



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

October 1, 2017 - Twenty-sixth 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 do we offer Mass for a specific intention? Aren't Masses offered for the intentions of all present?

The Eucharist makes present, in this moment, the memorial sacrifice of Christ; the source of the Church's life and the focus of the Church's prayer (see the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [Sacrosanctum Concilium], 10). Mass always includes the intentions of a local community as well as the needs of all people throughout the world. In the Eucharistic prayer, we pray for the community and those "scattered throughout the world."

What does a renewed liturgical practice mean for specific Mass intentions? Canon law speaks of applying the Mass for anyone living and dead (see Canon 901). The practice also has roots in history, especially during medieval times, when participation at Mass was at a low. Asking the priest to remember an intention kept people active and connected their needs to those of the wider Church. Vatican II stressed active participation in its liturgical renewal, so asking specific intentions needs a renewed understanding.

Special intentions provide a value—we become aware of others' needs and troubles. If we are aware of how these troubles affect a member of our parish, we can not only pray for that person but reach out and help. However, the Eucharist does not give grace only to those named in special intentions. The grace God gives through the Eucharist is meant for the whole Church. God's grace builds us up in holiness. Since people find special intentions important, the response from pastors is important in helping people understand how God's grace affects everyone.

—Fr. John Schmidt, CSSR

Masses for the Week

October 2nd - 8th

Tues	1:00 pm	No Mass (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Loretta Duggins
Thurs	9:30 am	Martha Elder (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue
Sat	8:00 am	John Mudd
	5:00 pm	Rodney Mercer (AM)
	7:00 am	Harold Beard
	10:00 am	Brenda Monin (BM)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$6,065.00
Building Fund.....	\$15.00
Children.....	\$3.69
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$37.51
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$901.00

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 - October 7th & 8th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Whitney Roach	Dayle Riley Christi Tivitt	C-Alex Bertschman* C-Stefan Cesarz S-Danny O'Reilly S-John Roach	John Bertschman Emily Claycomb	Angie Bertschman	P.J./Alison
7:00 am	Tiffany Davenport Jean Oelze	Tom Aull	C-Doug Flood* C-Chuck Hardesty S-Michael Whitfill S-Mike Whitfill	Brianna Laslie Trey Laslie	Raymond Wethington	
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Rosa Hockenberry Mary Jo Rankin Aulton Richards	Carlos Matthews Dolores Mattingly	C-Noah Matthews* C-Alvin Mattingly S-Chase Robbins S-Chuck Robbins	Parker Davis Tyler Davis	JoAnn Henning	Volunteer
Radio Minister: Ann Tritschler						
Children's Liturgy: Mary Jo Rankin & Rosa Hockenberry						



I hear myself in the 'defiant' voice of the first son in our parable today, but I also see myself in the 'slacking' action of the second one Jesus uses to illustrate the faithful obedience of His model disciples. I know I have a lot to learn! Growing up, how many times Dad may have asked me to do a job, and I eagerly said, "Absolutely I will. Right on it!" Only instead, to go piddle around, off playing a game or chasing the train! I said I would, but didn't follow through!

AND then, there were other times Dad told me to do a chore, and I obstinately pouted, saying, "No, I don't want to do that!" **BUT**, after thinking about it, I realized I might **WANT** to fulfill his request, and I did the chore! I wish I could say I had a spiritual 'change of mind', doing the right thing because I was faithfully following the fourth commandment, being a 'good son'. But it may have been for another reason, like realizing *I did want to eat dinner*, or be *given a ride to football practice*. This parable sets two lessons in front of me: 1) Say what you mean, and 2) do what you say!" Each son had half of it, one said 'Yes' and didn't follow through and the other said "No" but did in fact complete the job. As good followers of Jesus, we should do both! Say 'Yes', being willing to serve God, and then be faithful to completing the jobs we are given!

By teaching this parable, I imagine Jesus is motivating His followers to possess the right disposition of soul and body. In our hearts, we are eager to serve, and with our bodies, we are quick to step up and serve with action. Yet, Jesus is also confronting 'hypocrisy' among His own followers and others: those who especially '**profess the right things**'. Think of the Pharisees, of whom Jesus will say in Matthew 23:3, "**do** and observe all things **whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example**. For they preach but **they do not practice**." Just because we 'say' the right things, does not mean we are 'doing' the right things. Patience is needed to wait and see if 'GOOD' really materializes from the 'right things said'! So, I think Jesus is sharing this parable as an invitation for our own continued conversion. If you are saying the right things, then keep on and make certain to take the next step of doing it! If you are not saying the right thing, then get on board, and change your programming. Pray and discern what task God is assigning you. Then daily remind yourself of that God-given task, and commit to it putting this good work into action! It starts with the right disposition, that leads to saying the right words, which become right actions when we keep applying the right motivation. We start by seeking God and His will for our life, and then we apply our daily acts to bring it about, fulfilling it!

