



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

October 22, 2017 - Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

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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, Marie Rose

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

Would you kindly address the issue of donating to charities? I'm sure others receive requests for money from many different organizations. I feel guilty discarding letters with pictures of starving children, when I eat well.

I have the same dilemma. I live in the richest country in the world. I could live much more simply and dispose of all the income I don't need. But to do so would require a substantial change in lifestyle and would undoubtedly be viewed by many as irresponsible.

Some are called to live a life of radical giving and radical poverty. Others—most of us—are called to live simply according to our circumstances and needs. We're called to be generous, but we're also expected to plan for the future, provide for our families, and seriously accept the other responsibilities before us.

It is not necessary to respond to every particular need for which you receive an appeal, no matter how needy or worthy it may be. Choose a representative sampling of charities that you feel you can support, and discard the other appeals. Do so in good conscience. If, in the future, you find yourself to be in a situation where you can be even more generous, then by all means choose to do so.

Adapted from Understanding Scrupulosity: Questions and Encouragement, by Fr. Thomas Santa, CSSR, © 2017 Liguori Publications



Masses for the Week

October 23rd - 29th

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Mannin (MM) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	In Thanksgiving (SA)
Thurs	9:30 am	Joe Nimmo (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Special Intention (AM)
Sat	5:00 pm	Tommy Himmelhaver
	7:00 am	Deceased of the White Family
	10:00 am	Victor Henning

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,753.50
Building Fund.....	\$130.00
Children.....	\$4.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$47.78

Parish Financial Summary July-September, 2017

Total Income	\$123,400
Total Expenses	\$133,300
	- \$ 9,900

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 28th & 29th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Mitzi Mattingly Bryan O'Reilly	Dale Board Jennifer O'Reilly	C-Eric Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly	Benjamin Barr Claire O'Donoghue	Karen Huddleston	Shannon
7:00 am	Shirley Bland Tiffany Davenport	Buddy Payne	C-Don Payne* C-Bobby Joe Rhodes S-Jeff Rhodes S-Greg Wethington	Gabe Carwile Luke Carwile	Mike Wiedemer	
10:00 am	Lori Carwile Lisa Kennedy Mary Jo Rankin Aulton Richards	Alvin Mattingly Ann Tritschler	C-Drew Hinton* C-Mike Hinton S-Tyler Hinton S-Mack Mattingly	Will Lewis Sean Morton	Rosa Hockenberry	Volunteer
Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins						
Children's Liturgy: Jenny Pile & Rachel Glasscock						



Who are the Herodians? We hear about this added group of people called Herodians opposing Jesus in today's gospel. Of course, they are identified with the name Herod, and the Herod clan was known to be the Jewish political dynasty corruptly collaborating with the Roman Empire. So, I think of them as a public political group who always sought first to keep their own family candidates in local power over the Galilean and Judean cities and villages. The Pharisees (whose only authority is 'religious example &

teaching') bring the Herodians along to confront Jesus for the purpose of 'politicizing' anything Jesus says, thereby increasing the pressure to silence Jesus. Simply put, the Herodians are 'the muscle'. Understand them as 'the enforcers', and when the 'enforcers' show up, it spells 'trouble'. Think of it like this: if I get a call from the IRS, fine, I'll answer it, gather up documents and talk through the mistake. But when the IRS and the Federal Marshals show up, we are at a more serious level! Just the same with today's reading: the Pharisees and Jesus debate over religious matters a lot. They dispute with one another over interpreting words and offering credible faith witness. Regularly, Jesus exposes their hypocrisy, outlining the errors of their teaching and their showy practices. But when the Herodians come to the meeting, this is new territory. Like too many people in politics, the Herodians are not committed to any cause or lasting value beyond keeping themselves in power. Their only interest is catering to Caesar, and keeping themselves in government office. So, when 'Herodians' enter the picture, this is a 'bad omen' of things to come. The 'ganging up' of the 'good ole boys' Annas, Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate, will lead to Jesus' crucifixion. I am not saying this one encounter between Jesus and the Herodians alone set the 'cross walk' in motion, but it is certainly a whole new ballgame when the Herodians step onto the field.

Personally, I am more interested in what led the Pharisees to reach out to the Herodians. They are betraying their own religious principles by joining forces with Herodians. In Star Wars, we would call that 'going over to the dark side!' ***I don't expect any spiritual leadership from the Herodians*** (they feed on power, not purity), ***but the Pharisees know the Mosaic Covenant, and supposedly have a portion of God's Spirit in their hearts***. We have to ask ourselves, "What led to the Pharisees' desperation, for them to reach out to the Herodians and plot Jesus' death and elimination?" Why are the Pharisees ***so opposed*** to Jesus, not only to try to silence him but also to kill him? Jealousy, spite, anger, fear of being exposed as 'spiritual fakes', their own influence/power being threatened, or the possible revelation of their own past sins or current complicity in sin? I feel like more than just a theological disagreement leads to their corrupt alliance with the Herodians. A dispute over the interpretation of 'Sabbath Rest', does not justify ***calling in the 'hit-men' against Jesus***. But the Pharisees do just this! Their action tells me that the Pharisees have a lot of soul-searching to do. Unfortunately, they do not do it, and we end up at Calvary because of them. But as disciples of Jesus, we need to do 'soul-searching' too, as we might at times shut down God's prophetic spirit through selfish motives.

