



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

September 24, 2017 - Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

dear Padre

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

Why don't we end the Our Father with an Amen during Mass? When we pray the Our Father outside of Mass, we conclude by saying, "Amen."

I remember this discussion growing up. My father noticed that the pastor of our parish insisted on saying "Amen" after the Our Father by adding his very loud "Amen!" and inviting parishioners to follow.

We know early Christians prayed the Our Father daily, though its inclusion in the eucharistic liturgy happens later, and its placement in the liturgy is not yet consistent. An early reference to the placement of the Our Father from a late-fourth-century text places it at the end of the eucharistic prayer (A Commentary on the Order of Mass of The Roman Missal, 597).

Here the people would have responded with the final petition, "deliver us from evil" or "Amen" (597). Today the Our Father is part of the Communion rite, but we do not end the Our Father with an Amen because in the current structure of the Communion rite the Our Father forms part of a unit. Immediately following the Our Father, the celebrant elaborates on the final petition ("deliver us from evil"). He then says the prayer for peace, which concludes with an Amen. These elements are all connected, one flowing to the next and culminating with the people saying, "Amen" ("Mystagogical Implications," A Commentary on the Order of Mass of The Roman Missal, 616). Thus, we do conclude the Our Father with an Amen at Mass, but because it is part of a larger prayer during the Mass, the Amen doesn't immediately follow "deliver us from evil." —Fr. John Schmidt, CSsR

Masses for the Week

September 25th - October 1st

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Manning (MM) (Extended Care)
Wed	9:00 am	Special Intention
	5:00 pm	In Thanksgiving (SA)
Thurs	9:30 am	Martha Elder (PB) (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Pat Wheatley
Sat	5:00 pm	Merl & Marty Kannapel
	7:00 am	Leon & Rena Greenwell (JO)
	10:00 am	Mary Catherine Payne (DP)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$6,702.00
Building Fund.....	\$5.00
Children.....	\$5.71
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$43.00
Funeral Meals.....	\$420.00

Parish Financial Summary

July-August, 2017

Total Income	\$87,400
Total Expenses	\$86,300
	\$ 1,100

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 - September 30th & October 1st

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Anna Flood Mitzi Mattingly	Jenny Pile Pam Pollock	C-Eric Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly	Benjamin Barr Cameron Geeding	Karen Huddleston	Shannon
7:00 am	Kelley Kennedy Mike Wiedemer	Pete Anthony	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Michael Kennedy	Darrian Flood Lydia Kennedy	Margie Wethington	
10:00 am	Lori Carwile Sandy Horsley Lisa Kennedy Cindy Payne	Mariah Critchelow Nora Dailey	C-Raymond Critchelow* C-Ethan O'Donoghue S-Ron O'Donoghue S-Zack Payne	Hunter Ashcraft Justin Brown	Laura Frank	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Laura Skillman		Children's Liturgy: No Children's Liturgy				



What a parable about the Kingdom of God! I imagine those workers from different work shifts could speak the same words but mean the opposite of each other! "**Can you believe what I got paid (extra pay)?**" No, can you believe what **I** got paid (**shorted pay**)?" What a job! No, what a boss! I bet the late workers skipped and jumped away feeling it was Christmas, while the all-day workers, walked away grumbling about being stiffed! On one level, I think everyone understands this reading to be about God desiring *everyone possible to work* at completing the same job

together in God's vineyard. Not considering any personal benefits, hours, or pay, but to simply enjoy working together and pulling off the perfect harvest! And that perfect harvest is the **salvation of all people** and the **redemption of all sin!** God wants everyone to share in the work, but also the wonder of participating in universal redemption. God wants this ultimate fulfillment of all things for all people! And we humans, imperfect as we are, should understand that. We do desire that everyone share in all good things, right? Maybe even if we only start out with those closest to us and broaden outward to eventually include everyone, provided the good can go around that far? Jesus himself says, "If you then, who are wicked, **know how to give good gifts** to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father** give good things to those who ask him" (Matt 7:11). **So God wants everyone to be saved.** God is not counting the cost, or banking on any pay, He simply desires that everyone be redeemed. Isn't that what we all want, too? May God's goodness bless everyone, everywhere! St Paul even says of God's Will in 1 Timothy 2:3-4, "This is good and pleasing to God our savior, **who wills everyone to be saved** and to come to knowledge of the truth."

