



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

June 25, 2017 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

dear Padre

Did Adam and Eve repent of their sin, and if so, were they forgiven?

Genesis 1—3 is written primarily to convey truths about God: God is good, loving, and provident; humankind was ungrateful to God and introduced evil into the world. However, despite humanity's sinfulness, there is still hope because of God's goodness and mercy. The Garden of Eden story is focused more on the loss of original holiness and the consequences of original sin than on repentance.

So while the Bible doesn't state that Adam and Eve sought repentance, we can know with certainty that God offered them forgiveness, and we can imagine that they probably repented. God restores humanity after the Fall through Christ's redemptive act and offers all of us forgiveness (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 410).

Christians believe that "the world has been established and kept in being by the Creator's love; has fallen into slavery to sin but has been set free by Christ, crucified and risen to break the power of the evil one" (CCC 421). Creation, therefore, already involves a re-creation in Christ, the eternal Word of the Father. Christ, the "New Adam," who amends for the disobedience of Adam, becomes the point toward which creation's history is directed.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church asks: Why did God not prevent the first man from sinning? "St. Leo the Great responds, 'Christ's inexpressible grace gave us blessings better than those the demon's envy had taken away.'...And the Exsultet sings, 'O happy fault, ...which gained for us so great a Redeemer!'" (CCC 412).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

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

Masses for the Week

June 26th - July 2nd

Tues	1:00 pm	NO MASS (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Johnny Flood (LB)
Thurs	9:30 am	Poor Souls (DW) (Medco)
Fri	8:00 am	Wayne Manning
Sat	8:00 am	James Lush (VL)
	5:00 pm	Fred Hardesty (DP)
	7:00 am	Carroll Anthony (TA)
	10:00 am	Margaret Schembari (FR)

Stewardship of Finance

June 17th & 18th Collection

Sunday Collection	\$6,403.31
Building Fund	\$5.00
Children	\$2.00
Loose change for the Poor	\$56.00

Parish Financial Summary

July-May, 2017

Total Income	\$487,400
Total Expenses	\$444,200
	\$ 43,200

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 - July 1st & 2nd

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Amy Flood Kathy Flood	Dale Board Stefan Cesarz	C-Jim Bland* C-Sam Bland S-Will Bland S-Corey Masterson	Lola Allen Claire Flood Caleb Masterson	Minnie Nimmo	Pippa
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Mike Wiedemer	Jim Heavrin	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Darrian Flood Morgan Tabor	Mary Vessels	Pippa
10:00 am	LaDonna Barton Cindy Payne Mary Jo Rankin Aulton Richards	Suzanne Rose Danny Shain	C-Bill Monin* C-Griffin Moore S-Chase Robbins S-Chuck Robbins	Parker Davis Tyler Davis	Rosa Hockenberry	P.J./Choir Cantor: Alison
Radio Minister: Joe Hess		Children's Liturgy:				



"He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster." German Philosopher Nietzsche wrote this warning in a collection of proverbs titled "Beyond Good & Evil". He is echoing what Jesus is saying in the gospel today, **"Do not be afraid of those who kill only the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna"** (Matthew 10:28). We

