



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

August 20, 2017 - Twentieth 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 #: _____



Masses for the Week

August 21st - 27th

Tues	1:00 pm	Martha Matthews (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	In Thanksgiving (SA)
Thurs	9:30 am	Harold Osborne (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Loretta Duggins
Sat	5:00 pm	Tom Priest
	7:00 am	Special Intention (AM)
	10:00 am	Kalyn Whitworth (KF)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,909.00
Building Fund.....	\$90.00
Children.....	\$6.50
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$39.01
Brescia University.....	\$1,240.00

Parish Financial Summary

July, 2017

Total Income	\$48,600
Total Expenses	\$47,800
	\$ 800

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 - 26th & 27th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Pat O'Reilly Janet O'Reilly	Stefan Cesarz Jenny Pile	C-David Basham* C-Corey Masterson S-Mark Rhodes S-Matthew Rhodes	Emily Claycome Emma Foran Caleb Masterson	Karen Huddleston	Pippa
7:00 am	Tobias Curran Anne O'Reilly	Jim Heavrin	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Doug Flood	Darrian Flood Morgan Tabor	Mike Wiedemer	Pippa
10:00 am	LaDonna Barton Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Sally Hinton	Nora Dailey Danny Shain	C-Patrick Critchelow* C-Noah Matthews S-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary	Parker Davis Tyler Davis	Sandy Horsley	P.J./Choir Cantor: Alison
Radio Minister: Laura Skillman		Children's Liturgy:				



Did I hear that right? Did Jesus say what I thought He just said? Hasn't everyone had that 'double-take' experience when passing a loud table or a group deep in animated conversation and only hearing part of it or one line out of the conversation? Maybe it was because of the volume or 'shock-value' of some specific words that jumped out at you as you walked by? (That way we weren't really eavesdropping? Right?) Well, with our gospel today, if we just happened to drive by this

conversation between Jesus, the apostles and the Canaanite Woman we might have one of those 'neck-jerk reactions, like "What was that?" Many people have done a double-listen to what Jesus says in our reading today! All by itself, the statement is a 'shocker!' Jesus replied to a Canaanite woman's request for healing by saying, 'It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs' (Matthew 15:26). Before anyone runs off upset, let me 'collar' His statement by adding the necessary context of this whole encounter. I begin by emphasizing what we all know already about our universally Saving Lord, Jesus!

First, Jesus knows our hearts. Regarding everyone in this interaction recorded here in the gospel, **Jesus knows each person involved through and through.** For example, in many places in scripture it is reported that Jesus knew the thoughts of who he addressed, as in Mark 2:8 it says "Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to the crowd..." Or in Luke 6:8, scripture says "Jesus knew what they were thinking...", in Acts 15:8 that "God knows the heart" and in Luke 11:17 that "**Jesus knew their thoughts...**" So Jesus knows the Canaanite woman and her daughter. He knows His own apostles. He knows all of the prejudiced faction groups divided against each other in society. And He knows each one of us! So in today's reading, His own apostles start a 'degrading' putting off of the woman by suggesting, "Send her away...." Jesus knows the historical grudge in the Jewish-Canaanite division. He also knows this woman's 'great faith' (Matt 15:28), **a unique phrase** coming from the mouth of Jesus who is usually pointing out our need for more faith (as in 'ye of little faith' quoted in Matt 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8 and 17:20!). And most unique is that Jesus showcases the **strong Faith of a 'Canaanite Woman'**! So I suggest that Jesus is using this same encounter between Him and the Canaanite Woman also to be a 'teaching moment' for His own apostles and any of the crowd listening! God does this all the time! While we may be focused on only one thing (ourselves) or one part of something (our own wishes or plans), God knows and directs the unity of all things, responding, answering and satisfying prayers of many people through one and the same act! So Jesus will satisfy this woman's prayer request of healing for her daughter and at the same time challenge his apostles to greater faith through her persistent example, and at the same time, heal the grudge and hostile division between the clans/tribes of Jews and Canaanites. Do not overlook what God is doing right NOW by our hearing of this reading: He is opening our world to more of His Purpose! Who is our hatred and unworthy Canaanite that we think Jesus shouldn't talk to or give healing?