What can we learn from this episode? Jesus, as always, embodies wisdom and confronts the spiritual hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the political 'cheapness' (spiritual bankruptcy) of the Herodians. Jesus responds by demonstrating some creative 'street theater'! Being asked whether it is lawful to pay the Census Tax or not,

Jesus asks who has the coin it takes to 'pay it'? He says, "Show me the coin!" (***Notice that Jesus does not have such a coin on Him!***) The Pharisees expose themselves by producing the coin. They provide the currency Caesar expects when paying his tax! Then Jesus asks 'whose image is on it?' Of course, Caesar's! Caesar's preening pride takes every opportunity to have his picture and his name broadcast over/ on every public space, on buildings, signs, street titles, city names, even on the money people carry around in their pockets. (Sound familiar?) So, Jesus simply says, "***Caesar made that, give it back to him***". BUT, embodying spiritual wisdom, Jesus reminds everyone that while we give to Caesar what belongs to Him, ***keep in mind what belongs to God and make sure to give God His due!*** Truly, everything belongs to God, yet most pointedly, ***every human being*** (each of us!), ***bears the image of the living God in our souls***. Having been created in the 'image and likeness of God', ***we belong to God***. Caesar can make a coin, yet ***God makes every living being!*** Caesar's image is printed on cold, hard metal, yet God's image is imprinted upon every human being's heart. The image reveals the relation. My connection to Caesar is through a coin, but I am connected to God and each other human being through my heart/soul. The foundation of all Christian life and morality is the statement of Genesis 1:27 "God created mankind in his image; *in the image of God he created them*; male and female he created them." Our identity as children of God, begins by our bearing the image of God within us, and recognizing that every other human being bears that same unifying image. Understanding our identity, and acknowledging others' human dignity gives birth to compassion and guides all right conduct. Our spiritual allegiance is to God, no government. The modelling of our lives is on a 'golden-rule-standard'; the image of God, not Caesar's. So, when it comes to anything Caesar created, we will answer to Caesar, but when it comes to who God has created, ***we will answer to God!*** About Caesar's money, give it back to him, but be sure to ***give your heart only back to God!*** Keep in mind Jesus' words, "No one can serve two masters" (Matt 6:24) Our standard, our 'currency' image is God-given, and so 'saving' only happens through conversion to Him! As the letter to the Ephesians says, "Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and putting on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth" (4:23-24) Or also the letter to the Colossians, "Put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator" (3:10). We give to God our creator by shining Christ in all creation to others!

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

Sunday: Did I hear a message today that called me to change, or maybe confirmed me in a current decision or path? Keep praying about it.

Monday: What image or images rule our lives? What do we look up to, who do we imitate and what do we spend most of our free time doing? Is it godly?

Tuesday: Pray about what it means to be 'created in the image of God' Do I treat myself and others as bearing within the 'image of the living God'?

Wednesday: Do I use my material benefits and goods for 'God's purposes', or only for my own or for merely human ends?

Thursday: Am I careful about exerting any power I have over others? How about starting with myself, am I aware of my own power? Who/what has power over me?

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

Saturday: For what am I going to mass to give God thanks for this weekend?

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Senior Day will be on Thursday, Oct 26th from 10:00am till 1:00pm. We are hosting a very special guest from the Mount, Sr. George Mary Hagan. She will be chronically her life's journey that has led her to where she is today. "Did you ever think about where your ancestors came from, and why they came to Western Kentucky and why they stayed? You can find out more about the pioneers of Western Kentucky by attending the **presentation by Sr. George Mary Hagan on Wednesday, Oct. 25th at 6:00 pm and at our Senior Day**. Invite your friends and spend a day of fellowship with Sr. George Mary. If we have time I will have information on St. Bruno, St. John of Capistrano, and St. Hedwig for discussion. Please bring a dish to pass if you can, we will be serving fried chicken along with the side dishes.



