



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

September 17, 2017 - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## dear Padre

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Dana Bland, Kevin Oelze,

Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly

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### **St. Romuald**

#### **Interparochial School:**

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Principal, Rob Cox

#### **School Board**

#### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

***Pope Francis said, "Who am I to judge?" But aren't we supposed to hold each other to a higher standard of living and judge actions as moral or sinful?***

Pope Francis is not the only one to warn about judging. He is likely drawing his guidance from Jesus in Matthew 7:1–2. Both the Lord and the pope warn us about judging others and looking down upon those we consider "more sinful." That sort of comparison can easily lead us to arrogance and hypocrisy.

The Lord teaches us there will be a final (or particular) judgment each of us will have to face. We will all have to stand before God and give an account of our actions. This teaches us that God is the only one qualified to fully know a person's heart and intentions. If we begin to act as a judge of people, then we are playing God.

However, your question also implies that among believers we are to hold one another accountable in our Christian community. This is correct (Matthew 18:15–17). In the body of Christ, there is a responsibility to help and encourage each other to follow Jesus. Among the baptized, there should be the sharing of virtues and some accountability to the Church. We call one another higher, not through accusation, but through love and service. It is my duty to help fellow believers in their discipleship, as it is their duty to help me with mine. I find that I appreciate those who care enough about me to want to help me be a better Catholic, priest, or person. In community, we should build up in fellowship, not tear down in judgment. —Fr. Matthew Bonk, CSSR





**"Forgiveness is the fragrance the rose sheds on the heel that has crushed it." - Mark Twain**

Jesus went to His cross forgiving and redeeming even those who were speeding him off to his death! That is the power of love! Jesus reveals to us the 'higher power' of forgiveness! Some people suggest that only the weak have to 'forgive' (the arrogant say, "I never apologize; I do not regret anything!") But Jesus up-ends that idea when he offers, 'I say, love your enemies!' So, to someone who

suggests that offering forgiveness is a weak position, I say 'try it yourself, and then we'll talk!' The fact that Jesus meant to reverse the common idea that forgiveness was weak, consider the time He also reversed the master-servant relationship in [Luke 22:27](#) **"For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Do people not say the one seated at table? Yet, I am among you as the one who serves."** **Which takes more inner strength?** Forgiveness is the [Higher Power!](#) Roman philosophers had pointed this out too. Marcus Aurelius wrote in his Meditations, Book 9.43 "When at any time you are offended by someone's insulting abuse, ask yourself, 'What? Did I think I would never be offended in this world by someone rude or hurtful?.....Well, **it is in your power to instruct him better, isn't it?** And are **you** worse for **his** sin? Nothing he does makes your mind worse than it was." Or consider the Roman statesman Seneca's comment on how clemency/forgiveness is the mark of a good ruler, "Nothing can be imagined which is more becoming to a sovereign than clemency, by whatever title and right he may be set over his fellow citizens. And the greater his power, the more beautiful they will confess his clemency to be." (On Clemency Book I, chapter 19).

So in a follow up to Jesus' teaching us last week His five step forgiveness process, Peter raises a question about any limits to forgiveness. Peter thinks he is being generous and asks, "How many times must I forgive, **as many as seven times?**" Uh oh, Peter is keeping count. As I understand human nature, it comes natural for us to excuse ourselves over and over, yet draw strict lines when it comes to others. For example, I bet Peter would add up his offers of forgiveness this way: "Okay, first, I smiled back at you and that is forgiveness offer #1, then I struggled to say 'Hello, how are you?' that makes offer #2, then I kept my mouth shut when you when bragged about hurting me making offer #3, and on and on until, you guessed it, my offender broke me again after offer #7. So, **NOW then**, I am justified in taking vengeance, hating and attacking you back! But I trust we can see the hypocrisy at work in this! I am the one counting and saying what counts! God could say to me, "No, you can't count your first attempt at forgiveness because you didn't exercise perfect contrition yourself, start over!" And on and on! The whole 'keeping count' game breaks down the spirit of true peace and reconciliation. Mostly because the person counting is damaged, by definition! Right, it is the 'hurt, broken' one counting! So, Jesus says 'forgiveness is infinite'. He symbolizes forgiveness by combining sevens and sevens and seventies (the perfect number over and over), to make offering forgiveness an endless grace!

