look at what we humans have built", but at Pentecost, they humbly say, "Let us look together and be amazed at what the God who made us all is doing among us!" Pentecost does not build a physical monument, but rather a missionary people building common humane unity.

As a little background to this feast, the word Pentecost simply refers to '**the fiftieth**'. It adds up to be the celebration day after waiting 7 Sabbaths. 7 weeks of seven days adds up to 49 + the next day 1= the fiftieth day! So, Pentecost was a springtime Jubilee of weeks-as found in Leviticus 23:15-16. This day for the Hebrews was originally an agricultural feast of thanksgiving, a holyday of thanks for the spring barley harvest. But also, the feast took on added historical meaning when it was determined that the fifty days after Passover was approximately the period of initial exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt when at the foot of Mt Sinai God gave the Law and Commandments to Moses and the People. So the People gave thanks on this feast for the gifts from God of **food and divine teaching**, the Law and Commands of Life.

Considering the Hebrew background of Pentecost connected with the giving of the Law, we can find new depths of meaning to our Christian celebration of Pentecost: the giving of

the Spirit! Think of the Old Pentecost as the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai (fifty days after Passover), and the new Pentecost as the giving of the Holy Spirit on Mt Jerusalem (fifty days after Easter). And what is added with the new Pentecost? The first Pentecost was dominated by exclusive concern for *only the Israelite People*, while the second Pentecost inclusively concerns **all God's People** of every custom, land, language and nationality. To me, the most striking detail of Pentecost (after the rushing wind and motivating fire) is the element of language! The language of God the Holy Spirit draws people together and unites lives! So let's reflect upon language --both letter and spirit (both word and sense). Think of the last time you heard a foreign language spoken in your presence: Often, by listening closely to what is behind the words, we have the feeling that even though we don't know exactly what they are saying, we sense the person is kind, and means us no harm. Maybe we are also reading their tone, reading their body language, and reading their face. Let's call this the **language of 'Spirit'**. Then let's compare that to **language of the 'Letter'**.

What's new here is the addition of the Holy Spirit as the language of the heart, the language of love, or the language of prayer. So Old Pentecost gave the Law, and New Pentecost gave the Spirit. The Old celebrated the law of the word, and the New celebrates the law of the heart. St Paul described this difference as the 'law of the letter' and the 'law of the spirit'. In 2 Corinthians 3:6, he says God "has indeed qualified us as ministers of a **new covenant, not of letter but of spirit**; for the letter brings death, but the Spirit gives life." The letter alone is dead and sterile, but the Spirit brings fruitfulness and life. Spirit communicates at the deepest level of the heart, more than simply words. In our hearts is where the Spirit and us truly speak and listen to one another. There alone, we truly know the other! St Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 3:3 how God writes upon our hearts, "not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh." And Jeremiah mentioned the Spirit's language of the heart when he prophesied the Christian New Covenant when God said He would "place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jer 31:33). One God, One People. **That is what I'm talking about.....**

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

Sunday: What word or message did God lay upon my heart at Mass today? Talk to someone about it and ask what they heard at Mass?

Monday: As I begin my week, what can I do to emphasize unity amid differences and to highlight what I and many others have in common?

Tuesday: Pray about what unique gift of the Holy Spirit God has given you for His Purposes.

Wednesday: When I reflect upon what God has done for me, do I feel the Spirit moving in me, firing or exciting me to share the good, God is at work doing in me?

Thursday: Do I know any other languages? Consider picking up some new words to deepen your understanding of others and their perspectives based on their talk.

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice or penance for world peace, or for peace to be given to someone you know is in need of peace.

Saturday: For what am I especially thankful as I go to mass this weekend? Take time before Mass to return a prayer of thanks to God for such blessings.

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, June 8th 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.

Senior Day: For the month of June we will be hosting Julie and Sarah from BeeHive Assisted Living facilities. Julie and Sarah will give a talk on the facilities and how it operates along with a question and answer session. We will serve fried chicken and ask that you bring a dish to pass if possible. Bring a friend or two along with you and let's enjoy a day of prayer and fellowship. That's Thursday June 22 from 10am to 1pm, hope to see you there!



