



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

July 30, 2017 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

RCIA Inquiry: If you or someone you know is interested to knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church please contact Father Brian, Deacon Tony (270-617-8032), Deacon Mike (270-756-0120) or fill out and return this form to the parish office or place in the Collection basket.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Name submitted by: _____

Phone #: _____

Masses for the Week

July 31st— August 6th

Tues	1:00 pm	Edwina Neel (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Rita McGary (BW)
Thurs	9:30 am	Colin Whitfill (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Joe O'Reilly (IO)
Sat	8:00 am	J.W. & Lorena Bland (LB)
	5:00 pm	Tommy Himmelhaver
	7:00 am	Bobby Joe Hinton (DH)
	10:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue PO)

Stewardship of Finance

July 22nd & 23rd Collection

Sunday Collection	\$8,296.50
Building Fund	\$15.00
Children	\$5.00
Loose change for the Poor	\$29.90

Parish Financial Summary July-June, 2017

Total Income	\$537,000
Total Expenses	\$494,600
	\$ 42,400

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 - August 5th & 6th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Kathy Flood Jerry Jarboe	Shannon Aldridge Brenda Wheatley	C-Tim Aldridge* C-Danny O'Reilly S-Pat O'Reilly S-Chase Taul	Ben Aldridge Alaina Taul Madeline Taul	Dayle Riley	
7:00 am	Anne O'Reilly Mike Wiedemer	Pete Anthony	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Darrian Flood Morgan Tabor	Mary Vessels	
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sally Hinton Sandy Horsley	Alvin Mattingly Dolores Mattingly	C-Raymond Critchelow* C-Chase Robbins S-Chuck Robbins S-Jim Sills	Hunter Ashcraft Ryan Whitfill	Laura Frank	
Radio Minister: Joe Hess		Children's Liturgy:				



"Tell me another one!" Often we say that to mean our ears were just stretched by a 'fish story' or a 'tall tale', but also it is the repeated request of us all when it comes to passing along memories, histories or traditions. Or how often children will say that to parents just after hearing a story read to them from a favorite book. I think the apostles said this to Jesus a lot as he taught them. Asking Jesus for more understanding they would say, "**Tell us another parable** about the Kingdom of God. **Tell us one** about how God works in the

world. **Tell us one** about what happens at death and afterward!" The list could go on and on! I think of parables as a teaching tool of Jesus, using an illustration of something **in our common experience** that helps us understand something that is **out of our experience**. For example, how about the experience of death: As humans, what do any of us know from experience about death? Yet Jesus says in John 12:24 "Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a **kernel of wheat falls to the ground** and dies, it remains only a seed; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus is using the simple example of a seed surrendering itself to be sown in the ground to our being laid to rest in the dust of earth. Then what? The parable image continues by picturing the seed waiting patiently, growing into something new and generating abundantly new life and further seeds from new plant fruit. He compares that to our surrendering to death, resting patiently, and letting His resurrective power grow us and raising us regenerated into newly abundant life. Similarly, Jesus had taught Nicodemus to trust God more and giving his life completely to discipleship by 'being born from above'-by water and the Holy Spirit' (John 3:3, 5). He was using the natural experience of the **'birth process'** to provide a familiar example to highlight **dying as a higher birthing** (even though birth has its own pains, they are **known pains**)! Also, with Nicodemus, I love Jesus' use of the **natural elements of water and wind** to encourage him to 'go with the flow'-follow me! But coming back to Jesus' teaching for today, He shares three parables to familiarize us with the Kingdom of God. What is it like? 1) a buried treasure found, that one sells everything else for, to go off and buy the whole field 2) a precious pearl hunter finding the jewel of a lifetime at the market and liquidating everything else to buy that ONE pearl! 3) a fishing net that captures up everything around and after its dragged in, its contents are sorted through, separating out good things to hold on to, and bad things to toss away. All of the parables involve the surprise of discovery after exerting some effort, that is then built on by continuing the effort. However the first parable adds a detail I want to emphasize: the treasure hunter after the discovery, not only went and sold all else he had, but the parable said he was motivated **'out of joy'** (Matt 13:44) and sold everything. He cleared the deck, moving everything else out of the way that might obscure this discovery. He took this 'clearing effort' **'out of joy!'** Not with a calculating eye to future popularity, being the owner of the 'famous King Tut's once hidden tomb treasures' and not out of greed to propel himself into elite circles of wealth after finding D.B. Cooper's ransom money in Washington state woods! No, he sells everything **'out of joy'**. His joy is purely about knowing that this treasure found is priceless to him: like the value of a family heirloom photo album, or an inherited ancient book of family stories, no cost is too high to hold on to and preserve such treasure. Or consider how valuable is the crumpled birthday card, handmade-drawn and colored by your grandchild or a mailed note scribbled by your own great grandmother's hand sent to you when you served in the army. All of these personal discoveries are priceless, and they are kept and treasured **'out of joy!'** Jesus says the Kingdom of God is such a find (personal and priceless)! The last parable **increases** this new found **joy even more**. People sit down in front of a fishing net filled with things, and they experience the **ongoing joy** of pouring over everything and looking closely at each item, separating out what is valuable from what is not

valuable. Like an episode of 'The Pickers', "Storage Wars' or 'Antique Roadshow', when the garage or storage door is first opened, that expectant feeling rises anticipating what possible priceless treasure may be right in front of you. This thrill and excitement is what Jesus says 'working in the field of God's Kingdom is like'. I've never been to any storage auction or estate sale, but I know I can have a 'rush-feeling' when I show up at a 'Friends of the *Library Book Sale*' or when I step into a '*second-hand bookstore*'. I wonder, 'What priceless book treasure is here that has been mis-shelved & overlooked for years?' Every minute in the Kingdom of God is like that joyful suspense! What has God set in front of each of us to discover each minute? St Paul builds our excitement too, by telling us in 1 Corinthians 2:9 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." With Jesus, everything is discovery!

Have you ever heard of authors who write themselves into the story or painters who paint themselves into their pictures? We have a case of that in the gospel today. Matthew writes himself into verse 52, "**Every scribe** who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom **both the new and the old.**" I suggest he is talking about himself! It begins with the detail about a 'scribe'. A scribe is any writer, secretary or keeper of the written records (sounds like a **gospel writer** to me). But the clincher for me that he is using himself as a good example, comes from his emphasis on 'head of household' and 'storeroom'. He is talking about an **inventory keeper (a bookkeeper)**! Remember that Matthew's first occupation was tax collector (Matt 9:9). He knew how to keep good records. He knew how to report old stock and account for prospective acquisitions. Notice that Matthew is at the head of the New Testament household (first book of NT). He has the unique distinction among the four gospel writers of quoting the Old Testament the most by far. He uses nearly 100 references to the Old Testament, ahead of second place St. Luke by about 40 references. Being first and at the head of the New Testament in book order, his gospel functions as the perfect hinge-joint between the Old and New Testament. Many scholars have speculated Matthew is placed first in the NT index, because of his constant emphasis showing the continuity between Old and New along with his evident skill with both NT Greek and the OT Hebrew language (Bishop Papias around 100 AD wrote that Matthew had original records of Jesus' teachings written in Jesus' home language Aramaic). So, hands down (writing?), Matthew leads the 'gospel scribe pack' in bringing out and holding together the best of the Old and New! He knows what is worth keeping and what can be tossed. Matthew knows best what goes well together, new and old!

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

- Sunday:** How did my participation in Mass change me for this coming week's mission?
- Monday:** Have I given God time enough to speak to me, by my reading daily His Word?
- Tuesday:** What is my treasure, personal and priceless that I would sell everything else to keep?
- Wednesday:** Do I keep good personal records of my life in Christ? Do I daily examine my conscience or inventory my relationship to God and others?
- Thursday:** Where did I find God's grace today? Was I surprised with joy?
- Friday:** Make a loving sacrifice willingly for someone today without any recognition.
- Saturday:** For what am I especially thankful for from this week that I am going to Mass to return thanks to God for his goodness shared with me?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:

Nationally recognized and dynamic Evangelist Mike Cumbie 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!

Thanks to Past Parish Council Members: 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!**

I want to thank all of the nominees who were willing to serve in leadership on the Parish Council for the elections last weekend: Tom Aull, Gera Jarboe, Tobias Curran, Janie Maysey, Duane Flood, Joellen McGary, Danny O'Reilly, Cindy Rhodes, and Mark Rhodes. The new members will be announced this weekend!

St. Romuald Altar Society will be getting under way with our first meeting set for Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 5:00 pm in the parish hall. Come and join us as we make plans for another year, discussing old and new business. Ruby Davis, our president, welcomes all old and new members to sit in on our meetings to help plan for the upcoming year.

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!

"The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide was created to bring hope and healing to divorced and separated Catholics." With the help of trained counselors Deacon Mike (270-756-0120) and Rosa Hockenberry (270-614-1669), "you can go from pain and loneliness to hope and healing." For men and women seeking healing from divorce, join us beginning August 7, 2017 every Monday thru October 30, 2017. Cost is \$20.00 for 12 weeks of sessions. Tell your loved ones who might be going through the same struggles, there is help out there, remember everything is kept private. Contact Deacon Mike, or Rosa, or call the office at 270-756-2356, you can sign up now!

Celebration

BIRTHDAY:

Billy Ward McGary, July 30th and Ray Himmelhaver, July 31st

BBQ Chickens: The Knights of Columbus will be selling barbequing chickens on the 6th of August at St Romuald's, St Mary's and St. Anthony's after Sunday Mass. Knight of Columbus Members: If you can help cook chickens please text or email me @ 270-617-0754 or jpat_oreilly@yahoo.com respectively. Cooking starts at 3:30 am at St Romuald's Pit. Thank You, Grand Knight Pat O'Reilly Also, we want to thank Tyson Foods for providing the chickens.

Thank You The family of Rugene Hinton would like to express our sincerest thanks to our church family at St. Romuald. The support care and concern shown to our mother and our family will never be forgotten. Fr. Brian and the choir provided the most beautiful service. It was a fitting tribute for our mother. The funeral meal was also much appreciated. Our mother loved St. Romuald and we will always be grateful for the love shown to us.
Lou Ann, Libby, Laura and Family

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)
	5:00 pm	Altar Society
Fri	9:00 am	First Friday Mass
	9:30 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
Sun	7/10 am	K of C selling BBQ Chickens

UPCOMING:

Aug 10 5:00 pm Picnic Meeting

A Word from Pope Francis:

"When one of St. Francis' followers asked to be taught how to preach, the saint responded by saying: "Brother, whenever we visit the sick, help children and give to the poor, we are already preaching." In this beautiful lesson is enclosed the vocation and task of the catechist-teacher. It is not just a job. It is a vocation of service, which is received as a gift on the part of the Lord and must in turn be transmitted. To do this, we return to our first encounter with Christ that changed our lives. And this fundamental experience of Christ must resonate again and again in our lives as teachers. We begin with Christ. A teacher does not start from their own ideas and preferences, but we must look upon Christ, and His gaze makes our heart burn with joy. The more Jesus is the center of our lives, the more he strengthens us to go out of ourselves. Focused on others, we are 'decentralized' and able to be closer to others." (Message to Teachers 7-12-2017)



ANOINTING
of the **SICK**

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month: Father Brian will begin offering on a monthly basis the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the first Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm). The first offering will be August 2nd. The Catechism specifies that those who can be anointed include 'anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age' yet also includes anyone 'prior to a serious operation', or 'for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced' (Catechism #1514-1515).

Children's Liturgy: We had 3 teachers to step away from their positions as teachers for Children's Liturgy this last cycle. We are now in the process of trying to replace them before September when the classes start up again. Children's Liturgy of course is held March, April, May and then September, October and November. Safe Environment and a background check are required to work with the children. All questions and information can be gotten from the church office, stop by or call 270-756-2356, or you may contact Rosa Hockenberry at 270-314-1669 (cell) any hour of the day or week. Please take some time to prayerfully think over coming to join this very special ministry. Our children need you!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Jn 11:19-27

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

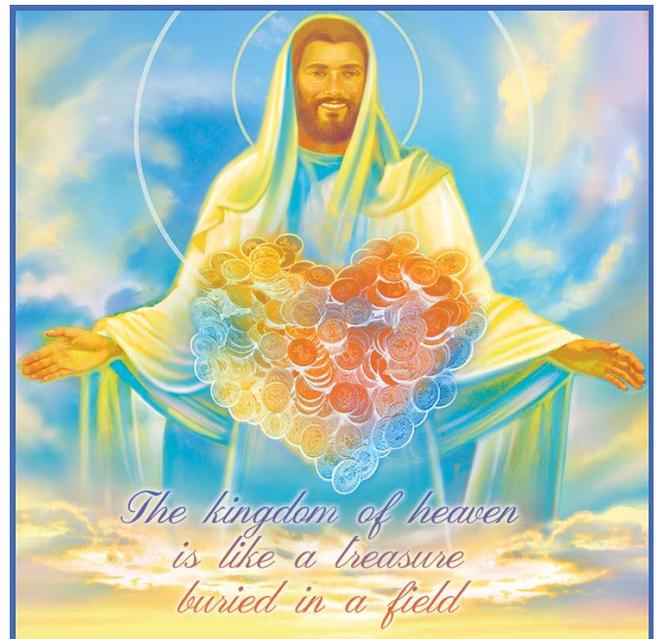
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

July 30th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field"

Seeking the kingdom of heaven means that we seek more for our lives than this world has to offer. If you've ever thought you might have a vocation to priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources to assist you with your discernment:
www.owensborovocations.com 270-683-1545,
www.owensborovocations.com,
jason.mcclure@pastoral.org



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PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, **Jim Bandy**, 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, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Tijuana Duncan, Lottie Eauer, Tessa Farris, Carroll Ferguson, Ginny Flood, Pat Flood, Cindy Getz, Jenny Ginn, Rita Greenwood, 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, Joe Priest, Robert Priest, Sandy Priest, Stoy Priest, Bob Rankin, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, 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, 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, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



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.

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.

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

June 8, 2017 St. Romuald, Hardinsburg Parish Target Amount: \$12,005.35
Pledged: \$7,472 Paid: \$7,107 Remaining Balance: \$365 (Our Parish receives a rebate of 50% for all dollars paid over Parish Target Amount.)

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

SMP Liquors
270-580-4440

AROUND AND ABOUT

St Theresa Custom Car Show/Picnic and Auction: August 12, begins at 2:00 pm: Car show entry fee \$10, with prizes. For more info call Marvin Stull 270-496-4123, or St Theresa, 9245 Rhodelia Road, Payneville, KY 40157 at 270-496-4362.

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

Brescia Sunday Weekend: August 12-13th
Across the Diocese, a special collection is taken up in every parish to help the work of Brescia University providing Catholic Higher Education. For a Diocese our size, we are so blessed to have a Catholic University. We are blessed with many Brescia graduates in our parish!

15th Annual Rural Life Celebration Sunday, August 13, 2017, 5:00 pm Owensboro Convention Center

You are invited to a celebration of rural life in the air conditioned comfort of the Owensboro Convention Center on West Second St and Locust St. A free meal will be served start at 5:00 pm with a short program. This year, special recognition will be given to the lives of service of Bishop John McRaith and Rick Kamuf both of which we lost earlier this year. Come help us honor their contributions to our community.

A Lifeline for Marriage – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For confidential information or to register for the August program beginning with a weekend on Aug 18, 2017, call 270-852-8346 or email: felliott3232@yahoo.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org . Registration deadline Aug 4, 2017.



SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pearls come with a price

Pearls are unlike other precious materials: Metals and gems are formed in the earth; pearls come from a living creature. Also, pearls do not need to be cut or polished—they're beautiful just the way they are. The actual science of how they are formed is profound: Pearls begin as an irritant inside the heart of the oyster, which secretes layer upon layer until the source is encased in lustrous coatings. What a perfect Christian metaphor for the redemptive value of suffering—that trials leave one with treasure.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 4:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 (109). "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls."

MONDAY, JULY 31

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

The order of the day

Before he came on the world stage as Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio had already put in 53 years of service to the church as a Jesuit. The Society of Jesus founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola has served the church for nearly 500 years, with Jesuits currently working in 112 nations in a variety of apostolic ministries. The election of Bergoglio to the papacy allows for greater visibility for all religious orders. Give thanks for all the women and men in consecrated religious life who have dedicated their lives to the People of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast."

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

MEMORIAL OF ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

A whole lot of love

Saint Alphonsus (1696-1787) practiced law for a time, became a priest, and eventually founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists). His clear and reasoned thinking—a remnant from his days as a litigator—served him well as a moral theologian. His persuasive and hope-filled preaching drew many to the church. "Has not God in fact won for himself a claim on all our love?" argued Alphonsus. "From all eternity he has loved us." Remember to love God back just as much.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43 (402). "Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

MEMORIAL OF EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP

Don't sweat the small stuff

Saint Eusebius of Vercelli (d. 371) lived at a time when bishops were elected by acclamation of the people. The people of Vercelli, in modern-day Italy, chose Eusebius because of his humility and his commitment to unity at a time of great division in the early church. Eusebius emphasized the faith that unites us rather than the opinions that divide us. When you find yourself in a disagreement with someone, ask if you are clashing over fundamental truths or merely over personal opinions and preferences. If we pray for humility, we will be able to find a way to reconcile our differences.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46 (403). "When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Travel light

Most tabernacles these days are pretty fancy places, far removed in size and style from the original dwelling place of God, which was a tent in the desert. Moses built it, but the master architect was God, who delivered the blueprint on Mt. Sinai. It served as the dwelling place of the Most High, but it had to be lightweight and portable if it were going to accompany the Israelites on their wanderings in the wilderness during the Exodus. It does us well to remember that God does not need a fancy house to feel at home and travel among us. We are a pilgrim people, and it is good to stay in touch with our roots.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53 (404). "Moses . . . spread the tent over the Dwelling . . . and the glory of the Lord filled the Dwelling."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

Hang in there

Saint John Vianney (1786-1859), known as the Curé of Ars, started out as a farmhand and catechist who needed extra time in his studies for the priesthood because he wasn't the most brilliant student. He was not at first authorized to hear Confessions, but later he would spend 10 to 16 hours a day hearing the Confessions of the 100,000 people a year who trooped to visit him. Sometimes it's necessary to struggle, even fail, before you find your true calling. When you get to the place where your gifts match what's needed, though, you'll know. There, in the words of author Frederick Buechner, "your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF MARY MAJOR

Build on your faith

Exploring architecture is a great way to grow in your Catholic faith. Not only are there different styles of Catholic church buildings but there are also different classifications. The type of structure you may know best is the parish church, but there are also oratories, crypts, cathedrals, and basilicas. Each has its own particular characteristics. A basilica, for example, signifies a church that has a place of honor because of its historical and religious importance. Look up a church like the Basilica of Mary Major and see what light it can shed on your Catholic faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). "It shall be a jubilee for you."

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