Throughout the gospels Jesus says and shows the importance of backing up our words with actions. Christians need to be more than 'talk'. 1) He says, in Matthew 7:21 "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.*" More concisely he repeats this message in Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not **do** what I command?" Because, Jesus said of Himself in John 6:38 "I came, not to do My own will, but to **do** the will of Him who sent Me." AND then 2)

in the face of those who doubt His saying it, he added in John 10:38 "even if you do not believe me, **believe the works themselves**." Recall that Jesus told John Baptist's followers who questioned whether he was the 'real deal' as the 'Messiah', "Go and tell John what you **hear and see**" (Matthew 11:4). He means, "Go tell John **what I say and do!**" With Jesus, it is all one! He is the model, as he says in in John 10:25 "**The works** I do in my Father's name **testify** to me." Or as we know already know about Him, He is the 'Word made Flesh' (John 1:14). With Jesus, there is no posturing and no fronting! He is what he says! The Real Deal!

Pope Francis says the same in his letter *Evangelii Gaudium* (#233) that "Realities are greater than ideas-this principle has to do with 'incarnation of the word' and its **being put into practice**." "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is from God" (1 Jn 4:2). **This reality principle** ... is essential to evangelization." Our great teacher, St Thomas Aquinas also, emphasized the '**ACTUAL**' as the only thing real. In his Encyclopedic *Summa Theologica* he wrote "unumquodque cognoscibile est secundum quod est in actu" (Don't you love Latin?) which means "Everything is knowable so far as it is in **act**," (Prima Pars Q 87, a. 1). This is what we all mean everyday when we say things like "Sure, that is a fine thing to say, but I'll know it when it is **done**," or "While I hear what you're saying, I'll really understand when I see/do it." You know the tree by its fruit. Jesus is true 'live action'!

I give the last word this week, to the spiritual classic '**The Imitation of Christ**' from Book III, chap 30, God says, "*What hinders you most is that you turn yourself to me too slowly, before you pray heartily to me, you first seek many other comforts and refresh yourself with outward things.... All you do helps you so little, until you see that I am He who sends comfort to all who faithfully call to me..... are you like the man who says a thing and does not do it?*" So often, we do everything but what helps us most! Seems simple enough: Jesus' saying & doing! Follow It!

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

Sunday: If I had to repeat and summarize the gospel message from mass, what would I say? What message do I carry into this coming week?

Monday: Am I eager to serve God? Do I see my service to others as God's service?

Tuesday: Am I person of my word, fulfilling what I say? Do others view me as 'reliable'?

Wednesday: Are there 'undone' or 'unfinished' tasks I need to address in my following of Christ? How may I serve Him better?

Thursday: Have I been faithful in giving God the time in my daily prayer to speak with me and clarify His call for my life?

Friday: Perform an act of sacrifice and penance today, to unite your sufferings to Christ's

Saturday: For what am I especially thankful from this weekend, or Today? Consider coming early to Mass and offer a rosary of thanksgiving!

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

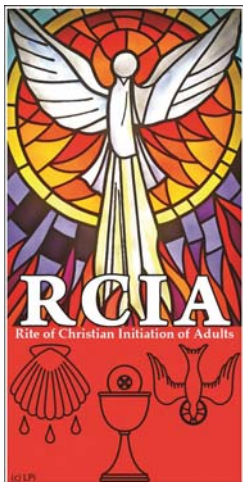
Save the Date: Our Parish Mission:

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!

Picnic Meeting: Our next picnic meeting is set for Tuesday, October 10th at 5:00 pm. We are still making plans for next year's picnic. All are welcome to attend, bring along any and all ideas you may have. The picnic meetings are for everyone, so let's gather together and aim high for Picnic 2018!

Family Movie Night: "The Shack" is a movie of one man's spiritual journey. After a family tragedy, Mack plunges into a crisis of faith and questions the existence of God, and life's purposes. Mack is unable to move on, until one day he gets an invitation to an old abandoned shack. Once there, God reveals himself to Mack in the form of three different strangers led by Papa. Mack's journey of self-discovery will draw you in, and make you think. Join us on Saturday, October 14th at 6:15 pm for a night of entertainment and fellowship. Popcorn and a drink will be served.

St. Romuald Altar Society will be meeting on Thursday, October 12 at 5:00 pm, nuts will be our main topic as we get ready for the fall season. An estimated nut cost and profit was submitted. Quilt raffle tickets are still on sale at the office. Join us.