Secondly, while Jesus may push us to grow, stretching our worldview more toward the comprehensive Kingdom of God, **He will not push so hard that he breaks us** (keep in mind what is said of Jesus in Matthew 12:20 "A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench" (quoting Isaiah 42:3). Jesus will challenge us

to grow, but will not overpower us. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 we read, "No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will **not let you be tried beyond your strength**; but **with the trial he will also provide a way out**, so that **you may be able to bear it.**" So, Jesus will push us to greater fulfillment, but not overwhelm us. In this gospel, Jesus knows the way out and is allowing this woman's faith to **humble his own disciples** who claim such 'insider' favor. They are acting like Jonah who was jealous of the enemy town -Nineveh's opportunity for salvation (Jonah4:1). The apostles' prejudice against Canaan or worse yet, their belittling of women in general is being confronted by Jesus. His faithful, 'always-on' work of redeeming everyone who sincerely turns to Him is operating here! The apostles are turning out to have a Pharisee streak in them, but Jesus is gently exposing it for their own insight and recovery. Jesus hopes they recognize their unjust prejudice and reform themselves. Jesus himself was on the receiving end of such racial harassment when in John 1:46 he was insulted with the comment from someone "Can anything good come from Galilee?" Later in John's gospel, Jesus was put down again by the Jews because of not having an academic degree. It says in John 7:15 "The Jews were amazed and said, "How does he know scripture without having studied?" They were pointing out his lack of formal credentials. Does such prejudicial elitism or racial separation occur in our 'modern times' or even in the 'Church'?? Better believe it, Mason-Dixon! Here is something to **pray about right now, within our Catholic Church:** In the Diocese of Ahiara, Southern Nigeria, the Diocesan priests are **refusing to recognize and serve** their papally-appointed Bishop, because *he is from an outside tribe* and does not belong to the native Mbaise ethnic group. Pope Francis is intervening to bridge and reconcile the tribes, and Bishop Peter Okpaleke **with** his prejudicial clergy. We need to join Pope Francis' prayers and efforts at peace. And not just there, we have plenty of division & bias right in front of us to pray about and work on healing. Jesus' prayer for us is that 'they all may be one' (John 17:21) Our union with Christ and our identification with Him needs to surpass all other loyalties or kinship, as St Paul says in Galatians 3:28 "In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." So who is your Canaanite? Who is my Canaanite that I want to keep in my 'bias box' away from me? My prejudice is exposed whenever I say things like "They are all the same" or "They are all out to get us" or "They will never change". Most likely my extreme opinion reflects my deepest prejudice! We all can pray about this and ask for God's healing wisdom (and likely, His forgiveness)!

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

Sunday: What words or ideas stuck with me from Mass? Did I receive any 'inspirations' to follow up on this coming week?

Monday: Do I consider myself a 'prejudiced' person? How can I work on overcoming them?

Tuesday: Have I spent enough time in prayer recently to properly listen to God's voice?

Wednesday: Do I serve as a 'mediator' or bridge between opposing groups or persons? How can I be more faithful to Christ's ministry of reconciling differences in my work or family?

Thursday: Do I need to ask forgiveness from anyone whom I have offended by my prejudiced words or actions? What holds me back from admitting my bias?

Friday: Perform a random act of kindness for someone anonymously today.

Saturday: For what am I especially grateful for, and how will I show God my gratitude at Mass?

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!

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.

Knights of Columbus News

Stewards of Appalachia: Brother Knights the Stewards of Appalachia is a Kentucky nonprofit company dedicated to assisting needy families with necessary home repairs located in the Appalachia Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. If you would like to help out contact Glenn Greenwell at 502-345-9782. They need volunteers from Wednesday-Friday, Oct 11th-14th.

September Family Outing. Brother Knights the Family Outing has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

NFL Slam Sweepstake Tickets: Parishioners: the Knights of Columbus are selling NFL Slam Sweepstake tickets. They are \$10.00 each (buy two and get the third one free). There are 32 football teams, Sweepstake tickets have 4 teams each week and the 4 teams change weekly. No teams have the same 4 teams each week. Prizes are awarded weekly to the ticket holders with 4 teams that score the most or least number of points. These 4-team totals are called the "Highest 4-Team Totals" and the "Lowest 4-Team Totals". The prize of these winners are listed on the tickets. A total of \$700 will be paid to the ticket holders with the Highest and Lowest 4-Team totals each week. Total prizes will be \$7000. You can check results on line. Ticket sale monies support the Kentucky State Council Charities (Stewards of Appalachia, the Wheelchair Program and Food for the Poor. Deadline for ticket sales are Oct 1st so I can get them in to the Knights of Columbus Charities. Contact me at 1-270-617-0754 for ticket purchases and more info. Pat O'Reilly, Grand Knight



Vacation Bible School

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!