St. Romuald honored Our Lady of Fatima and this centennial year of the apparitions at Fatima (1917-2017) with special services. On Friday Oct. 13 the SRIS school children sang Marian hymns at the Mass. A statue of Our Lady of Fatima was given a place of honor in the church sanctuary. Friday evening a Special Holy Hour was held that focused on the 110th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. The holy hour included the Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration, Reconciliation, Benediction, Rosary, and special songs led by Deacon Tony Anthony and family. As the Holy Hour began children placed yellow roses at the foot of Mary statue and rosaries were passed out to all the children present. Then Deacon Tony blessed the rosaries. On Saturday at noon a Public Square Rosary Rally was held outside at the home of Joe and Mary Jo Hess in downtown Hardinsburg. Several gathered to pray the rosary for our nation. This is an annual October gathering organized by Jamesetta Whitfill as part of the Public Square Rosary Crusade.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Church Bus Survey: The Parish council is conducting a survey to determine if there is a need for the parish to purchase a van or small bus. The vehicle would be used to bring parishioners to mass who do not have transportation to the weekend masses. Please contact Janet Bland 270-617-8156, email janetbland@att.net or Gail Pollock 270-756-2547, 270-668-3338 email pollock1@bbtel.com to share your thoughts. Thank-You.

This Week at St. Romuald

Sun	8:30 am	K-6 Religious Ed Class
Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Pastoral Council
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	RCIA
	6:00 pm	Sr. George Mary Ursuline Pilgrimage
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	10:00 am	Senior Day (Sr. George Mary Ursuline Pilgrimage)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	4:00 am	SRIS Fall Festival
Sat	12:00 am	SRIS Fall Festival

UPCOMING:

Oct 31 9:00 am Trunk or Treat

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"Here is the great novelty of Christianity: a God who, even though disappointed by our sins and our errors, does not go back on his word, he does not stop loving and above all does not take revenge! God loves, He doesn't take revenge! He loves, and waits to forgive us. Just like the Israelites in salvation history, God calls each of us to form a relationship, an alliance, with him. And, the urgency of responding to the call of the Lord with good fruits from His vineyard, helps us to understand what is new and unique in Christianity. This is not so much the sum of prescripts and moral norms, but it is first of all a proposal of love that God, through Jesus, made and continues to make through humanity. In the parable, the tenants mistreat and kill the servants when the master sends them to collect the fruits. The tenants assume a possessive attitude, refusing to hand over the crop. Even when the master sends his son, the tenants kill him in hopes of taking the son's inheritance. That is our human refusal and rejection of God's grace. But Jesus responds that the 'stone rejected by the builders becomes the cornerstone' of a new foundation. God's disappointment for the wicked behavior mankind is not the last word! Through the 'discarded stones' which are symbols of human situations of weakness and sin, God continues to circulate the 'new wine' of his vineyard, which is mercy. The only thing that can impede the "tenacious and tender" will of God is our own arrogance and presumption. His will is to keep on building, keep on growing. (Homily 10-8-2017)

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.



RCIA will meet Wednesday Oct. 25 in the Church for a tour of the church!

It's not too late to join us!!

We welcome any interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church!!

For more info contact: Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or

Marie Rose at 756-2356 or, any other team members – Chris Brumfield, Rosa Hockenberry, Dolores Mattingly, Dorothy Payne, Gail Pollock, Pat Whitfill.

Upcoming session topics:

Oct. 25 – Church Tour (Meet in the Church)

Thanks to Gwen Matthews, Jill Rhodes, Sheila Sills, Sheila Pullen for providing refreshments for RCIA this past week!

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 12:13-21
- Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38
- Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48
- Thursday: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53
- Friday: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59
- Saturday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
- Sunday: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES: John & Marcia Simmons will be celebrating 52 years of marriage on October 30th and Tom & Suzanne Rose will be celebrating 43 years of marriage on November 1st.

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 September included the following services and help given: Assistance was provided to a total of 17 families amounting to 56 persons (of which were 31 children). The aid totaled just over \$1,690.10 given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.



Sunday, October 29th is Priesthood Sunday. Priesthood Sunday is a time to celebrate and affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is an opportunity for Catholic parishioners to thank, affirm, and share their love and support for our priests. On this day, parishioners are encouraged to make a commitment to pray for all priests and especially for their own parish priests. It is also a time to pray for vocations to priesthood and to encourage young men to courageously seek God's will and follow his call.

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, **Vonda Decker**, 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, Cindy Getz, Jenny Ginn, Dorothy Greenwood, Bill Greenwood, Linda Greenwood, Susan Griffin, Janet Hallway, Kay Harris, 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, **Brenda Kelly**, Louise Kennedy, 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, **Phillip Sturgeon**, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Calla Stith, Paul Tucker, 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



St. Romuald Parish Mission 2017

St. Theresa Community Fall Festival, Sunday, Oct 29, Turkey Dinner from noon to 3:00 pm in the Meade-Breck Center/Matt Pike Memorial Gym, 9255 Rhodelia Road, Payneville. Games and booths for all ages!

RCIA Topic this week—Scripture as Divine Revelation

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.