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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS UPCOMING EVENTS

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE: I am asking for volunteers (family members are welcome) to help at our Tootsie Roll Drive on the 13th and 14th of October. We will begin Friday from Noon to 4 pm at Hardinsburg (across from the Car Wash) and at Harned at the Intersection; and again on Saturday only we will begin at 8 am to 4 pm same places. The monies collected from this Drive stays in our community.

5TH SUNDAY BREAKFAST AT ST. MARY OF THE WOODS: I am asking for volunteers to help at this breakfast starting at 7 am and will be serving breakfast after the 8 am Mass at St Mary's. All are welcome.

ANNUAL MONEY RAFFLE DRIVE: K Of C Members will begin selling tickets for the \$1500 -1st Prize, \$1000-2nd Prize, and \$500-3rd Prize for \$20 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be at St Romuald Parish Hall on the 12th of Dec at 6:30 pm.

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!

This Week at St. Romuald

Sun	6:00 pm	Women's Jail Ministry
Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	5:30 pm	RCIA
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Men's Jail Ministry
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	First Friday Mass
	9:30 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
	5:00 pm	2nd Annual SRIS Alumni Homecoming

UPCOMING:

Oct 12	5:00 pm	Altar Society Meeting
Oct 12	5:15 pm	Finance Committee

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"If the Church was born Catholic (that is, universal), it means that it was born to 'go out,' that it was born missionary. The love of Christ compels us to offer our lives for the Gospel. Such life-giving dynamism dries up if we lose our missionary enthusiasm. For this reason life is strengthened in giving it away, and weakens in isolation and agitation. Those who 'make the most' of the chances life offers are the ones who leave the safe shore and become passionate about the mission of communicating life to others. Jesus tells His disciples that they are salt of the earth and light of the world. Both salt and light operate in service. The Church has the task of preserving from corruption and giving flavor like salt while as light she 'prevents darkness from prevailing, ensuring a clear vision of reality and the purpose of existence.'" (Papal Address 9-18-2017)

Our Lady of Fatima 100th Anniversary: October 13 from 6:00-9:00 pm, Bishop Medley will lead a special retreat at the Marian Shrine, Bowling Green Ky, with a spiritual talk Candlelight procession, Adoration & Benediction and Crowning. Confessions are available. Come celebrate the closing of the anniversary year!

Gennesaret Retreat for the Chronic and Seriously Ill Person: at Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center, Maple Mount. A special retreat for those coping with debilitating disease, to introduce spiritual support and draw meaning from the suffering condition. Retreat is scheduled from Friday, Sept. 30-Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016. If you are interested in attending a Gennesaret retreat, please call Tom or Amy Payne: 270-686-7739 or the diocese for details and registration.

Eucharistic Adoration First Friday 24-hour Adoration: Following the 8:00 am Mass on October 6th we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour if prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month: Father Brian will offer the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm) on October 4th. 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: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10
- Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56
- Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-6; Lk 9:57-62
- Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12
- Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16
- Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Lk 10:17-24
- Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and visits to the hospital. I am Cancer free for now but still have a while to go for healing. With God's help and continuous prayers everything will be fine.
Patsy Oelze

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.

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Lucille Wheatley, Oct 5th; Jean Powers, Oct 7th and Alvin Mattingly, Oct 9th.

Abortion Update: Last week 51 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!



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, 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, **Haley Sloan**, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucye Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Calla Stiith, Paul Tucker, Gil Urban, Tessa Wadsworth, **Fallon Wen**, 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



AROUND AND ABOUT

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat-Hope after Abortion:

This retreat offers a unique approach to healing the wounds of abortion. An experienced team accompanies you on a spiritual journey back to God, a journey in which we reflect on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior and Healer, and allow Him to do what only He, our God, can do – to heal us and restore us to emotional and spiritual health. Next retreat is November 10-12, 2017. More info, please call Debbie: 270-570-4717 or contact her through debbie@hopeafterabortionky.com

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!