Here, I came upon a funny dispute among some bible teachers. The argument is about whether Jesus said in the original bible translation to forgive 'seventy times **and** seven' (77 total) or 'seventy times, seven times' (490 total) and apparently that last 'times' makes the difference between simply **adding** seventy to seven **making 77**, versus **multiplying** seventy and seven **to make 490!** But between me and the fence post, either answer is so many times, that I understand Jesus is saying, 'Keep at it, you'll forgive and move on with life, before expending all your energy keeping count!' This Bible disagreement started back among our early church fathers, notably with St Augustine and St Jerome. Reading their homilies shows that the leader of the 77 times camp was St Augustine and the leader of the 490

times camp was St Jerome. More funny about this is that St Jerome is known to have an anger problem, which true to his self, he displays at times, venting against St Augustine about his scripture interpretation. We need to practice what we preach; having the right answer is not the same as living the right answer! But I'll stay out of that one and personally camp with another church father by the name of St John Chrysostom who answered that "Who is exactly counting? Even 77 is more than most people would live through, so practically, Jesus means 'always forgive'. Imagine someone saying 'Okay, I documented your 78<sup>th</sup> mess-up, sorry now, the forgiveness window is closed!"

Knowing Jesus, I hear him say, "Forget adding 7 and 70, or even multiplying 7 and 70, let's take it to the highest (exponentially) and say **7 to the 7th power** which equals 823,543 times . Now, live that!

We are talking about Jesus who is 'Mercy' itself! Jesus' most clear and direct teaching about the endless number of times we should work toward forgiveness is when he says in Matt 6:14-15 "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. **But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.**" That seems to say it all, just as we pray several times in the Lord's Prayer "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Maybe that is why we pray it so often, so that it completely sinks in and we work on doing it! For, can we expect to receive what do not offer? I find a connection with what Jesus was up to with his reference to 'seven and seventy' by referring to the OT bible quote that called for vengeance 'sevenfold' upon any injury to Cain following his sin (called the 'Mark of Cain' from Genesis 4:15). The music group 'Avenged Sevenfold' gets its name from that bible reference! God set that mark on Cain to 'stop' the downward cycle of retaliation. So, Jesus was saying 'drop all the avenging talk altogether. I open a New Covenant in my blood, given freely for all!

The Old Testament often gets a 'bad rep' for being vengeful, but we can find references in the **Old** Testament to the ever needed, and unlimited call for us to forgive and forgive, extending mercy to others for their and our own salvation. The Book of Sirach 28:3-4 says, "Does anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Can a person refuse mercy to a sinner like oneself, and still seek pardon for one's own sins?" By commanding us to practice forgiveness time and again, Jesus undoes the downward spiral of feeding back offenses to others through repeated retaliation. When would it end otherwise, if someone doesn't take the higher ground ending the hurt through forgiveness? Someone has to be the bigger person and move on!

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

**Sunday:** What bible phrases, prayer words, or lyrics from our church hymns stayed with me after Mass today? Pray over them this week and pass them on to someone!

**Monday:** Do I consider myself a 'forgiving person'? Am I holding out on someone?

**Tuesday:** Is there anyone I can help get through their bitterness because of some past injury I am aware they suffered? Start by praying for them, and then talk to them.

**Wednesday:** Have you ever been asked to mediate or 'peace-make' for others? Volunteer to!

**Thursday:** How might I practice 'proactive forgiveness' with others? Am I so demanding at times that inevitably my attitude leads to some offense for me to be upset over?

