



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

November 12, 2017 - Thirty-second 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](mailto:stromuald@bbtel.com)

[www.stromuald.org](http://www.stromuald.org)

### **Pastoral Staff:**

*Pastor*, Father Brian Johnson

Email: [Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org](mailto: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](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

#### **School Board**

#### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

***How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us "through the gates"? Do you think that this will happen any time soon?***

We have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world's end is hidden. Jesus said: "But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone" (Matthew 24:36).

In spite of Christ's admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on their misinterpretation of the Book of Revelation.

Throughout history, many have attempted to use the Book of Revelation as a timetable. They misinterpreted symbols and numbers as a forecast of what would happen in their own century. Over and over again, such people have used Revelation to predict the end of the world.

The world might end tomorrow, in five billion years, or somewhere in between. Jesus tells us we can't know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ, our Judge. And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

Adapted from Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications

# Masses for the Week

## November 13th - 19th

Tues	1:00 pm	Martha Elder (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Brenda Monin (BM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Joe Nimmo (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning
Sat	5:00 pm	Bob Hinton (DH)
	7:00 am	John & Geneva Glasscock
	10:00 am	Mary Catherine Payne (DP)

# Stewardship of Finance

## Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,074.00
Building Fund.....	\$410.00
Children.....	\$2.00
Loose change for the Poor.....	\$32.00

## Parish Financial Summary July-September, 2017

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$123,400</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$133,300</b>
	<b>- \$ 9,900</b>

**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 - November 18th & 19th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Shelly Jeffries	Volunteers	C-Stefan Cesarz* C-Mark Rhodes S-Matthew Rhodes S-Matthew Whitfill	Emily Claycomb Cameron Geeding	Brenda Wheatley	Pippa
7:00 am	Anne O'Reilly Jean Oelze	Cathy Lewis	C-Chuck Hardesty* C-Kevin Oelze S-Stephen Oelze S-Tom Winchell	Amber Woods Tabby Woods	Raymond Wethington	Pippa
10:00 am	Ort Critchelow Sandra Hinton Lisa Kennedy Tabetha Walz	Rosa Hockenberry Nora Dailey	C-Greg Hinton* C-Drew Hinton S-Mike Hinton S-Tyler Hinton	Becca Walz Logan Walz	Rosa Hockenberry	Deacon Tony
Radio Minister: Joe Hess                      Children's Liturgy: Andrea Masterson & Jennifer Payne						



Who are the wise virgins and who are the foolish virgins in today's parable told by Jesus? Well, have you ever overslept? Has time ever run up on you suddenly, causing you to be late or to miss out altogether? I can think of times when I had a big event or project the next day, and when I went to sleep, I fell right off soundly. Great! I was tired, needed rest and fell right to sleep. **ONLY** to wake up one hour later and be restless, tossing in bed and only seeing the big red clock numbers read first 12:00, then 12:30, then 1:00 etc, until about 4:00 am,

and THEN, I drop off into sleep until I am jerked out of sleep suddenly at 6:00 am.! "How did I miss hearing the alarm?" How does that happen? As a child often I recall that before a big trip or vacation, going to sleep was hard to begin. Maybe it is too much anticipated excitement. Or maybe, it is anxiety about too many last minute details. But, the night of poor or no sleep at all started the vacation off on the wrong foot. I think that is something like what happens with the foolish virgins. First, they have their lamps. Good! Secondly, they are in the right place to wait for the bridegroom. Good! But, they did not bring any extra oil, to keep their lamps burning, in case the waiting runs longer than expected. So, when the bridegroom shows up, the foolish ones miss out because they had to run to the market and buy extra oil. They were not prepared. Often my own sleepless nights which led to oversleeping, amount to my **not being as prepared as I should**. The racing thoughts of 'what to do first thing in the morning', and the undone little jobs to catch up before heading out the door consumed my mind --(like 'make sure to put the washed-towels into the dryer, set the outgoing mail in the box, unlock the garage for the delivery, unplug the coffee maker, etc, etc.). Who could sleep with all that running around in your head? So, what's wrong? **Many of those tasks need to be done already**. Now! Delaying, only introduces the added problem of 'mental preoccupation'. And maybe those things that cannot be done early, need at least a reminding note to be written and set out (to get the idea out of one's head, put it onto paper). This will flag the little tasks to do on your numbered list to ensure they are done in the morning. Thinking back to Jesus' parable, the key to 'unlocking' the wedding banquet door comes through the preparation. Being 'ready, set go', means being "Ready, **Prep**, Go!"