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.

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	9:00 am	Mass
Sat	5:00 pm	Religious Education Registration
Sun	7/10 am	Religious Education Registration

UPCOMING:

Sept 4 Labor Day (Office Closed)

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The Church doesn't exist for people without faults, but for sinners in need of God's mercy. We who are accustomed to experiencing the forgiveness of sins, perhaps too much like 'a cheap market,' we should at times remind ourselves of how much we cost the love of God. It is for this reason that Jesus extends his hands to sinners. Yes, today there are many people living a life of error because they can't find anyone willing to look at them in a different way, with eyes like Jesus' or with the heart of God. At times we forget that Jesus did not act with an easy love. Jesus understands not only the physical pain of those who suffer, but also the internal pain of those who feel that they are 'bad' people or that there is something essentially 'wrong' with them because of their faults. God did not choose people who have never done wrong as the first dough to form his Church. We are all poor sinners in need of God's mercy, which has the strength to transform us and radiate hope to us every day" (Homily 08-09-2017)

August 20, 2017

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"O woman, great is your faith!"

The Canaanite woman in today's gospel teaches us about the kind of faith needed to be healed by Jesus and to receive God's gift of salvation. May we imitate her faith as we respond to our vocation and follow God's call. 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.

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).

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

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-5; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

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.



Fun time at Vacation Bible School

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

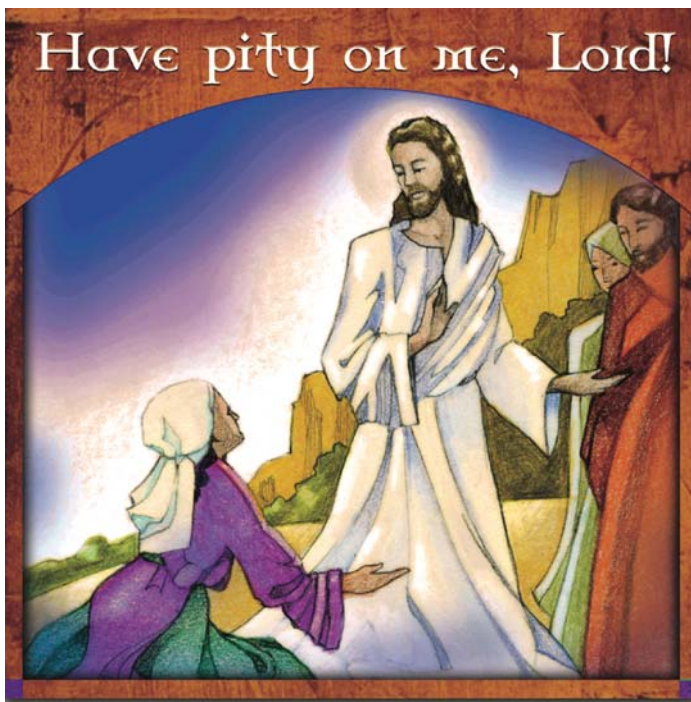
Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Becky Brown, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, Cindy Cashen, Mallorie Collins, Debbie Critchelow, Jim Curtis, Rick Dale, Amanda Douthitt, Marolyn Dowell, Roger Dowell, Kenneth Dowell, Treyten Drake, Debbie Dubree, Davye 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, **Emma Nottingham**, Don O'Donoghue, Eddie O'Donoghue, Joe Oelze, **Patsy 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



Celebration

BIRTHDAY:

Lorena Bland, August 23rd and Rita Greenwell, August 26th.



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AROUND AND ABOUT

Not a full-scale picnic, but Mount St Joseph still having a Craft and Raffle Bazaar:

At Mount Saint Joseph Gymnasium from 1-3 p.m. Sept. 10. We'll have quilts, craft items and jelly made by the Ursuline Sisters for sale. Old Hickory Bar-B-Que will sell a variety of food to eat there or take home. Come visit with the Ursuline Sisters, and the day will culminate with the raffle drawing at 3 p.m. Nothing has changed with the raffle – for just \$5 a ticket, you can have a chance to win \$10,000! There are also cash prizes of \$3,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250 and \$100. A handmade quilt valued at \$1,000 will also be raffled. The raffle is the biggest fundraiser of the year to support our retired Ursuline Sisters, so get your tickets today! See any Ursuline Sister, or contact Maggie Matsko at 270-229-2009, or maggie.matsko@maplemount.org.