**Friday:** Perform an act of sacrifice for the good of someone you have hurt in the past.

**Saturday:** Come to mass early and pray a rosary with others for world peace!

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 15-17<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

**Divorce Survival Session** are now being offered upon request throughout the year. Deacon Mike & Rosa Hockenberry are available to talk to you one on one or as a family if you like, at a time which might be best for you and your loved ones. We would also like to change this into a 6 week program instead of the 12 weeks we offered in the past. We are here for you and are making this a more personalized program to fit your needs. Contact Deacon Mike 270-756-0120 or Rosa 270-863-0117 anytime. Our sessions are strictly confidential and open to anyone.

## **St. Romuald K-6th Religious Education**

The Opening Breakfast for St. Romuald K-6th Religious Ed program is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th 8:30-9:30AM in the Parish Hall. It was originally scheduled for 9/10 but has been changed to 9/17. Beginning Sunday, 9/24 the classes will be in the School elementary building. The Knights of Columbus will be cooking pancakes for the Catechists & students. If anyone has any questions, please contact Kim at 945-2787 or the Church office 756-2356.

**St Vincent DePaul August 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 August included the following services and help given: Assistance was provided to a total of 25 families amounting to 70 persons (of which were 27 children). The aid totaled just over \$1816.10 given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.



**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!

**Abortion Update:** Last week 44 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

**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.

**Coffee Mugs:** We are collecting coffee mugs for the parents and caregivers at Children's Hospital in Louisville. If you have any mugs you would like to donate please put them in the basket at the front door of the church. 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	Knights of Columbus
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	5:30 pm	RCIA Begins
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass

### UPCOMING:

Sept 24	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Education
Sept 26	6:00 pm	Pastoral Council
Sept 27	9:00 am	School Mass (Pet Blessing)
Sept 28	10:30 am	Rainbow Mass (Sportscenter, Owensboro)

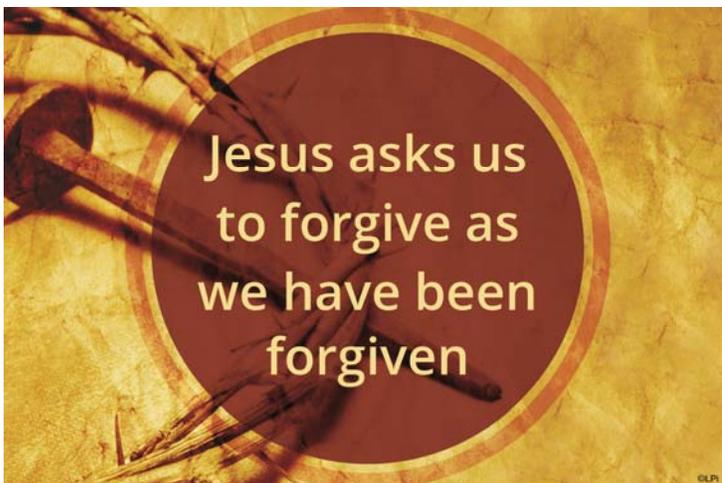
## PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

### **A Word from Pope Francis:**

"As followers of Christ we must embrace suffering, because it is through the suffering and death of Christ that God's love is made known to us. We are always tempted to think of following Christ **without a cross**, and like Peter try rather to teach God the easy path. But Jesus reminds us that His way is the way of love, which is not afraid of sacrifice or hard work for others. Our call as Christians is not to be swept up by the world's vision to live a pleasurable, selfish life, but rather to go "against the current," as Jesus said "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my cause will find it. In this paradox is contained the golden rule that God has inscribed into human nature created in Christ: the rule that spending our time, talents and energy only to save and take care of ourselves actually leads to loss, to a sad and sterile existence. Whereas, if we live our lives for the Lord, we are set on fire with love, then our lives will be fruitful and we will have genuine joy. In every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Christ's redeeming cross is effective, in which the Son of God completely loses himself to receive himself again from the Father. And we his followers who are lost ourselves, can be found in Christ Himself!" (Homily 9-3-2017)

### **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).



## Readings for the Week

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
- Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
- Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
- Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
- Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
- Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
- Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

The Catholic Church teaches that sexual abuse is a grave moral evil. In addition to reporting incidents of sexual abuse to civil authorities, please contact the Pastoral Assistance Coordinator to report any instance of sexual abuse by a person working, either paid or unpaid, for the Church. Please use the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380.