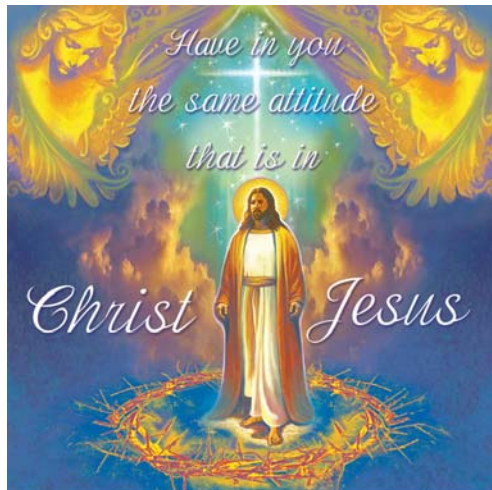


SRIS Booster Club's Holiday Bazaar: Booths are still available for rent for the Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 11, 2017. Booths cost \$40. If you need more information please call or text Jessica Phillips 270-863-1896 or email jphillrdh@yahoo.com

The Rebel Cafè is looking for a new or gently used electric meat slicer. If you have one that you would consider donating to the cafeteria please contact Brenda Elder 270-580-4218 or email caferomuald@yahoo.com

Please join us for the 2017 Public Square Rosary Crusade. Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. In the historic year of the Fatima Centennial (1917-2017), we ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother.

Please join us in praying for our nation on October 14 at 12:00 noon. The local Public Square Rosary Rally will take place at the home of Joe & Mary Jo Hess, on Main Street, across from the Fire Department. Please contact Jamesetta Whitfill 270-756-6157 for more information.





Sunday, Oct 01, 2017

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME;
RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY**

To life!

The call to respect life confronts the multiple ways life is often devalued in our world—war, capital punishment, and abortion, among others. It is not only a call “out there in the world” but also a call within each of us. We can take this message to heart in every situation we encounter, and each day offers many opportunities—large and small—to respect life by the way we treat one another. What is one choice for life that you can make today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136).* “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”

Monday, Oct 02, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Our better angels

The tradition of a guardian angel that guides and protects each person in life developed gradually in the church. Devotion to angels grew in the monastic tradition, beginning with Saint Benedict and getting a big boost from the 12th-century reformer Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. By the 16th century the feast the church celebrates today in honor of guardian angels was well established. Whether you embrace the tradition literally or think of angels as expressions of God's love and care extended to all of creation—or both—today is a day to be thankful that you do not walk alone in the spiritual life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:1-8 (455); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650).* “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Tuesday, Oct 03, 2017

Time to decide

Some things in our lives can be left to float in indecision or even inattention. That's the pile of stuff on your desk or in the closet you keep adding to but never subtract from. Other things require commitment. And every commitment we make is an act of faith in God, faith that God will see us through, come better or worse. Think of the extraordinary commitments we make to friends, spouses, family, neighbors, and employers.

Sometimes it is time to choose. Or, as Yogi Berra quipped: When you come to a fork in the road, take it!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456).* “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.”

Wednesday, Oct 04, 2017

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Honor your mother

In his wonderful *Canticle of the Creatures*, Saint Francis of Assisi praises God for the delightful family he has enjoyed in the creatures he calls Sir Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, and Brother Fire. His prayer for Sister Mother Earth includes praise for the one who “sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.” Two days ago was “World Habitat Day.” Saint Francis would approve. Find a way this year to commit yourself to the health of our planet who is our sister and mother.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457).* “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the

Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.”

Thursday, Oct 05, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST
Be of good cheer**

What's the secret to a joyful life? It is not about enjoying happy circumstances, or all privileged people would be smiling and the rest of us would be in therapy. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which was very apparent in the life of the “cheerful ascetic” Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (1819-67). This Redemptorist priest was best known for his simplicity, sincerity, and good cheer in every situation. Once, upon escaping the fate of being named bishop of Pittsburgh, he threw a party! Before he died while serving victims of the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans, Seelos declared: “To become holy is our only purpose in life.” Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today to inhabit the spirit of joy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458).* “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

Friday, Oct 06, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, VIRGIN
Pass the torch with loving attention**

Among the short list of most influential people in your life surely there is a teacher or two, most likely from your early years of education. Saint Marie Rose Durocher, who founded an order in Quebec with a strong teaching ministry, was herself deeply influenced by those who taught her along the way. Her first teacher, in fact, was her paternal grandfather, who home-schooled her until the age of 10. The wisdom of tradition is preserved when it is passed from one generation to the next. Honor those who inspired you by doing the same for those who are coming up after you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459).* “If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.”

Saturday, Oct 07, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
Draw a bead on the Rosary**

Rarely do we pass a statue of Mary that is not originally draped by the artist—and eventually by her devotees—with a rosary: around her neck, across her hands, or anywhere it's possible to dangle one. Some statues are so laden with rosaries by the fervent that it's a wonder Our Lady can stand up under the strain! This reality contrasts with the story that it was Mary who gave the Rosary to the early Carmelite Saint Simon Stock—and by extension, to all of us. We're the ones who need a little help getting our prayer on, after all! As Rosary Month moves forward, have you found your beads yet?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460).* “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”

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