Hearing this parable, often good Christians immediately ask, "What ever happened to sharing? *Why did the 'wise' virgins not share what they had?*" Good point! To start an answer, we have to keep in mind that this parable is about **end-times and individual judgement**. Jesus tells this parable as a type of 'judgement scene', whether each person will be admitted to heaven (the wedding banquet) or not. I believe the issue comes down to realizing there are some things that we can do to help others with, and then there are **some things that must be done by oneself and for oneself**. For example, think of what we say about watering horses, "you can take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink." I can study with you for the test, but when it comes to taking the test, you and I take it individually. Or with driving lessons, I can sit in the car with you, suggest directions, and give tips, but your hands on the wheel. You are the one in the driving seat! Some things must be done for oneself. I remember taking swimming lessons, and being told, "I will show you how to make your strokes, and move your feet, but you have to swim." My teacher could not swim for me! **This 'individual' part** of the parable comes clear to me through the **detail of the individual lamps**. The story would be different if there was a 'family-size group torch' or common light generator like a big bonfire, but in this parable **each person has their own individual lamp**. Why? For one's personal security (if you happened to be away from the group), but more importantly, the individual lamp was for one's personal identity, and being able to 'show yourself' identifying your face to another person. Think of

the old movies when a guard/policeman runs into another person on a dark street, asking "Who goes there? Show your face". So to have one's individual lamp allowed for personal ID. "Lift your lamp, to show your face, and be recognized!" We do not open doors on a dark night without first having the porch light turned on, or the person themselves flashing a light up on their face to prove to you who they are. That is why in the parable the bridegroom says, "I do not know you". He can't see you without the light! Thinking of my own personal judgement appearing before God, that is the scariest thing God could say to me-I don't recognize you!

So what is the warning and 'call-to-action' for us from this parable?

**Our extra lamp oil is our life of grace**, our good, developed relationship to God already, and this relationship needs clear reflection in our life's conduct. We have to stock up NOW on this oil! This preparation is up to each person, individually. I have to work on it before that 'judgement test' comes! Other people can help me prepare. They can introduce me to Jesus, teach me to live a good life, show me how to pray and read scripture, but the actual judgement encounter with God is up to me! No one speaks or answers for me in this interview. I, and each individual soul has that one-to-one personal reckoning with God.

And what about those wise virgins and their sharing or not? They did what they could. They could offer tips to their friends on how to trim the lamp wick, how to hold the lamp just the right way to conserve oil, offer to re-light the lamp, and tell the other virgins who the best 'oil dealer' with bargains was, but when it comes down to having one's own personal oil, that is each person's responsibility. So our being recognized by Christ on the last day is a personal encounter that we have to prepare ourselves for by 1) daily deepening our relationship to God by staying in contact-our daily prayer and studying of Christ and 2) by faithfully modelling our lives on Christ's way of living, Christ's actions and conduct. The closer in relationship we are to Christ, the more likely He will 'recognize' us on the last day. Yet, also, consider this, if there is any tip, edge or shortcut to be had, maybe it is this: the more we model Christ, embodying his words and actions, (saying what he said, doing what he did) the more likely He will recognize Himself in us. As St Paul said it in Galatians 2:20 "yet I live, no longer I, but **Christ lives in me**", our being recognized by Christ amounts to us 'knowing Him in daily relationship', not waiting until the end to make an introduction. Having Christ's attitude in us, brings about His quick identification of us at the judgement door out of this world and into his heavenly kingdom!

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

**Sunday:** As I leave Mass today, what am I taking with me? Did God speak a word to me that I can share with someone in this coming week?

**Monday:** Am I a prepared person, or am I a procrastinator? What can lead me to better plan and prepare and do in advance what I should?

**Tuesday:** Did I put off praying about yesterday's question? Simply start making a little to-do list for tasks you will face the next day? Even making a list helps.

**Wednesday:** As holidays approach, am I feeling peace and contentment or do I feel rushed and behind already? Pray today about living more in the moment.

**Thursday:** I fear Jesus' words 'I do not know you'. What can I do now to make myself more familiar to Jesus?

**Friday:** Perform a corporal work of mercy today for someone as an act of penance.

**Saturday:** Come to mass early and pray a rosary for world peace & conversion from sin.  
Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

**Missionary Coming:** Nov 11-12 at weekend masses, Sister Consolata of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will be with us, to invite us to help her religious order's work throughout the world. She is currently working at the St Gerard House in Owensboro, a housing shelter for pregnant, unwed women age 18 and older. Protecting life and helping provide for needs of mother and child are such a needed ministry. Please be generous to help Sister's work.