A full explanation of the diocese's response to sexual abuse concerns can be found in the revised sexual abuse policy, which can be found in the back of church, parish office, religious education classrooms, or school office and also on the diocesan web site ([www.rcdok.org/safe](http://www.rcdok.org/safe)).



Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Joe Nimmo, and Romuald (Ronnie) Mattingly, whose funerals were this week.

Also, please pray for the repose of the soul of Margie Ingram (family of Kenny & Faye Glasscock) who passed this week. Please keep their families in your prayers that God may console and strengthen them.

## Knights of Columbus News

**Pancake Breakfast:** The Knights of Columbus will doing a pancake breakfast for the Religious Education Class on 17<sup>th</sup> of September at the St Romuald's Parish Hall beginning at 7 AM, will need volunteers to help cook.

**K of C Meeting Change:** Our meeting for the 12<sup>th</sup> of September @ 7 PM has been change to the following Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> of September, same time, due to Confirmation.

## 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, Kayla Christian, 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, Dorothy Greenwell, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Clyde Hall, Janet Hallway, JoAnn Henning, Lisa Henning, Danny Herdt, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Doug Hinton, Johnny Howard, Rick Hurley, Merri Hurt, Braddock Inman, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Tracy King, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, 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, 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, Christian Hansen, Jack Hayes, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



September 17<sup>th</sup>

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself"*

The death of Christ on the cross was a profound revelation of His self-giving, sacrificial love. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to imitate that love in our own vocations. Living the vocation to which God calls us leads us to love and to serve one another. 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](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org), [www.owensborovocations.com](http://www.owensborovocations.com).

### Celebration

**BIRTHDAY:** Donald Bland, September 26th

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Donald & Alice Bland will be celebrating 58 years of marriage on September 26th.

## AROUND AND ABOUT

### Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing the Wounds of Abortion:

A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing the Wounds of Abortion* will be offered the weekend of **November 10-12, 2017** in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. Participation in this retreat is open to any woman or man who has been involved, or touched by, abortion. If you have lost a child or grandchild, or a sibling, nephew or niece, to abortion, or if you have at any time in your life been involved in an abortion, then the Lord Jesus would like to offer you both healing and peace! Both Catholics and non-Catholics are welcome to participate, and our retreat is conducted with absolute confidentiality.

For more information, visit our website: [HopeAfterAbortionKY.com](http://HopeAfterAbortionKY.com), or call Debbie at (270) 570-4717 or Jennifer at (931) 242-5506.

## SRIS NEWS

**The 2nd Annual St. Romuald Interparochial School Homecoming Reunion** will be held on Saturday, October 7th, in the St. Romuald Gym. All SRIS graduates, including those in the middle school, former students, teachers, spouses and friends of the St. Romuald School are warmly welcomed to attend.

Registration begins at 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 7th and an extraordinary dinner catered by Gayle Hinton will be served at 6:30 pm. Dance music will commence at about 8:30 pm. Everyone who values the St. Romuald School and who cherishes friendship and fellowship with generations of alumni are invited and encouraged to attend. The SRIS Classes of 1967 and 1977 are two classes holding milestone reunions at this year's homecoming.

Tickets are available from all SRIS staff members and at the school office and reservations for dinner are appreciated by October 1st.



**SRIS Fall Festival:** The St. Romuald School is holding their annual Fall Festival Auction and Dinner on October 27, 2017. We would like to reach out to any parishioners or school alumni that would like to donate an item to our action. We have auctioned benches, toys, tickets to ballgames or events, cakes, paintings, furniture, etc. If you would like to donate something for the auction, please call Jennifer Barr at 270-617-0274 and she can arrange pickup. The school would love to see you at the auction and meal!



## Sunday, Sep 17, 2017

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### Forgive, for goodness sake!

