



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

March 18, 2018 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

I feel self-conscious striking my breast at Mass. Isn't this gesture rather exaggerated?

The Roman Missal proscribes that the assembly strike their breasts at "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault" during the Confiteor. It doesn't specify striking three times. Later in Eucharistic Prayer I, the priest strikes his breast with his right hand, saying, "To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners...."

Clasping our hands in front of our breast is a recognized gesture of prayer; striking the heart or breast is an ancient penitential expression. It calls to mind Jesus' parable of two men who prayed in the Temple, a prideful Pharisee and a humble tax collector who "beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner'" (Luke 18:13).

"Gestures, language, and actions are the physical, visible, and public expressions by which human beings understand and manifest their inner life" (Built of Living Stones, NCCB/USCC, 2000). The liturgy has a rich tradition of movements that can foster or distract from prayer. "When the gestures are done in common, they contribute to the unity of the worshiping assembly. Gestures which are broad and full in both a visual and tactile sense support the entire symbolic ritual" (Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, 56).

Thus, at Mass we bow our heads, bend our knees, and beat our breasts out of humility and reverence for God, "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

Fifth Sunday in



Masses for the Week

March 19th - 25th

Tues	1:00 pm	Kathleen Stewart (LB) (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Pat Wheatley (RW)
Thurs	9:30 am	Martha Matthews (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue
Sat	5:00 pm	Merl & Marty Kannapel
Sun	7:00 am	Lorena Bland
	10:00 am	Lori Mattingly Shaw (DM)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection:

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,722.00
Building Fund.....	\$25.00
Children.....	\$2.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$32.80
Catholic Relief	\$526.00

Parish Financial Summary

July-January, 2018

Total Income	\$327,500
Total Expenses	\$293,500
	\$ 34,000

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 - March 24th & 25th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Bryan O'Reilly	Lynn Tuell Brenda Wheatley	C-Chris Brumfield* C-Davy Brumfield S-Stefan Cesarz S-Leroy Henning	Aubrey Tabor Lily Tabor	Dayle Riley	Pippa
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Cara Wilson	Pete Anthony	C-Blake Flood* C-Byron Flood S-Michael Flood S-Scott Wilson	Darrian Flood Tabby Woods	Mary Vessels	Pippa
10:00 am	Kathryn Ables Lori Carwile Cindy Payne Rhonda Walz	Betsy Anthony Ann Tritschler	C-Noah Matthews* C-Mack Mattingly S-Alvin Mattingly S-Zack Payne	Jacob Brown Justin Brown	Patsy Whitfill	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Joe Hess Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



Andrew is a useful resource! He is the apostles' go-to guy to get something done! Andrew is the one apostle who makes the most introductions and 'behind the scenes' deals to accomplish great work for Jesus. What a servant! Like a great play with an 'assist' or 'set' on the basketball or volley ball court, Andrew knows how to move things along and support getting them done. Today, the 'Greeks' want to meet Jesus. So they get with Philip, and Philip **'goes to Andrew,** who sets up the meet, taking the issue personally to Jesus (John 12:21-22).

Remember the other introductions that Andrew made already in the gospel. Andrew is responsible for making the introduction of Peter to Jesus in the beginning (John 1:41-42). Also, it was Andrew who introduced the young boy with his five loaves and two fish to Jesus in an attempt to provide a creative solution to the problem of the 'hungry multitude' in John 6:8-9! And here he negotiates the connection between Jesus and the 'Greeks'. Andrew is a 'resourceful' apostle, and a humble, low-key model for us to follow!