OPERATION ARCTIC

"Exploring the Coolest Book on the Planet!"
Monday, July 10th - Wednesday, July 12th
6:00PM - 8:30PM

Age Groups - 4 Yrs. Old by July 10th - students who completed 4th Grade.

Registration will be at the weekend Masses on June 10th & 11th and June 24th & 25th.

Volunteer Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, July 22nd & July 29th @ 5PM. You ONLY have to attend one meeting.

On Thursday, July 13th, we will have a fun-filled night in the Church yard w/ VBS music, hot dogs/ hamburgers, cotton candy, snow cones, games and slip-n-slides!

If anyone has any questions, please contact Kim Brumfield at 270-945-2787.



We need donations of CLEAN empty gallon size milk jugs and water jugs! They will be used for Vacation Bible School! Please leave them in the containers at the front and side Church doors! Thank you!

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	8:00 am	Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	St. Meinrad Weekend
		VBS Registration after Mass
	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Sun	7/10 am	St. Meinrad Weekend
		VBS Registration after Mass

UPCOMING:

June 17 3:00 pm St. Romuald Picnic

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Weekend with Mary, Our Blessed Mother:

Friday, July 14- Sunday, July 16, 2017 at Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center. Director Fr Noel Mueller OSB will exploring Mary's important role in presenting the Savior to our world. A highpoint of the weekend will be the Sunday celebration of Our Lady of Einsiedeln - patroness of our Archabbey Church, and visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino to pray the scriptural rosary. Fee: Single \$255 to register or any questions, please call Fr Maurus at 1-800-581-6905.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN INQUIRING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 270-756-2356 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

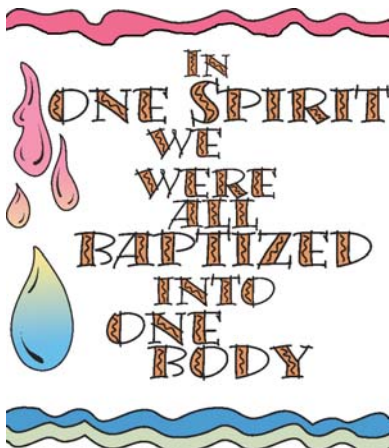
A Word from Pope Francis:

"Jesus invites us to go forth and make disciples of all nations. This is an extreme act of trust in us. Jesus believes in us more than we believe in ourselves. He sends us out despite our shortcomings, knowing that we will never be perfect and that, if we wait to become better to evangelize, we will never start. The Gospel cannot be locked up and sealed, because the love of God is dynamic and wants to reach everyone. To announce the gospel means moving, going out of ourselves. We cannot be quiet, accommodated in our own little world or nostalgic for memories of the past; with Jesus it is forbidden to lay down or hide in the worldly securities acquired." (Homily May 27, 2017)

From the Diocese: DRF Update to be Published in Parish Bulletin

St. Romuald, Hardinsburg: 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.)



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Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8; Ps 112:1b-2, 3b-6; Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday: Tb 2:9-14; Ps 112:1-2, 7-9; Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday: Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Ps 25:2-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mk 12:18-27
Thursday: Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 12:28-34
Friday: Tb 11:5-17; Ps 146:1b-2, 6c-10; Mk 12:35-37
Saturday: Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Tb 13:2, 6efgh, 7, 8; Mk 12:38-44
Sunday: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52-55; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18



Memorial Day Mass



PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, 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, 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, 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



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

Catholic Faith Information: Please check out and pick up any of the free pamphlets and booklets in the back of church about Catholic teaching and practices. They are excellent resources from the Knights of Columbus about our faith beliefs!

Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim & Barbara Flood, 57 Years on June 9; Jack & Mary Rita Neff, 55 Years on June 9 and Billy & Rita Carwile, 40 Years on June 10.

AROUND AND ABOUT

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.

"More 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.

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).

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.