We are told in today's reading that the unforgiving servant will be "tortured" for failing to forgive another, after having been forgiven himself. Because a parable is a symbolic way of talking about a profound truth, we can take the word *tortured* metaphorically and ask, "In what way are we 'tortured' when we fail to forgive?" Failing to forgive leaves us hostage to our hurt. Unable to move on, we are captive to our own resentment. Unwilling to accept the imperfections of others, we can become judgmental. The end result of the failure to forgive is bitterness—a painful, torturous emotional state. When Jesus tells us to forgive, "not seven times, but 77 times," it is for our own well-being. Forgive someone today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35 (130).* "How often should I forgive?"

## Monday, Sep 18, 2017

### Do I hear an amen?

Like the centurion who came to Jesus for a healing, we're aware that we fall short of having "earned" the great gift of the presence of Jesus "under our roof" or in our lives. But Jesus chooses to dwell with us, imperfect as we are. As Pope Francis says in *Misericordiae Vultus*, our salvation depends on mercy. Mercy is the "ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us." Mercy is the "bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." A daily awareness of our own "unearned rewards" helps us to share our spiritual wealth with others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10 (443).*  
"Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof."

## Tuesday, Sep 19, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

#### Faith will see us through

The stories of early Christian saints are often larger-than-life. So it is with Saint Januarius (third century). According to legend, Januarius was thrown into a fiery furnace by the Romans during a time of intolerance toward Christians. To everyone's amazement he emerged unscathed. Taken figuratively, the story says a lot about how faith can help us in the face of intolerance when it comes to things like race, gender, immigration status, and so on. We may be subject to the fiery furnace of prejudice, but our faith can save us. It can remind us that we are all the beloved of God and it can move us to action for a more just world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444).*  
"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them."

## Wednesday, Sep 20, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHŎNG HA-SANG, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

#### Stretch your faith

Being an example of faith to others means extending the branches of your life outward. Extend a branch a little farther today and say a silent prayer for someone in your life who is struggling. The martyrs Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and their companions were part of a church in Korea that began entirely with laypeople. In difficult times of persecution they were buoyed by others in their faith. Do not doubt the power of a lived faith that extends beyond your arms and into others' hearts.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445).*  
"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

## Thursday, Sep 21, 2017

### FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

#### Take your seat at the table

The names of the apostles are integral to our story of faith, but in truth, we know very little about many of them. Bits of information from the gospels and Acts of the Apostles do allow a glimpse of their lives in the first Christian community. The rest we can only prayerfully imagine. We know that Matthew collected from his Jewish kin the hated Roman tax and that he associated with other tax collectors and "sinners." What we can prayerfully imagine is Jesus sharing a meal with them, and then we might wonder if we would have joined them at table.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643).* "I have come to call not the self-righteous."

## Friday, Sep 22, 2017

### Women belong in the picture

Women, as today's gospel makes clear, accompanied Jesus in his ministry. They left their families to follow him and offered financial support for his mission. They stood by him at the cross, and all four gospels place women at the tomb when the resurrected Christ is revealed. As scripture scholar Elizabeth Johnson points out in her groundbreaking book *Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology*, "Jesus Christ included women in his community, not as subordinates to males, but as equal sisters to their brothers." Many of us, men and women alike, still struggle with seeing women in their fundamental humanity as equals to men. Think about the ways you overlook women when it comes to spiritual leadership.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447).*  
"Some women were with Jesus who had been cured by him: Mary, called Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others."

## Saturday, Sep 23, 2017

### MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

#### Aid comes first

When Saint Pius of Pietrelcina—Padre Pio as he's widely known—decided he wanted to build a free hospital for the poor up the road from his friary, he started with a piece of land and a few friends and supporters. Four years later, in 1956, he had one of the most modern hospitals in Europe. Since the padre's death in 1968, the facility, which he wanted to be a "place of prayer and science," has quadrupled in size and stands as a dramatic tribute to the desire to help others and the determination to follow through. What seeds of service can you plant and cultivate?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448).*  
"A sower went out to sow his seed."

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