**\*\*\*\*PIES PIES\*\*\*\***

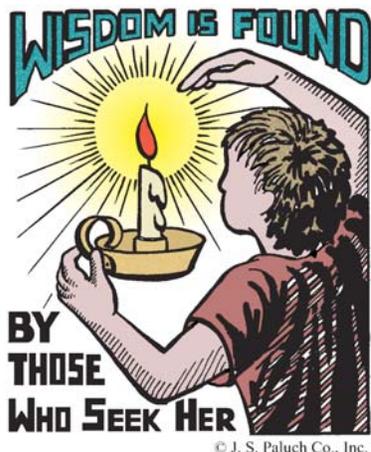
The St Romuald Annual Turkey Dinner is Thursday, November 16 - mark your calendars!! We are respectfully asking for a donation of 2 pies from each member of the Altar Society and all ladies of the Parish. The pies may be dropped off anytime that Thursday after 1 pm. Thank you in advance, for your continued generosity and support!  
Ruby Davis President of the Altar Society

**Ministry Schedule:** We are working on the December-February Schedule. If you want to participate in one of the ministries at Mass, change the Mass you are presently assigned or wish to be taken off the list, please call the office @270-756-2356.

Also if you would like to volunteer for any of the Christmas Eve (4pm, 8pm & 12am), Christmas Day (9am), New Years Day (9am) Masses please call the office or email stromuald@bbtel.com.



**Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming a Catholic???**  
If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!



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

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** The Knights of Columbus are putting together a meal consisting of a frozen turkey, dressing, potatoes and the trimming for about \$25. If you would like to sponsor family just drop your money in a blank envelope in the collection basket or give it to Fr. Brian or the Deacons. Must be turned in by November 12. You may suggest a family that needs help with food for Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generosity.

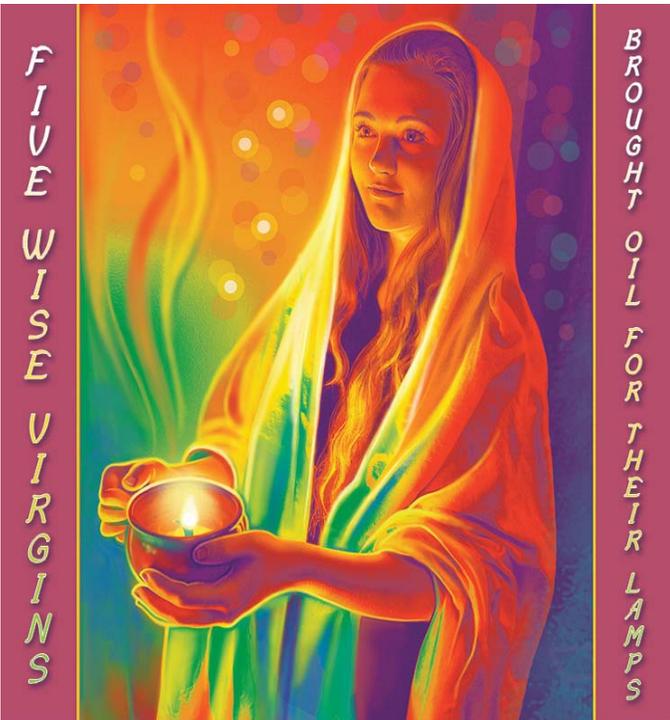
**Church Bus Survey:** The Parish council is conducting a survey to determine if there is a need for the parish to purchase a van or small bus. The vehicle would be used to bring parishioners to mass who do not have transportation to the weekend masses. Please contact Janet Bland 270-617-8156, email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

## This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass at Extended Care
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus
Wed	10:00 am	Senior Day
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	4:00 pm	Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	6:00 pm	Family Movie Night
Sat		Sr. Mary Anthony/Sr. Joseph Marie
Sun		Sr. Mary Anthony/Sr. Joseph Marie
	2:00 pm	Deanery High School Youth Activities
<b>UPCOMING:</b>		
Nov 21	6:00 pm	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service (Harned UMC)