BUT, hearing today's reading about different workers, some putting in shorter hours and some longer hours toiling away, and yet, they all receive the same wage, makes us say, "Wait a minute, this is not fair!" Some part in all of us, seems to rise up at this point in the parable and demand union representation! "Not fair, I deserve more because I was on the job longer", we say. Maybe it is not fair, *if the kingdom of God is just about money and a paycheck*, but wait a minute: The Kingdom of God is about Salvation-Sharing in God's Eternal Life! Any work done for God is done out of joy, out of pure sharing in God's fruitful and saving grace! Heavenly workers do not work for any personal perks or special wages, do we? I think the vineyard owner (God) says it best by telling the workers not to compare wages. It is as if he says, "I want workers motivated by the work itself, not the pay. But even still, what is your complaint?" The Owner goes on to say, "Are you mad that I was generous with someone else? Is it not my vineyard, I gave you what we agreed to when you joined up. Don't be nosy into the other workers' pay!"

The parable raises the question of whether I ever begrudge God for 'saving' someone else. Am I upset if someone comes to Christ, **later than me**, but is also **saved all the same**?

Shouldn't I celebrate? If not, then what does my salvation mean? Can I not rejoice with God, about one more life saved? I think the challenge of today's parable is my accepting and finding joy in my own grace, without comparing or judging it in relation to anyone else's. I hear the vineyard owner telling me, 'Be happy with your daily wage!' and 'Be happy about doing such great work!' St Paul says in Philippians 4:11 "**I have learned**, in whatever situation I find myself, **to be content.**" Recall that John the Baptist had advised just this lesson when he told soldiers to avoid extorting people in Luke 3:14 saying "**Be satisfied with your wages.**"

I used to always think this owner was actually undermining the self-initiative and good work ethic of those first laborers by not adding some overtime bonus to their pay, as the extra workers joined the work crew. But I realized that such

monetary rewarding would only feed the wealth-desire (greed) in the workers, instead of building their own contentment in good work itself. The vineyard owner (God) is building a certain type of worker that takes joy in doing a good job, working for the reward of 'benefitting others' instead of just for a check! The good harvest, includes a 'good harvester' working for goodness' sake, not just more cash! Remember that Jesus will say about himself that he is a 'good shepherd', **not a hired hand** who sees a wolf and runs away, "because he **only works for pay** and has no concern for the sheep" (John 10:13). Also, St Jude speaks strongly in his letter to the Church, condemning ministers "who abandoned themselves to Balaam's error for the sake of pay" (Jude 1:11). My breakthrough understanding with this parable came when I realized that God is **first** building a good team interested in good work (not good pay). He wants committed followers concerned about the redemption of souls not the redemption of pay-vouchers! The concern for pay distracts a disciple from good work (remember Jesus sending out his disciples with no money bags or purses- Luke 9:3). God will provide! Also, I came to realize over time, with my own different jobs, that as you really enter your work, true satisfaction comes from doing the good job, knowing your work and patiently seeing it all the way through. If I invest myself in a good job, the return is in its completion!

Or, another way of understanding this parable is to discover the owner's purpose. Ask yourself, "When would I ever consider paying some later add-on workers extra (more than what my first crew is paid), even to the point of risking the upset of my first workers?" If the work itself is so good, and completing the job well is the primary goal, then I would pay extra in a minute! 'Get the job done well!' Have you ever paid a little more at the last minute, or offered a little extra to go ahead and get done today, instead of risking a collapse or failure if you wait until tomorrow? Have you ever paid 'extra shipping' for 'next day delivery, to get the product faster? If my concern was completion, if I wanted to do a good job and finish what I started, **then I would pay extra!** So bet on it, this is what the owner (God) is doing! Our pay from God(if that is what it is) may seem unfair at times, but hold on. We are part of something so much greater than any pay-stub. God is busy about the work of saving every soul, bringing the job of kingdom-building to completion. **I am blessed to even be on the work crew! I need to find reward in knowing, "I helped build this!"** I need to keep my motivation centered on the work itself, not its pay. I do not want to hear God say, "Take your check". No, I want to hear God say to me "Come, share your Master's joy." (Matt 25:21).

Questions to pray about from Sunday's reading:

Sunday: What struck me at mass today, and am I still thinking about now from Mass?

Monday: When I serve God, do I think of being rewarded or paid? Do I serve because it is good and the right thing to do, or only to be recognized or rewarded?

Tuesday: Am I jealous of others serving in God's vineyard? Do I envy what other Christians have or do I celebrate in their good graces, too?