"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.

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!

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.

SRIS Scrip Office Hours:

Monday 8-2
Friday 8-2



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Welcome to St. Romuald Catholic Church



Sunday, Aug 20, 2017

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fearless faith

The award for the Lady with the Most Chutzpah in the New Testament might be viewed as a toss-up between the Samaritan woman at the well and the Canaanite woman with the sick daughter. Neither is named, but both take on theological debates

with Jesus that are pretty gutsy. The Canaanite woman may have the edge for the prize in her verbal sparring with Jesus. He is ministering to his own people, the “house of Israel,” but she insists that even dogs deserve kindness, and Jesus marvels at her faith. Approach God boldly in prayer!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28 (118)* “*Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.*”

Monday, Aug 21, 2017

MEMORIAL OF PIUS X, POPE

Poor Pope Pius?

Pius X (1836-1914) was both adored and abhorred during his papal reign. He promoted frequent Communion and spirituality for laypeople. But he also condemned many secular ideas that were influencing Catholicism—influencing for the better, many thought—such as trade unions and democratic decision-making. There's no denying Pius X's commitment to poverty, though. He chose to be buried in a simple tomb and wrote, “I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor.” In remembrance, do something today for the poor.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 (419)* “*He went away sad, for he had many possessions.*”

Tuesday, Aug 22, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

It's good to be queen

In the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Lucy is dismayed to learn she can't be queen when she grows up. You have to be born one. “If I can't be a queen,” she says, then “I'll work and work until I'm very rich and then I will buy myself a queendom.” Good grief. Wrong on both counts. Queen saints got there doing unqueenlike things like giving away their wealth. Mary, too, simply lived the incomparable dignity of being a woman, a good and holy Jew, a mother. The only thing her son ever ran from was a crowd that wanted to make him king. Exalting us is someone else's job.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 (420)* “*Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.*”

Wednesday, Aug 23, 2017

MEMORIAL OF ROSE OF LIMA, VIRGIN

Inside and out

Appearances rule in pop culture. The beautiful people occupy the covers of magazines and get all the buzz for their many sightings and multiple marriages. We are likewise bombarded with the externals of clothing and housing and vehicles, as if looking good will somehow increase our internal value. Rose of Lima (1586-1617), by all accounts a beautiful woman, was alarmed by the attention her good looks brought her and chose to disappear from the world altogether, living in a hut as a recluse. Decrease the amount of time you spend on clothes and hair, and add those minutes to your daily prayer routine.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16 (421)* “*Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.*”

Thursday, Aug 24, 2017

FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

A nearly anonymous apostle

Poor Bartholomew, the mystery apostle. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles call him Bartholomew, but in John he might be the person named Nathaniel. An interesting lesson for those who think the Bible is clear about everything—even the names of the 12 apostles! But aren't most of us nearly anonymous disciples ourselves? We don't get mentioned in the church bulletin all the time, and not everyone knows who we are or remembers our name at the parish fair. But we are faithful followers of Jesus nonetheless, and we find our reward not in recognition and praise, but in knowing we are quiet helpers of the one who saves the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 (629)* “*We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.*”

Friday, Aug 25, 2017

MEMORIALS OF LOUIS; JOSEPH CALASANZ, PRIEST

A common calling to care

Two men quite unlike each other, both saints, and both revered for similar reasons: their concrete love for the poor. In the mid-13th century, Saint Louis embraced the way of Saint Francis of Assisi and cared for the poor even as king of France. It is said that Louis had 13 guests from among the poor to eat with him daily. Saint Joseph Calasanz in the mid-16th century saw that the need to educate poor children was so important that he gave up a career in church law and politics. You can't read of these lives without thinking of how simple true Christianity is: to care for the poor, the hungry, the forgotten.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40 (423)* “*Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?*”

Saturday, Aug 26, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary is our model

You may be familiar with the 16th-century Litany of Loreto, which gathers wonderful images of Mary such as Mystical Rose, Tower of Ivory, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of Heaven, and Morning Star. Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13th century had a similar litany, his “Salutation of the Virgin,” which hails Mary as Christ's Palace, Tabernacle, Home, Robe, Handmaid, and Mother. But perhaps the most striking is Mary as “Virgin made church”: Mary as the model for all Christians to pray, “Let it be done unto me according to God's word” and who is always directing us toward her son, saying again and again, “Do what he tells you.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12 (424)* “*The greatest among you must be your servant.*”

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