Yet, the occasion of the even the Greeks (non-Jews) now seeking to join Jesus' company, means that His mission is entering its climaxing stage. John 12:27 has Jesus saying, "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father, **save me from this hour?** But it was for this **purpose** that I came to **this hour.**" Jesus sense of 'right timing' and the schedule of the Father's Will, make Him say such things. This sensitivity to timing is why Mark 1:14-15 tells that it was only after John Baptist's arrest, that Jesus appeared in Galilee pronouncing the Gospel, saying, "This is the time of fulfillment!" So, in John chapter 12 here, the Greeks joining His company signaled the opening of the 'universalist' final stage of His mission. What was initially hinted at by the visit of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1 has now come full circle with Jesus' enthusiasm to expand the dimensions of the Kingdom through a Gentile mission (thereby leading to the definitive rejection of Jesus by all Jewish leaders). Jesus emerges from Judaism, yet opens the Kingdom to be entered by all God's children. **Jesus came for all.** This recognition of God's Time appears in all the other gospels too. Luke 22:37 has Jesus say "What is written about me is coming to fulfillment". Luke goes on to actually refer to the 'hour-time' in 22:53. Also, Mark 14:41 says, "The hour has come." And Matthew 26:45 says "the hour is at hand". Perhaps this is the original 'time's up' with Jesus' bringing about justice and revealing the judgement of God's Mercy upon our sin and the world!

While Jesus knows the 'hour has come' by his sharing in our human nature he still feels the typical 'human ambivalence about what is about to occur (his betrayal arrest, torture and death). I always like to point out that we have a Savior who identifies with us, and understands our emotions (having felt them himself). Hebrews 4:15 says, "we have a high priest who **is able to sympathize with our weakness...**" and Hebrews 2:17 says "he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest". Jesus understands us. We glimpse even Him sharing in human ambivalence here and being 'torn' in John 12:27 when He asks, "I am troubled now. **Should I say, 'Father, save me,** but it was for this purpose I came...." I hear Jesus thinking "Father, take me out of here....". He says a similar thing in again in Jn 18:11 when he says to Peter, "**Shall I not drink the cup,** the Father gave me?" Each other gospel has Jesus offer that same 'torn' prayer. Mark 14:36 "Take this cup away from me, **but not what I will but what you will.**" In Matthew 26:39 He prays, "let this cup pass from me; **yet, not as I will, but as you will.**" And Luke 22:42 "**if you are willing, take this cup away from me;** still, not my will but yours be done." Jesus feels, thinks and prays with us, through the same human hesitance we expect from such 'high drama' moments in our lives as we face our own suffering and ultimately death. But we are not alone. Jesus in fact accepts, joins with us and actually takes up to redeem our sufferings and anxieties. 1 Peter 5:7 tells us "Cast all your worries upon him." And Jesus Himself tells us, "Come to me, you who are burdened, I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) So like the 'Greeks' **we** want an introduction to Jesus and the 'peace' and serenity he brings to life's trials.

And we can follow Jesus through any 'torn' feelings we

experience by exercising his 'grain of wheat' practice (mustard seed faith). Jesus is the "grain of wheat" that surrenders to the Father's Will, and falls to the ground (John 12:24). Yet, He also rises up, being lifted up later (12:32). Jesus' extra teaching in 12:25 about those that love their life, losing it, (while those who hate life will gain it), is easily misunderstood and often rejected. It is heavy, but Jesus is teaching the law of the cross. The Law of the Cross teaches us that love always humbles itself, sacrificing and denying itself, for a greater glory not its own. This is mustard seed faith! The Mustard seed surrenders itself and embraces its smallness. Accepting first being little, to later become big, like the solitary grain of wheat that sacrifices to multiply into an abundant number of future seeds. This is in line with Jesus teaching about 'the last first, the first last, the greatest is the least and the least is the greatest.'" In Matthew 23:12 Jesus says, "Those who humble themselves will be exalted, while those exalting themselves will be humbled!"