## A Word from Pope Francis:

“To speak of a Christian contribution to the future.... means, before all else, to consider our task, as Christians today, in these lands which have been so richly shaped by the faith down the centuries. What is our responsibility at a time when the face of Europe is increasingly distinguished by a plurality of cultures and religions, while for many people Christianity is regarded as a thing of the past, both alien and irrelevant? The first and perhaps the greatest contribution that Christians can make is to remind nations that she is not a mass of statistics or institutions, but is made up of people. Sadly, we see how frequently issues get reduced to discussions about numbers. There are no citizens, only votes. There are no migrants, only quotas. There are no workers, only economic markers. There are no poor, only thresholds of poverty. The concrete reality of the human person is thus reduced to an abstract – and thus more comfortable and reassuring – principle. The reason for this is clear: people have faces; they force us to assume a responsibility that is real, personal and effective. Statistics, however useful and important, are about arguments; they are soulless. They offer an alibi for not getting involved, because they never touch us in the flesh. We must be personal”. (Address 10-28-17)



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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-10; Lk 17:1-6  
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23 — 3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-19; Lk 17:7-10  
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19  
 Thursday: Wis 7:22b — 8:1; Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25  
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-5ab; Lk 17:26-37  
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Lk 18:1-8  
 Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]

**Saint Paul School - Principal:** Saint Paul School, a small unique Catholic School in Leitchfield, KY, has an immediate and for the 2018/2019 school year an opportunity for a Principal who is committed to the mission of Catholic Education. Working under the supervision of the Pastor, the Principal will oversee a PreK - 8 school; the position is a dual principal teaching role. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, and have at least five years of teaching experience, a strong academic background, and must be able to successfully pass a background check. Contact Details: Saint Paul School is an equal opportunity employer that provides a wide range of benefits. All interested applicants may submit a resume, cover letter and teaching certificate to: [stpaulgrayson@windstream.net](mailto:stpaulgrayson@windstream.net) or Fr. Steve Hohman, 1812 St. Paul Road, Leitchfield, KY 42754 Please call Saint Paul School at 270-242-7483 with any questions.

**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.

**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!

**Abortion Update:** Last week 56 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### We Pray For:

Gene Aldridge, Paula Anthony, Gene Bennett, Joe Bennett, Roy 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, 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 Greenwell, 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, Patricia Lane, Angie Lawrence, Parker Leslie, Annette Lucas, Margaret Lyons, Red McClellan, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Blaise Mills, Sharon Morgan, Emma Nottingham, Don 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, Melvin Roach, Rita Roach, Shirley Robbins, Lincoln Roberts, Suzanne Rose, Carri Roth, Eric Severs, Rex Lee Sheets, Haley Sloan, Steve Smith, Jerry Sosh, Virginia Stanford, Lucy Stupak, Pam Sturgeon, Phillip Sturgeon, Loretta Swink, Adalee Taul, Becky Taul, Gina Thornsberry, **Rufus Tivitt**, Calla Stith, Paul Tucker, Tessa Wadsworth, Fallon Wen, Greg Wethington, Raymond Wethington, Jimmy Whitworth, Mary Rita Whitworth, Carolyn Wilcheck, Kevin Wilcheck, 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



**Thanksgiving Community Church Service:** Come celebrate our community church Thanksgiving Service Tuesday November 21 at 6:00 pm in Harned United Methodist Church. We have so much to be thankful for, so come give thanks!

**Kick the new year off right** with a public reading of God's word on the Court House lawn! January 1-4, there will be teams to recite the Word of God, over 90 straight hours. Teams from different churches will take on a three hour watch shift (a total of 30 watches) to ensure the proclamation of the Bible starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation. If you are interested in taking a reading shift or being a 3hour team captain, please let Fr Brian know as we try to assemble a reading team.

**St Vincent DePaul October 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. In October, a total of 20 families amounting to 62 persons (of which were 35 children), were assisted. Aid totaling \$1,379.63 was given to help struggling families and individuals. May God continue blessing the generous donors and all of the recipients of their caring gifts.

### **Community Blood Drive:**

Hardinsburg Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Tuesday, November 14th  
12:00 pm to 4:30 pm

## AROUND AND ABOUT



Office of Vocations  
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

*Called by Name*

Do you know a future priest?

Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students or older. During National Vocation Awareness Week, we are asking you to recommend young men whom you believe might have a vocation to priesthood. Any man you recommend will receive information from the Vocations Office and will be invited to participate in our discernment opportunities such as retreats and our vocation camp. Recommendations may be made online at vocations website:

<http://www.owensborovocations.com/called-by-name/>

**Called by Name Program:** Every young Catholic man should consider all vocations, including whether or not God is calling him to priesthood. However, if not invited or encouraged to think about priesthood, it may never be considered. Many young men may have the burning question within of God calling them to priesthood, but they may be waiting for a confirmation from someone else, to nudge them into seriously pursuing God's priestly call for them. Do you know a faithful young man who may have a vocation to the priesthood? We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools, but we need your help to identify them. We're looking for high school students and older. Any man you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocation, as well as invitations to discernment retreats and other events. Tell Fr Brian, Deacon Mike or Deacon Tony, to approach them or to invite the vocation director to reach out to them.