may complain most about our bodily, physical hurts, but what is so much worse is what wounds us for eternity: that is, what 'wounds' or 'kills' our souls. Evil's insidious effect is the 'turning', hardening or 'deadening' of hearts. What effect does 'evil' have on us? How are we to respond when evil is done to us? Jesus says 'Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you' (Luke 6:28). So how do we respond? God is all good, and we are created in God's image and follow Christ's example, so we must do good! Whatever anyone else does or not, offers no defense for my response. **I am to do good regardless of them**, AND whether any good action of mine is received, recognized, rewarded or not! **And we can count on the not!** Often evil only knows itself, giving back the same, selfishly only perpetuating the ongoing downward fall of itself & everyone/everything it touches. What Jesus and Nietzsche are both saying is that when we look upon evil or struggle with evil, it happens easily enough that we fall under its influence or take up its means, without realizing it! This corrupting reaction amounts to the childish response "They did it to me first!" as if that justifies us saying/doing anything. For example, if someone publicly cries about 'viciousness' or 'meanness' from opponents, that person needs to examine that he or she is not engaging in similar 'degradation' reactively or proactively. Jesus is saying that with an attack, the physical blow or any physical loss is nothing compared to the possible 'loss of trust' or 'embittering of heart' that can happen to the person's soul in response. The greatest effect of the evil is the wounding or corrupting of our souls in reaction to the sin. And that is an evil that we have power to play a part in or not! Even in extreme circumstances, the noble person who is guided by God's grace, finds a way to counteract evil actions **without descending into similar means**. I am reminded of George Washington's reaction to reports of US soldiers preparing to summarily execute some German mercenaries in the Revolutionary War, and he gave the charge, "Absolutely Not!" He wrote **"Treat them with humanity, and let them have no reason to complain of our copying the brutal example of the British Army** in their treatment of our unfortunate brethren who have fallen into their hands" (Order after Battle of Trenton" Dec. 26, 1776). So we must take extra care when confronting sin and evil, whether in ourselves or anywhere. We begin with ourselves. We need to first keep pure our souls, and to purify our intention before acting, even and especially in response to offenses against us. We check ourselves first asking, "What am I about to do, and why I am about to do it?" I need to watch my own soul closely. Monks used to call this **'custody of the heart'**, similar to 'custody of the eyes'. 'Watch what you are watching' and be aware of your influences! The idea was to examine oneself closely and be aware of what was rolling or racing around in one's own mind. If we know what is being stirred up in our own heart,

we can be more aware of what is motivating us to act, feel or speak. Truly this is freedom, that we are as aware as possible of what is moving and influencing us. And St Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Take the example of a wasp, if I am inconvenienced or threatened, and come out stinging, is that free? Or is that just a childish reaction? The ancient Roman poet Horace wrote "Anger is a momentary madness, so control your passion **or it will control you**" (Book I, epistle ii, line 62).

This point of watching oneself and keeping proper control of oneself, is what Jesus meant when he said, "remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" (Matthew 7:5). **I need to check myself first**, before speaking or acting. Is evil motivating me? If I am good, I need to act out of good: act out of love and from God, not out of any selfish gain or for my personal status. An example is given of a good warrior who met his enemy on the battlefield, and as they approached each other, the enemy spit in his face, and the noble warrior turned around and walked away, to fight another day. **He didn't fight that day**, because he realized that if he conquered his opponent right after that spitting humiliation, people would always question whether he defeated his enemy **based on the noble cause** of war defending innocence, **or simply because he was angry** and retaliated killing him only because of the insult! The good warrior's nobility reveals the difference. This is why Jesus told his followers that their 'righteousness' had to surpass the Pharisees. Jesus said in Luke 6:33 "And if you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same." **God desires that good overcome evil freely**, and of its own growth and flourishing. Pure goodness is not forced, coerced or imposed. Again, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" and as Jesus himself taught, the "Truth sets free" (John 8:32). God desires our freedom. God's will is that we freely love others and freely forgive others. In John 10:18, Jesus described this operation of pure goodness in the sacrifice of 'good shepherding' or 'shepherding good'. He described it as the *freedom of laying down one's life and taking up again one's life for others*. **That is the authority of goodness: Service!** Of itself, Goodness freely gives, it freely forgives and so, it freely lives!

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

- Sunday:** What grace or message do I feel God gave me at Mass today? In what ways can I share it or use it to bear fruit with others this coming week?
- Monday:** Going back to work, how can I practice what I received from prayer and Mass Sunday?
- Tuesday:** How do I care for my soul? Do I give my soul the proper maintenance and protection needed to keep my faith and nurture its goodness?
- Wednesday:** Pray for an enemy. Specifically ask the Holy Spirit in prayer how you can break through and let go of bad feeling toward them and not be dragged down into negativity.
- Thursday:** God takes care of sparrows. Do I trust God to care for details out of my hands or beyond me? Practice surrendering your will and anxiety each morning to Jesus!
- Friday:** Meditate upon a crucifix, and pray for guidance to offer penance for someone's good.
- Saturday:** For what am I especially grateful to God for and will offer as thanksgiving at Mass?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Parish Council Member Nominations:

We want to recognize and thank our outgoing council members completing their three year terms on Parish Council: **David Morton, Jerry Dowell, Christi Brooks, Betty Heavrin.** *I am so grateful for their service and sacrifice of time to lead and work in the parish. Thank-You!* This opens the call for new members, so please pray about and talk with others serving on the council. Are you willing to be on the council? Or who can you nominate to serve. Nominations will begin next weekend and run two weeks, with elections following the next weekend.

Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:

Nationally recognized and dynamic Evangelist Mike Cumbee of the Micah Project, will be our Mission Speaker each night October 15-17th. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

RAFFLE WINNERS:

\$1,000 Prize Gwen Matthews
\$500 Prize Kimberly Wirthwein
\$300 Prize Bernie Wiedemer
\$250 Prize Chris Brumfield
\$250 Prize Greg Weise
\$100 Saving Account Grandkids of Tom & Jean Aull
\$50 Visa Gift Card Brayden & Addison Lee

SRIS News

HELP WANTED!!

ST. ROMUALD PRESCHOOL HAS AN OPENING FOR A PRESCHOOL INSTRUCTOR and substitute teachers for our upcoming school year. For more details you may call or text 270-945-6514 or email Lcarwile@hotmail.com. Applications will be available at the church office Mon – Fri. 8:00 – 3:00. The deadline for applications will be June 26. Thank you!

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 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	Pastoral Council
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	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
	5:00 pm	VBS Registration
Sun	7/10 am	VBS Registration

UPCOMING:

July 9	8:00 am	First Friday Mass
	8:30 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration

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 be 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:

"None of us can live without love, but to believe that love is earned is to fall into a type of slavery. Much of man's anguish today comes from this: to believe that unless we are strong, attractive and beautiful, then no one will love us. Many people today work to be seen and accepted by others only to fill an inner void: as if we were people eternally in need of confirmation. But, imagine that world where everyone begs, attracting the attention of others, and no one is willing to love one another for free? Imagine a world without the freedom to love! It looks like a humane world, but is really a living hell. How much selfish and narcissistic behavior comes about because of this loneliness? So what can we Christians do to help people know they are loved by God? Share Christ with them! When we give love and its freely received between people, even in just a simple look or smile, this is what transforms sadness and loneliness into happiness and joy. In Christ Jesus, we have been loved, beloved, desired. There is someone who has engraved in us a primordial beauty, that no sin, no wrong choice will ever erase completely. This needs sharing!" (Homily 6 -14-2017)

Eucharistic First Friday 24-hour Adoration:

Following the 8:00 am Mass on July 7th, 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 if prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



Adoration

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

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Gn 12:1-9; Ps 33:12-13, 18-20, 22; Mt 7:1-5
- Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mt 7:6, 12-14
- Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mt 7:15-20
- Thursday: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
- Friday: Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 8:1-4
- Saturday: Gn 18:1-15; Lk 1:46-50, 53-55; Mt 8:5-17
- Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

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.)

"Super Raffle" - Sisters of Charity of Nazareth:

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth are holding a "Super Raffle" with a grand prize of \$20,000, 2nd prize of \$5,000 and 3rd prize of \$1,000. Raffle tickets are \$20.00 each. Only 3,500 raffle tickets will be sold. All proceeds go towards the support of the ministries here and all around the world. You can join us for a live webcast of the Super Raffle drawing on Friday, August 25, 2017, beginning at 12:45 pm. Know, always, of our gratitude to you for all of your past support! So, now don't delay! Get your raffle tickets today! For more information please call 502-348-1586 or 502-348-1578 or go to our website at www.scnfamily.org.



**Sing to the LORD,
praise the LORD,
for he has rescued the life of the poor.
— Jeremiah 20:13**

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, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Karen Herbert, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug 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, Stoy Priest, Bob Rankin, 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, Tessa Wadsworth, Regina Walz, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, Rita Williams, 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

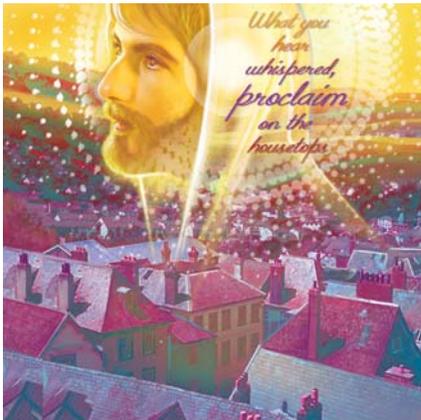


Pray to end abortion: Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support.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

In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Eugene Hinton whose funeral was this week and Tommy Himmelhaver, Ray Himmelhaver's son. Please keep the families in your prayers.