Back to the seed and plant images, in Matthew 13:32 Jesus illustrates the spiritual principle that "To grow to be great, you must first become small!" He says, "The mustard seed is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. Becoming a large bush, the birds of the sky will come and dwell in its branches." What once was an insignificant and overlooked little seed, becomes a valuable bush protecting lofty birds that will seek shelter in it! Who would think that birds will later come ask for help from what they once without hesitating, would eat, or spit out (or worse)? A little seed? 1 Corinthians 1:27 "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and **God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong**". God uses what appears weak to be the strongest. That is Death and Resurrection Time. Jesus is the grain of wheat and mustard seed, that if we accept by living His life, then we will grow into likewise. Jesus says as much when in today's reading he says, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, **I will draw everyone to myself**" (John 12:32). For He is our origin and fulfillment, our root and fruit! A French priest-paleontologist named Teilhard de Chardin, described Jesus as **Creation's Omega Point**-It's Center and Consummation. Jesus alone brings all things into one, reconciling all things in Himself (Colossians 1:20). Jesus' sacrificial death and rising again accomplishes and restores humanity's original unity/purpose to the Father's Will. Ephesians 1:10 describes Jesus' death and resurrection as the completion of "God's plan for the fullness of time, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth" "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ" (2 Cor 5:19). Like the Greeks, we only have to surrender, and seek Him out! Seeking and finding, we exercise humble seed- faith, trusting God to work all things together for Good according to his purpose (Rom 8:28). Having found Jesus, may we be like Andrew and assist others by making their introduction to Christ through our conduct shared with them! St Andrew, pray for us!

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

Sunday: Did God lay a word or message on my heart at Mass today? Maybe an answer to a prayer I have been offering all week?

Monday: Make a plan to accept more patiently little inconveniences, pains or problems this coming week.

Tuesday: Do you have a crucifix handy? Maybe on your wall to look up at, or in your pocket that you can hold or touch when tested with a suffering to better bear it (maybe on your rosary, or on sacred heart prayer medal)?

Wednesday: Can I help lighten someone's load today by accepting some of their burden and walk with them?

Thursday: Love is this: God loved us most when we turned against Him in sin. Can I be strong enough to love someone in my opinion 'undeserving' of love? Also, can I humbly confess my prideful and judgmental attitude?

Friday: Some pray the Stations of the Cross tonight at Church, and perform a sacrifice or penance for someone today.

Saturday: Come to mass early and pray the Stations of the Cross or offer a rosary with Church for world peace.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



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!

St. Romuald Altar Society has a limited quantity of nuts for sale. If interested please contact Ruby Davis at 270-668-5528. Thank you for all of your support.

SAVE THE DATE: St. Patrick's Day Pot-Luck, Saturday March 17, at 6:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Corned beef/cabbage, Pork Loin, Meat Loaf and bread will be provided so bring a covered dish and come celebrate our many blessings.

Passion Play: We will begin rehearsals for the passion play on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the church starting February 26th. Middle school through adult who would like to participate for the Good Friday service. Contact Deacon Tony 270-617-8032 or Patty Curran 270-945-8155.

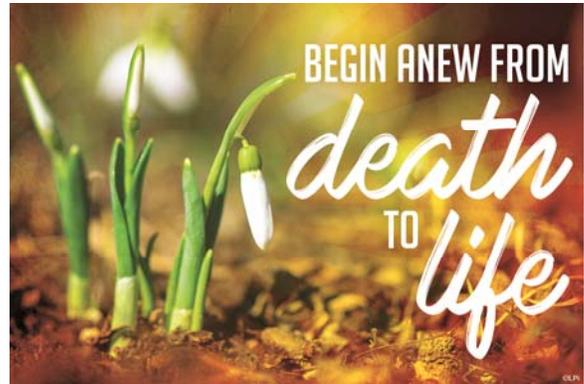
Make Holy Week Special: Plan to be part of the Holy Week Services. Join with the whole Diocesan Church at the Chrism Mass, Tuesday March 27 at 6:30 pm at the Owensboro Sports Center. The Holy Oils used all year in our sacramental life for all of the parishes are blessed and consecrated at this celebration!

Silence! Silence! Silence!

Our Holy Week liturgies are very solemn celebrations. The observance of silence at special times during the Triduum liturgies is important. At the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy we process in silence or sing a hymn as we take the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus himself, to the Parish Hall for adoration. Please remember that this is a most holy and solemn moment. If you choose not to process over to the hall you are still asked to show respect by maintaining silence as you leave church and in the parking lot. The liturgy of Good Friday itself is subdued and solemn and begins and ends with silence. We remember our Savior's crucifixion and death and we leave in silence reflecting the somberness of this moment. At the Easter Vigil, once again the celebration begins in silence with people waiting in darkness. Silence awakens us to the presence of God in our midst!