Pray  
for  
Vocations



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**Sunday, Nov 12, 2017**

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Attention!**

A consistent theme of these weeks leading to Advent is akin to the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard: *Semper paratus*: "Always ready." For what? The military remains ready for threats or disasters like a tornado or flood, but Jesus' call to

be ready always is neither a threat nor a prediction of catastrophe. It is his expectation that we be aware of the presence of the sacred as we move through even the most ordinary day. Mary Oliver suggests the same in her poem "The Summer Day": "I don't know exactly what a prayer is. / I do know how to pay attention." Being prepared for the coming of Christ means keeping eyes and ears, hearts and minds open. The sacred, the Christ, is all around you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154)*. "Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**Monday, Nov 13, 2017**

**MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, VIRGIN  
Trust your calling**

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the religious institute founded by the first U.S. citizen saint Frances Cabrini (1850-1917), say that it is not what Mother Cabrini accomplished or how far she traveled that made her a great missionary saint. It was how she allowed God to accomplish remarkable achievements in and through her. Her immense love of God empowered her to reach out to the poor, the needy, and immigrants. Mother Cabrini, no doubt, was confident that she was doing only what she ought. Pray for such confidence.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491)*. "If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."

**Tuesday, Nov 14, 2017**

**Don't expect applause**

Obligations can often feel like thankless drudgery: going to work, cleaning the house, feeding your kids. A lot of the time it seems like no one notices, much less gives you a pat on the back. While it's important to be grateful for the ordinary things others do, be careful not to expect kudos yourself. We're called to be servants if we follow Christ and treat others as the brothers and sisters they are. Remember that the things you are responsible for—your job, your house, your kids, and even your fellow men and women—are all gifts, and good work is always its own best reward.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:23—3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492)*. "We have done only what we ought to have done!"

**Wednesday, Nov 15, 2017**

**MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**God is mysterious, naturally**

Albert was known for his vast knowledge in all areas of learning. He was Saint Thomas Aquinas' tutor, a man skilled in all the sciences of his age. Albert did not fear science; for him there was no contradiction between what he learned about the natural world through scientific observation and what he believed as a person of faith. People of mature faith have nothing to fear from scientific observations and methods. The more we learn about the natural world, the more we will appreciate both the limits of our own understanding and the mysterious ways of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493)*. "He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him."

**Thursday, Nov 16, 2017**

**MEMORIAL OF MARGARET OF SCOTLAND  
Make a difference for the good**

If you think you can't make a difference, remember Queen Margaret of Scotland. A refugee from the Norman invasion of England, Margaret was a pious queen who sponsored Christian hermits and Benedictine monks, cared for the sick, and built hostels for the poor. Especially during Advent and Lent, she held large feasts for the common people in the castle. She even summoned a council to undertake reforms in the Scottish church, the decisions of which were known as the "Five Articles of Margaret." Consider how you can use your influence and resources to work for positive change.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 7:22b—8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494)*. "The kingdom of God is among you."

**Friday, Nov 17, 2017**

**MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS  
Do good, regardless of the reception**

During her marriage to the German prince Louis, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-31) gained a reputation for generosity to the poor and sick. But Louis' family was hostile to Elizabeth and her open-handed ways, and when he died in an epidemic, her enemies sent her and her children into a life of poverty. After recovering from this blow, Elizabeth, inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, established a small house of hospitality, and for the last years of her short life served the poor, the elderly, and the sick. It's ironic how being generous can make a person unpopular. But there is never any shame in serving Christ's poor. Make a habit of helping the aged, ill, and destitute around you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495)*. "Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it."

**Saturday, Nov 18, 2017**

**MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, VIRGIN  
Own your authority**

Business guru Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." We see this principle at work every day: in the boss who motivates her staff by speaking authoritatively rather than imposing her authority, in parents who earn their kids' respect rather than demanding it. Persistence was key for Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852), whose religious order was scattered by the French Revolution, who then made a grueling trip to the U.S. frontier to work with Native Americans. Reflect on what it might mean to be more authoritative in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 18:14-1; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496)*. "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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