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, JUNE 4, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

You are gifted

Your Confirmation celebrated the fact that you are being given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They're not one-time gifts, but rather gifts that keep on giving. They are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, courage, reverence, and wonder in God's presence. They're yours for the taking, but many of us fail to notice their availability. Watch for them in your life—when you have sudden bursts of wisdom, when you exhibit courage, when you are awestruck by a moment of beauty or love or forgiveness. These are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive in your life. Look for them.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; Veni Sancte Spiritus; John 20:19-23 (63). "He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

MONDAY, JUNE 5

MEMORIAL OF BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Confirmed on a daily basis

Confirmation can seem like the odd sacrament out among the seven. Sometimes it's joined to Baptism in the initiation of adults (RCIA) that we recently celebrated at Easter. More commonly it's a teen rite of passage when young people get to embrace personally the faith to which their parents and godparents pledged them. For Saint Boniface (c. 680-754), it was the occasion of his martyrdom as he waited in the open fields for his converts to arrive for the ritual. His enemies' ambush offered its own confirmation of the faith of Boniface and his attendants. How does your faith get "confirmed" day by day?

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 1:3; 2:1a-8; Mark 12:1-12 (353). "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

MEMORIAL OF NORBERT, BISHOP

Faith is more than horseplay

Many think Saint Paul converted to Christianity when he was knocked from his horse on the road to Damascus. Read about it in the Acts of the Apostles, and you'll find a dramatic tale of conversion, but no horse. Fast-forward 1,000 years or so to the young and carefree nobleman Norbert riding an actual horse on a road in Germany. A thunderstorm spooked the animal, which threw Norbert to the ground, knocking him out. When he regained consciousness, he said, "Lord, what would you have me do?" The answer he heard: "Turn away from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it." Keep your heart and mind open to God's call to reorient your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 2:9-14; Mark 12:13-17 (354). "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Here are three good reasons

You may have noticed at Mass as the celebrant says, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to . . ." that he traces a sign of the cross on the open book. At the same time, people in the congregation make a small sign of the cross on their foreheads, lips, and heart. This practice dates back at least as far as the 11th century. The significance of this threefold signing is to express our desire and intention to hear the gospel with an open mind, proclaim it with our lips, and cherish and safeguard it in our hearts. Make this a conscious habit at

Mass and it will help you carry the gospel with you into the world in how you think, what you say, and how you live.

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mark 12:18-27 (355). "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior."

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

MEMORIAL OF EPHREM OF SYRIA, DEACON, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

How can you keep from singing?

Saint Ephrem (fourth century) was not much to look at. Small, shriveled, his clothes in patches and covered with dirt, he lived in a cave and ate barley bread and vegetables. Nutritionists might not have approved of his diet, but everyone, it seemed, loved his music. They called him the "harp of the Holy Ghost" because of the hymns and homilies he composed. Ephrem was one of the first to appreciate the power of sacred song to move the assembly in worship. Take the words of one of your favorite hymns to prayer, and include singing in your personal devotion.

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Mark 12:28-34 (356). "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Pray for imperfect leaders

King David was very much a flawed leader. Even so he is acclaimed as a great defender of his people, a gifted musician, and a poet and is revered not only in Jewish culture but by Christians and Muslims as well. The honorific title "Son of David" was often applied to Jesus, proving that good results can indeed come from our leaders, flawed though they are. Today is a good day to pray for all elected leaders, asking God to guide them to faithfully fulfill the duties of their offices and to seek justice, peace, and the common good in all of their efforts.

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 11:5-17; Mark 12:35-37 (357). "Blessed be God, and praised be his great name, and blessed be all his holy angels."

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Hail Mary in many ways

Devotion to Mary has a long tradition in the church. Inscriptions and prayers to Mary began appearing early in Christian history, and popular devotion to Our Lady has been a part of Catholic life ever since. A lovely Irish lityny from the eighth century captures the flavor of that devotion, as fresh today as it was centuries ago. Perhaps you can recite it a few times today. Mary is honored as: "Mistress of the Heavens, Mother of the Heavenly and Earthly Church, Recreation of Life, Mistress of the Tribes, Mother of the Orphans, Breast of the Infants, Queen of Life, Ladder of Heaven."

TODAY'S READINGS: Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mark 12:38-44 (358). "This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury."