



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

August 13, 2017 - Nineteenth 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, Kevin Oelze,
Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly
Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,
Gera Jarboe, Gail Pollock
Harry Mattingly, Pam Pollock
Joellen McGary, Mark Rhodes

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 #: _____



August 15,
Mass times,
7:00 am,
12:05 pm,
6:00 pm

Masses for the Week

August 14th - 20th

Tues	7:00 am	Margaret Bennett
	12:05 pm	Doris Priest
	1:00 pm	Joann Bruington (Extended Care)
	6:00 pm	Herman Barr
Wed	5:00 pm	William Huddleston
Thurs	9:30 am	Bert & Rugene Hinton (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Special Intention (WB)
Sat	5:00 pm	Linda Carwile (RC)
	7:00 am	Raymond & Margie Wethington
	10:00 am	Margaret Shembari (FR)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection	\$8,047.00
Building Fund	\$355.00
Children	\$5.00
Loose change for the Poor	\$44.76

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 - 19th & 20th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Whitney Roach Millie Whittler	Jennifer O'Reilly Melissa Oelze	C-Tony Critchelow* C-Arnold O'Reilly S-John Roach S-Paul Shalosky	Preston Flood Phillip Shalosky	Brenda Wheatley	Shannon
7:00 am	Shirley Bland Jean Oelze	Janet Board	C-Chuck Hardesty* C-Michael Kennedy S-Michael Whitfill S-Mike Whitfill	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Raymond Wethington	
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables Rosa Hockenberry Mary Jo Rankin Aulton Richards	Jessica Phillips Suzanne Rose	C-Drew Hinton* C-Mike Hinton S-Tyler Hinton S-Alvin Mattingly	Will Lewis Ava Phillips	Rosa Hockenberry	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins		Children's Liturgy:				



Do you remember the last nighttime thunderstorm? Something about storms overnight make me rest so well. I sleep so soundly through a normal overnight thunderstorm. Maybe it is the slight flashes of light that come through the window, or the consistent sound of rain fall on the roof and ground or just the relief of knowing I am not out in it, **but I enjoy a good night time rain!** In our gospel today we hear about the apostle's boat being tossed by

waves as a nighttime wind blows up on the water. The wind and waves unsettled the apostles, waking them up and leading them to pay closer attention to the night sky and the horizon. And they see Jesus walking toward them, and **they are 'terrified'**! But, what is more terrifying: being out at sea in rising winds at night, or seeing a human form floating across the water toward you? Maybe when the apostles recognize that it's Jesus coming toward them, they thought **"Is this the END?"** I'm certainly not Jesus, but as a priest, I've heard people joke many times when I showed up to a situation, they said "Father, we might be in a mess, but we didn't think it was that bad-who called you in?" (As if priests only show up at the end-end!) If I could ask the apostles a question, I would ask what exactly 'terrified' them? Perhaps, we can write the terror off to the disorientation of flipping around on the sea at night, half awake and half still dreaming, when suddenly Jesus appears walking on the water. Peter, captain of the ship, takes charge and announces 'If it is you, Jesus, command me to walk with you.' Peter, by saying 'command me', he is revealing who is really in charge of the church-boat! Jesus! And Jesus calls Peter **to join Him on the water**. Forget the storm for a minute; this nighttime sea-walking invitation by Jesus teaches us a lesson by itself. You've heard 'don't jump out the pan into the fire', well, here is an illustration of what not to do in a hurricane. We should 'batten down the hatches' not 'bail out and swim the swells!' **UNLESS, it is Jesus, who calls you to do it** and He is with you! Peter floats the first few steps, until he is distracted by the wind and waves, and sinks. (Now part of us should not at all be surprised by Peter's sinking. I find this humorous because Peter's name means: 'Rock', and who has ever seen a 'rock' float? But Peter also has a 'youthful faith' and we see him so often jump into things, only to pull back or hesitate when things toughen and the sacrifice increases. His faith will mature and steady over his life through many more encounters with Jesus. But at this early point in the gospel, Peter is still impulsive. Think of his other quick responses 'I will never deny you' at the Last Supper (Matt 26:35) or like last week's Transfiguration account 'Quick, let's build three tents and lock this experience up' (Matt 17:4). But, Peter's faith will increase and be made **rock-firm**, and he will become the **foundational witness** (dying Himself for Christ's Gospel Kingdom) for our following. Jesus tells him in Luke 22:32 "you must strengthen your brothers." So Peter has this learning experience of 'water-walking' to grow and develop stronger faith in Christ. In effect, Jesus tells him, "Keep looking at me; not at anything around us. Don't let the wind, water or waves throw you off your walk with me!" Hearing this reminds me of the construction foreman who told his coworker walking the high steel beam, 'Imagine it is only a two by four laying on the ground; keep your focus

on keeping your feet on the wood, don't look around at the air or anything below! I think of 'faith' as 'staying focused' like that! Or as the letter to the Hebrews says "persevere in running the race that lies before us while **keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus**" (Heb 12:1-2). In the boat or in the water, as long as Jesus is with us and we are focused on Him, He will see us through! In our next storm or trial, we have to remember and keep practicing this 'Jesus-focus'! There was once a father of a sick boy who went to Jesus, with some hesitation, and asked Jesus to heal his son 'if he could! Jesus responded like, **'If I** could? How about **'If you** trust....?' Jesus healed the boy on the spot, and the father replied, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). In our next storm, we can make that our prayer, "Lord, help me through my unbelief, strengthen my trust of you". And don't take our eyes away from Him!

We have a **Holy Day of Obligation** this coming week: **Assumption of the Virgin Mary**. Our understanding of the Blessed Mother's passing from this world is that as she shared flesh with our Savior (Jesus being united to Mary as Mother to Son for nine months in the womb), she was blessed with the God-given grace of not undergoing the process of decay in death. As the original 'Temple of the God's Spirit' with Jesus living within her, she continued throughout her earthly time to be the most faithful disciple living with Him. So it is fitting that even in the earliest days of our Church, Mary was understood not to have been buried anywhere on earth, but rather at the moment of her passing, she was taken up into the glory of heaven. If a person wanted to find another example of such 'holy and complete exit' from this world, he/she could refer to the 'taking up of Elijah in the fiery chariot' (2 Kings 2:11) or the 'taking home of Enoch' (Genesis 5:24). Mary, Blessed Ever-Virgin, assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven, pray for us! Our Holy Day Mass schedule is 7:00 am, 12:05 pm and 6:00 pm.

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

Sunday: Did God place any word on my heart or thought in my mind, as a call to action this coming week? What do I remember from Mass today?

Monday: Prepare to practice 'focus on Jesus' with any trial or hardship that arises this week!

Tuesday: Have I given God time in prayer and scripture reading today? That increases focus!

Wednesday: All the apostles were in the boat together. Do I value my time being gathered with other followers of Jesus? What can I do to spend more time with believers?

Thursday: Has Jesus asked me to step into 'deep water' with Him lately? How did I do?

Friday: Make a loving sacrifice willingly for someone today without any recognition.

Saturday: I am going to mass tonight or tomorrow, aren't I? Have you been tempted to miss or been caught up in other things that led you to skip or miss before? Pray about it.

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!

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!

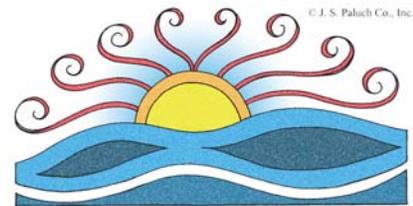
Family Movie Night: All of her life Riley dreamed of being a world class dancer. Victory in a regional competition gained her recognition and a shot at the nationals, but a horrific accident crushes all her dreams. Turning to horseback riding as a form of therapy to regain mobility, Riley begins a special bond with a horse named Grace. But disaster strikes and it seems all her efforts have come to an end. That is, until God's grace appears from an unexpected place. Join us on August 19th at 6:15 for an evening of family entertainment as we watch "Healed by Grace." Popcorn and a drink will be served, so please join us then.

Senior Day: The month of August will be much quieter for us, as we learn about the saints and enjoy a day of round table discussions. We will be discussing St. John Vianney, St. John Eudes, and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. We will provide the chicken and ask that you bring a dish. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us on Thursday, August 17, from 10am to 1pm. Hope to see you there to celebrate a day of fellowship.

"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 (270-863-0117), "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!



VBS Closing Mass



This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	6:00 pm	Divorce Group
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	7:00 am	Holy Day Mass (Feast of the Assumption)
	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	12:05 pm	Holy Day Mass (Feast of the Assumption)
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Holy Day Mass (Feast of the Assumption)
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	Religious Education Registration
	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Sun	7/10 am	Religious Education Registration

UPCOMING:

Aug 22 6:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The disciples went back down the mountain of Transfiguration with eyes and hearts opened by their encounter with the Lord. The image of the disciples going down Mount Tabor reminds us of the importance of detaching ourselves from worldly things, to see Christ's presence veiled in our daily activities and interactions. When we dedicate ourselves to an attentive and prayerful listening to Christ, by always looking for intimate moments of prayer, we can welcome with docility the word of God in us. This path we take, leads to a more vivid rediscovery of Jesus, not as an end in itself, but as rather something that leads us to go down the mountain and back to others, recharged by God's Spirit. With this renewed strength, we'll be able to take new steps of authentic conversion and constantly bear witness to charity, as a law of daily life. By allowing ourselves to be transformed by the presence of Christ and his Word, we will become concrete signs of love for our brothers and sisters." (Homily 8-06-2017)

August 13, 2017

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

What keeps you from following Christ? For many, it is fear. As the disciples experienced fear, Jesus commanded them to take courage. Responding to our vocation takes courage and often challenges us to step out into unknown territory. If we trust in the Lord, He will raise us up and we will join our voices with his disciples who proclaim "Truly, you are the Son of God." If you feel that God might be calling you to the vocation of priesthood, contact the vocations office for resources and support. 270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org, www.owensborovocations.com.



Delivering school supplies collected at VBS to the Daniel Pitino Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27
- Tuesday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
- Wednesday: Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20
- Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-6; Mt 18:21 — 19:1
- Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12
- Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15
- Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

St Vincent DePaul July Report: St Vincent DePaul conducts works of mercy for our community. The Society is thankful for the generosity of parishioners who contribute monthly to their outreach ministry. Their monthly report for July included the following services and help given: Assistance was provided to a total of 27 families amounting to 75 persons (of which were 34 children). The aid totaled just over \$2470.01 given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

Searching for the perfect low-cost family friendly activity or a Mother's Day out excursion? The Stitcher's Quilt Guild of Elizabethtown is hosting their 17th annual **Heartland of Kentucky Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29th & 30th** at the Prichard Community Center, 404 South Mulberry (US62). With the \$5 admission, explore hundreds of locally made quilts, special art quilt exhibits, door prizes, sewing and quilt vendors, refreshments on site, and free quilt demos. **There's plenty of free parking and the show hours are Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-4 (EDT)**

Foster Care: Nearly 7,000 children are in foster care in Kentucky. In our region, almost 200 foster children have the goal of adoption. We are short on homes that will accept children and many children in Kentucky are waiting to be adopted. Will you be a forever family for one of Kentucky's waiting kids? Please call Jennifer Barr at 270-756-2194 for more information.

Don't forget to fill out your Ministry Sign-up Sheet.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Becky Brown, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Cindy Cashen, 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 Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, Janet Hallway, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, **Danny Herdt**, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, 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, 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, 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



In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Joseph Stoy Priest**, (father of Donna Aubrey and brother of Shirley Priest), who passed away last week. Please keep the family in your prayers that God may comfort them.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Karen Herbert**, (niece of Margie Wethington, Jim Heavrin, Dayle Riley) who passed away last week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jim Bandy** (Tim Bandy's father) who passed away this week. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Knights of Columbus Member and Families. Are you interested in having a family outing (meal, games for kids, corn hole tournament, etc., please let me know Yes or No. If yes can you help out? My number is 270-617-0754 or email me at jpat_oreilly@yahoo.com. The following dates are open for the Parish Hall to have our meal and use their grounds for activities: Sept 9, 23, and 30th. I need to know by 12th of Aug to start getting things together. Thank You. Pat O'Reilly, Family Director/Grand Knight.

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.

AROUND AND ABOUT

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 56 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.

"Spicing Up Married Life" 6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 16 at Saint James Catholic School, Elizabethtown, KY. The famous EWTN TV personality, Fr. Leo Patalinghug (The creator-host of the Food and Faith movement called, "Grace Before Meals") will give a cooking demonstration during his conference. Tickets include dinner prepared & served by Tony York and are on sale now for \$25/each at stjames-etown.org. Limited seating is available. Father Leo Patalinghug is featured on many shows, including "Throw Down with Bobby Flay" on The Food Network where he beat Bobby Flay with his Fusion Fajitas! Call office 270-765-7011 for more info.

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.



Sunday, Aug 13, 2017 NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Swimming lessons

If you've ever taught someone to swim, or remember what it was like for you when you learned, you'll recall the doubt and fear—and also the realization that swimming is much easier once you let go of the fear, stop fighting the water, and learn to relax and enjoy the experience. Where in your own life do fear and doubt threaten to pull you under, as happened to Peter when he started to walk on water? Try to relax and simply go with the flow.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33 (115)* “. . . *why did you doubt?*”

Monday, Aug 14, 2017 MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR A tribute to good

In Jesus' day, people had to pay “tribute”—taxes—to their conqueror, signifying their submission to his greatness. When Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) was canonized in 1982, a special person was on hand to pay tribute to his greatness. Yes, John Paul II, a fellow Pole, was there to do the canonizing, but equally special, so was Francis Gajowniczek, the Auschwitz inmate Kolbe died for. As they slaved away in the Nazi death camp, a prisoner escaped. Infuriated guards randomly chose 10 men to die in retaliation. When Gajowniczek cried out that he had a wife and children, Father Kolbe stepped forward to take his place. Kolbe paid tribute to Jesus. What truths do we submit to daily?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27 (413)* “*From whom do kings of the earth take tribute? From their children or from others?*”

Tuesday, Aug 15, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Lifting up the lowly

A recent study showed the power of a simple compliment. Telling a proficient sales clerk, “My, you're good at your job!” or a co-worker, “I appreciate your thoughtfulness” can greatly alter their mood and improve their performance. One man who had battled daily with his teenage daughter decided to compliment her three times each day. The practice did wonders for their relationship, and it opened his eyes to all the good things she said and did. Today we celebrate the Assumption of Mary, who thanked God for “lifting up the lowly.” We're all lowly and can need a lift. Maybe God is asking you to do some of the lifting, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28 (621); Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622)* “*God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.*”

Wednesday, Aug 16, 2017 MEMORIAL OF STEPHEN OF HUNGARY Give from the heart

Saint Stephen of Hungary helped bring Christianity to his nation a thousand years ago and also helped popularize the ancient custom of tithing, the practice of offering a part—traditionally 10 percent—of one's income or resources to a religious organization. While in Stephen's time tithing was imposed as a mandatory obligation, in the early church donations were treated as freewill offerings. One's generosity

should not be forced; it needs to come from a willing heart. Open yours and share generously.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20 (415)* “*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.*”

Thursday, Aug 17, 2017 Forgiveness made real

In 1834, the Irish Catholics of Boston were ready to avenge the ransacking and burning of an Ursuline convent by a Protestant mob. But on August 17 of that year, Bishop Benedict Fenwick preached a message of forgiveness in the cathedral and effectively stopped any retribution and bloodshed. Matthew's gospel today challenges us to forgive unconditionally. It is possible. Forgiveness works. We all have someone we could forgive today. It can make a real difference.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21—19:1 (416)* “*Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?*”

Friday, Aug 18, 2017 United in love

The church teaches that marriage is a sacrament for many reasons. A commitment this profound, which leads a couple to become “one flesh,” is deserving of as much blessing and public support as the church can offer. How can we be supportive of marriage? Make a small gesture today—a kind and supportive word, a phone call, a card or email—to express your support for a marriage. And pray for happy and holy marriages—for your own marriage, if you are married, and for those of friends and family.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12 (417)* “*The two shall become one flesh.*”

Saturday, Aug 19, 2017 MEMORIAL OF JOHN EUDES, PRIEST All you need is love

From the beginning, John Eudes (1601-80) gave of himself. As a young priest he worked among plague victims, living alone so as not to risk infecting other members of his religious order. He became a famous preacher and confessor, and founded a community to help women who had entered prostitution. He also promoted devotion to the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Realizing the clergy needed reform as much as their flocks, he pledged another part of his life to the formation of seminaries. The call to loving service renews the church. Be part of this “reform movement”!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15 (418)* “*Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray.*”

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