Join Cardinal Raymond Burke in offering a rosary a day, and especially on the 1st day of every month for our Holy Father's Intentions, for the conversion of souls and defense of family life (& unborn!). Enroll by visiting the website and begin praying today! May a million rosary warriors team up to bring about a prayer conversion within our world!
www.catholicaction.org/take_heaven_by_storm

In Sympathy

Please pray for the eternal rest and peace of Robert "Bobby" Potts, II, who was buried at St Romuald this past week. Please keep his wife Alehisa, children, his mother Mary Ann and all of the family in your prayers.

SRIS NEWS

We will be having the Preschool thru 1st grade **TRUNK OT TREAT** on the school grounds on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 9:00. We would like to invite any business or individual in the community to participate. We will have approx. 100 children. If you would be interested in celebrating with us or have any questions please call 270-756-5504 or email lori.carwile@stromualdschool.org by Oct. 27. Thanks!!

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



Sunday, Oct 22, 2017

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Give a little back**

Pastoral Care Week, sponsored by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, was established to recognize the many ways church professionals respond with attentive listening to those with physical, emotional, or spiritual

concerns. Hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and your local parish will accept volunteers who wish to donate their time for this important work. So cut loose a couple of hours a week and give them to someone in need. Be a generous giver.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145).* "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth."

Monday, Oct 23, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST
Keep the margins in mind**

Mission San Juan Capistrano, of the returning swallows fame, was founded by Spanish settlers on All Saints' Day in 1776 and named for today's saint, Giovanni Capistrano, a 15th-century Italian "warrior priest" who led a Crusade at the age of 70! The Spanish settlers in the Americas were warriors in their own right, taking land and imposing conversions to Catholicism when necessary. At the same time many of the clergy in the missions that dot what is today the U.S. Southwest did their best to ease the harshest aspects of Spanish colonial domination. The church finds itself working within all kinds of social orders and regimes. May it stand with the vanquished and marginalized and for justice and mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473).* "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Tuesday, Oct 24, 2017

**MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP
Weave a holy life**

Saint Anthony Mary Claret was a successful weaver before he entered the seminary. Born near Barcelona in 1807, he spent the rest of his life—as priest, then bishop—weaving together two strong elements of his personality: the mystic and the man of action. He was deeply prayerful and also a prolific author. He preached more than 10,000 sermons in his life, often to great gatherings of the poor who felt marginalized by the church. He stands as a great example of how to blend prayer and action in our own busy lives. What are the elements in your life that need to be woven together as a beautiful tapestry—your gift to God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474).* "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017

Be ready for a pleasant surprise

In scripture and tradition we remember and celebrate the past—but in the present. What has been applies very much to how we live now. We also look to the future in hope, when all Jesus stood for and taught will be fulfilled. We think of this time as his return, his coming again, when he will be with us again in his fullness. And like the past, the future has a lot to do with the present. What we hope for shapes what we do now. That's why Jesus tells his disciples to be ready, especially because his coming again will be unexpected. But if we are ready, the

only surprise will be a joyous one, like a surprise visit from a friend or loved one.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475).* "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Thursday, Oct 26, 2017

Baptism by fire

Imagine having the insight to realize that your mission would lead without fail to your persecution and death. Now imagine having the courage to remain faithful to that mission—despite the cost. The next time you feel stressed out by the demands of your own calling (and don't we all feel that way at least some of the time?), pause to consider the stress that Jesus was under. Say a quick prayer asking Jesus to send you the courage you need to face your own trials.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476).* "I have a Baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!"

Friday, Oct 27, 2017

Clear the air

We spend a lot of time worrying about the weather. Nothing captures national attention like a brewing hurricane or a string of tornadoes or an earthquake. Weather programming is a fixture of any local news program, and one of our first questions on waking up in the morning is often, "What's the weather like today?" Not much has changed (except the technology) since Jesus' time. He pointed out that for all the attention folks paid to storm clouds in the west or wind from the south, they didn't seem to be able to tell right from wrong when dealing with one another. Before checking today's forecast, take a moment to examine the "climate" of your interpersonal relationships. Dispel the storm clouds and bring some sunshine to those nearest and dearest.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477).* "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

Saturday, Oct 28, 2017

**FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES
Let your faith inform your citizenship**

The apostle Simon is called the "Zealot," a name that suggests he was zealous for the Law or possibly connected to the Zealot movement, which revolted against the Romans in A.D. 66. Perhaps we do better to admire Simon's zeal for God more than his alleged sympathies for violent change. In matters political, let the words of the Second Vatican Council's document on the church in the modern world be your guide: "The church . . . is not identified in any way with the political community nor bound to any political system," the Council wrote. "Christ . . . gave his church no proper mission in the political, economic, or social order. The purpose which he set before her is a religious one. But out of this religious mission itself comes a function, a light, and an energy which can serve to structure and consolidate the human community according to the divine law."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666).* "Jesus went up to the mountain to pray."

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