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.



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.

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

BIRTHDAYS: Hella Ables, July 3rd.

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

Cecilian Bank
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**SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017 TWELFTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Count to ten . . . blessings

During those dark moments in your life when you are sure God has forsaken you, follow this simple practice endorsed by Jesus: Count your blessings. Think about all that you've been given, the love and mercy that God has shown you and others.

Did you demand explanations for those gifts? Wonder at their fairness or equity? Our suffering may never make sense, but it will be redeemed, in fact it has been redeemed many times over. God's love is stronger than sorrow and death. Abide in that love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33 (94). "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."

MONDAY, JUNE 26

Drop the judgmental mask

Matthew's gospel quotes Jesus as saying, "Stop judging, that you may not be judged." While you have to make some judgments every day, Jesus forbids judging a person's character, worth, intentions, or standing before God on the basis of what you see. Jesus used the word *hypocrite*, which comes from the Greek word for "actor," someone who wears a mask. The gospel asks that you unmask yourself, be real, and leave it to God to judge.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 7:1-5 (371). "You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye."

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Can you bear to see the divine?

Cyril of Alexandria (c. 375-444) was a divisive and headstrong leader for much of his life and no great role model for saintly living. He did, however, make one lasting contribution to the teachings of the church. Another bishop, Nestorius, had argued that it was impossible that God could ever become fully human in the weak and vulnerable form of an infant. He argued that Christ's divinity must have come later. Cyril defended Christ's dual nature from the beginning—fully human and fully divine—and defended Mary's title as *Theotokos*, "the bearer of God." The next opportunity you have to gaze upon the face of an infant, see if you can catch a glimpse of the divine. Ask God to give you a touch of the innocence and trust you see reflected in that infant's gaze.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 13:2, 5-18; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372). "A scribe approached and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.'"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

MEMORIAL OF IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

Christ's love is no secret

Irenaeus (second century), a Father of the church, was mentored by people who knew the first disciples, which might explain the confidence he felt to write five treatises on detecting and debunking heresies. Irenaeus tamed the threat of Gnosticism by his sure efforts to "strip the fox," as he put it, so that no one could mistake the Gnostic's claims of secret spiritual knowledge for the real and accessible message of Christ. Irenaeus wrote of God: "He cannot be seen or described in . . . all his greatness . . . Yet he is certainly not unknown. Through his Word the whole creation learns that

there is one God . . . who holds all things together and gives them their being."

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7:15-20 (373). "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing."

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Give thanks for the odd couple

Peter and Paul might not have appreciated sharing a feast day. We mean to honor two giants of Christianity, without whom we might not have the church at all. But two more different men would be hard to find. Peter was a Galilean fisherman, impulsive, bull-headed, and rough around the edges. Paul was an educated man of the world, a Pharisee from outside Israel in territory that is now Turkey. These two met rarely and agreed even less frequently. But we value what they taught us about holding the center of orthodoxy (Peter) and pushing the frontier of the Holy Spirit (Paul).

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). "Jesus said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

Don't get burned by prejudice

"Nero fiddled while Rome burned," goes the old saying. Some blamed him for failing to fight the fire in a kind of ultimate urban renewal project. Nero himself pointed the finger at Rome's Christians and used the fire as an excuse to persecute them. Not everyone really believed the Christians were responsible, yet many were eager to denounce them for the tired old reason of prejudice. Prejudice still exacts its price in a world that doesn't always care for the truth. Don't fall for it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Matthew 8:1-4 (375). "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

SATURDAY, JULY 1

MEMORIALS OF JUNÍPERO SERRA, PRIEST; BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Be a fool for Christ

Blessed Junípero Serra (1713-84) is one of those figures from church history who can start an argument. He followed a calling to bring the gospel to Native Americans in 18th-century California. Some say he opposed the Spanish colonial authorities' mistreatment of the natives; critics think he was part of the problem. Whatever else can be said of him, he gave himself completely for the missions and the people they served. Every Christian is part of the mission of Christ and his church. A member of the Spanish military said of Serra, "There is no mischief he will not attempt if exasperated." How can you be a missionary in your own way? What mischief can you make for the sake of God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 8:5-17 (376). "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you."

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