Wednesday: How can I support fellow co-workers in God's work and God's mission? Am I a team-builder or team-breaker for God?

Thursday: How can improve my 'work-ethic' for building God's kingdom? Do I need to revise my resume, upgrade, re-tool or acquire additional skills?

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

Saturday: For what am I especially thankful this day? What is my special prayer going to be at Mass this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:

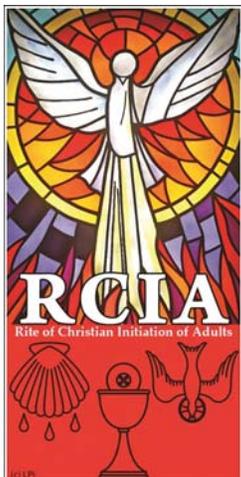
Nationally recognized and dynamic Evangelist Mike Cumbie of the Micah Project, will be our Mission Speaker each night October 15-17th. Plan to attend and be rejuvenated in your faith! Mark your calendars!

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!

St. Romuald K-6th Religious Education

Beginning Sunday, 9/24 the classes will be in the School elementary building. If anyone has any questions, please contact Kim at 945-2787 or the Church office 756-2356.

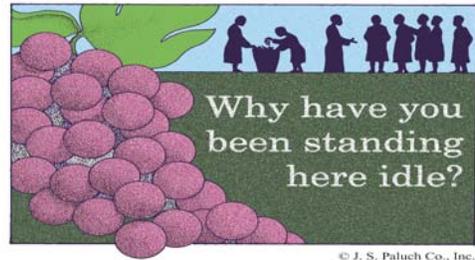
K-6 Religious Education Pancake Breakfast



RCIA Begins: The **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation for **A**dults began last week. The RCIA is our introduction program and basic instruction in the Catholic Faith. Each week we cover foundational topics outlining our weekly Scriptures, and our Catholic beliefs/traditions. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Church, or maybe any returning Catholics after having spent some away from the Church, or any Catholics desiring a 'refresher' course, please come out. We meet every Wednesday evening in the parish hall from 6:00-7:00 pm.



Confirmation 2017



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	9:00 am	School Mass (Pet Blessing)
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	5:30 pm	RCIA
Thur		Fall Break Begins
	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:30 am	Rainbow Mass (Owensboro Sportscenter)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	Mass

UPCOMING:

Oct 7 5:00 pm SRIS Alumni Reunion

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Peace above all begins with people, and the path to reintegration into the community begins with a dialogue of two persons. Nothing can replace that healing encounter; no collective process excuses us from the challenge of meeting, clarifying, forgiving. The deep historic wounds felt here in Columbia, require honest moments where justice is conducted to redress past wrongs. This means giving victims the opportunity to know the truth, ensuring that damages are adequately repaired and making clear and firm commitments to not repeat the same crimes in the future. And even this, is only the beginning of the Christian response. Followers of Christ must generate a change in culture 'from below' so that we respond to the culture of death and violence, with the culture of life and encounter. How many times have we 'normalized' the logic of violence and social exclusion, without prophetically raising our hands or voices?

We must urgently take a step in this direction, of the common good, of equity, of justice, and of respect for human nature. Only if we help to untie the knots of violence, will we unravel the complex threads of disagreements. We must meet other person, risk correcting them, for the goal of not expelling them but healing and integrating them." (Homily in Columbia 9-10-2017)

Pray and work for Priestly/Religious Vocations!

The Diocese is sponsoring a free vocation workshop, September 23 from 9 AM until noon. National speaker, Rhonda Gruenewald, is conducting a workshop, sharing tips and identifying ways to create a culture of vocations in our parishes and schools. Lunch is included. To register, please visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/vocation-ministry-workshop/>



Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Mary Ruth Henning (mother of Robin Alexander) who passed away last week.

Please keep her family in your prayers that God may console and strengthen them.

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).

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.

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
- Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
- Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
- Sunday: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5]; Mt 21:28-32

Thank You

The family of Joe Nimmo would like to thank Father Brian, Deacons Mike & Tony the servers, Eucharistic ministers, the music ministers- Pippa, Millie and Deacon Tony, the reader & Gift Bearers - the Bertschman Family and the ladies who provided the wonder meal. Thank you, everyone for your love, prayers and support.

Thank you, again, Father Brian for all of your visits. They helped Joe so much and me too. God bless you. Minnie, Gina, Gary & Cletus

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!



PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Becky Brown, **Ava Bruner**, Juanita Burch, Brian Butler, Billy Carwile, Jerry Carwile, 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, **Calla Stith**, 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



Many thanks for your generous response of mugs for the parents of Kosair (NCH)! We could use more mugs in the future.

September 24th

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near."

What do you seek? What are you looking for? What do you desire? While the world may attempt to fill our deepest longing with that which does not last, we know that our greatest desire is Heaven and only God can fulfill that desire. Our vocation is God's plan to get us from earth to Heaven. 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.

Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES: David & Carol Oelze will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on September 30th.

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, 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 24, 2017 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ours is not to know

Life is a puzzle; there are so many things we do not understand: Why is there evil? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do some people live to a ripe old age while others die before they've had a chance to live? Why can't we

seem to get along? Why are some people fabulously wealthy or healthy or fortunate or all of these while others struggle simply to survive? Oddly, there is some freedom in not having all the answers. We don't have to be able to see the whole picture in order to know that "all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well," as the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich put it. Practice surrendering to the mystery.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a (133)*. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."

Monday, Sep 25, 2017 Quantum hints of God

In her *Revelations of Divine Love*, 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich describes how she came to understand that God is light, "our endless Day." Seven centuries later, physicist Bernard Haisch came to the same understanding: "The solid, stable world of matter appears to be sustained at every instant by an underlying sea of quantum light," which Haisch concludes gives "Let there be light" profound meaning and a clue to the nature of God and the mysteries of the universe. The light that shines within you is God. Let others see that light in everything you do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18 (449)*. "No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand."

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2017 MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS Let's care for one another

Cosmas and Damian are said to have been brothers, perhaps even twins, who were trained as physicians. Tradition says that, motivated by Christian charity, they would take no money for their services. They are the patron saints of doctors, surgeons, druggists—and twins. While most healthcare professionals are not in a position to refuse payment, there are other ways to make healthcare accessible to all. The USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development established criteria for fair and just healthcare reform: a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity; access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants; pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism including freedom of conscience and available options; and restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers. What can you do to bring these reforms to life?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21 (450)*. "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

Wednesday, Sep 27, 2017 MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST There's always more to be done

Toward the end of his life, Vincent de Paul (1580-1660) sat with one of his many wealthy patronesses, who recounted all the good works of charity Vincent had initiated and supervised throughout his priesthood. She asked him what else he could possibly hope to do. "More," he replied benignly. His relentless

enthusiasm for the relief of human suffering was infectious and led to the founding of the society that bears his name by layman Frederic Ozanam two centuries later. In his name—and through your generosity—the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to do "more."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451)*. "Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the Good News and curing diseases everywhere."

Thursday, Sep 28, 2017 MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR Live generously

Legend surrounds the brief life of Saint Wenceslaus I, duke of Bohemia (907-935), originally venerated because of his martyrdom but most remembered today because of a Christmas carol from the 16th century that celebrated him as a model of generosity. Separating fact from fiction may be difficult after 1,000 years, but your own track record with regard to generosity should be easier to tally. Will anyone sing praises of your generosity a millennium from now? A hundred years? Ten minutes after you're gone? If not, what can you do today to start building your own lasting legacy?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9 (452)*. "Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"

Friday, Sep 29, 2017 FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS Eyes on the prize

According to Saint Augustine, the word *angel* (from the Greek *angelos*—"messenger") is basically a job description—that is, angels serve as messengers of God's purposes. They are reliable, says Jesus, because they "always behold the face of my father in heaven." We can trust such messengers because they do not lose sight of God. Today we celebrate the feast of three archangels—Michael, who spoke regularly to the prophets; Gabriel, who announced the births of John the Baptist and Jesus; and Raphael, whose name means "God has healed." Let's learn from them to keep our eyes on God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647)*. "You will see heaven opened and the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Saturday, Sep 30, 2017 MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Dig deep

Saint Jerome (c. 340-420) lived out his dictum: "Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ." At the encouragement of the pope he made a new translation of the Old Testament into Latin and revised the existing translation of the New Testament. He also wrote commentaries on biblical books, including the prophets. He knew that the more deeply one explores scripture, the closer to Christ one gets. And to get the message of the Bible makes us messengers ourselves, just like Saint Jerome. What can you do to deepen your knowledge and understanding of scripture—and also of God—and pass that along?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45 (454)*. "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men."

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