If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like Holy Communion brought to them, please call the office at 270-756-2356.

You are invited to Rosary, Benediction and Stations of the Cross with the school children on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon.



This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	6:00 pm	Passion Play Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Lenten Group & Senior Day
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	Lenten Group
	6:00 pm,	Penance Service - St. Mary's , McQuady
Wed	12:00 pm	Stations of the Cross & Rosary
	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
	6:00 pm	First Communion Parents Meeting
	6:00 pm	Penance Service - St. Anthony
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Penance Service - St. Romuald
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	4:00 pm	SRIS Fish Fry
	6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night

Upcoming

Mar 27 6:30 pm Chrism Mass

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Don Alexander, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Janet O'Reilly, Peggy Phillips, Joan & Tom Powers, Joe Priest, Mary Jo Rankin, Rita Roach, Kimberly Rolan, Suzanne Rose, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, Pam Sturgeon, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Leona Whitworth, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe. **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, Lane D. Taul, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



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!

A Lenten Journey: Journey with Dr. Lawrence V. McCrobie, Catholic Liturgist and Religious Educator as he leads us on a journey through Bishop Robert Barron's program in exploration of the lasting influences of these *Pivotal Players*. **CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players** showcases a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shape the life of the Church but changed the course of western civilization. Join us on Tuesday, March 13th at 10:00 am and at 6:00 pm.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life has started a monthly Family Life Newsletter that includes information on events, articles, dates, and activities pertaining to families in the Diocese of Owensboro as well as couples preparing for marriage. The link to subscribe to the newsletter is on our webpage: owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

Thank You for the wonderful meal after Sandy's service. Thanks to the choir and Father Brian for a beautiful mass and sermon. Sandy would have been smiling. O'Donoghue and Priest Families

New Missalettes With Mass Prayers in Front Cover: Please note that the missalettes now contain on the inside front cover the longer prayers we offer at Mass, similar to the old Mass cards that were in the pew holders. The company beginning to offer those prayers in a more accessible place conveniently replaces now those older cards that were showing so much wear and tear. But like a good Rosary, Bible or Prayer Book that shows tattered edges and wearing, it is a good sign of them being used so much! More Prayer, More Grace, More Good!

AROUND AND ABOUT

Dear St Romuald Church, Your love, prayers, support and continued kindness mean so much to us. The generous recent collection, plus hosting the benefit at St Romuald have made this difficult time more bearable and we are so thankful to you. God bless you, Rufus Tivitt & Family

Reminder of Penance Confession Opportunities
Every Wednesdays 4:00-5:00, Thursday 6:00 -7:00 & Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm
Communal Parish Penance services
March 20 St Mary, McQuady 6:00 pm
March 21 St Anthony Axtell, 6:00 pm
March 22, St Romuald Bishop Medley Presiding (5 priests)

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 78 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

Trinity High School Parent Information Night: Wednesday, March 28th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in sending their child to Trinity High School should attend this meeting.



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A Word from Pope Francis:

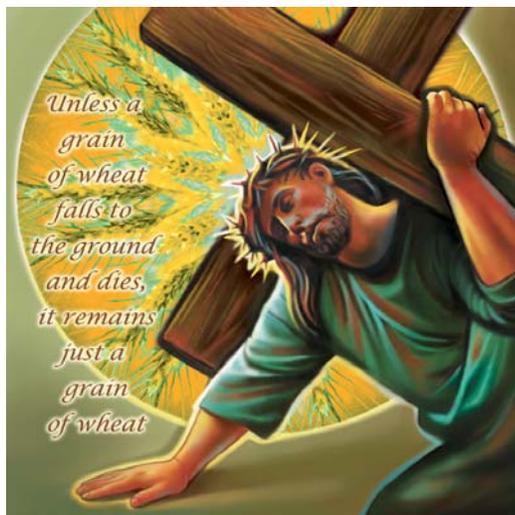
"God so loved the world, He sent his Son not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Even when the situation seems desperate, God intervenes, offering man salvation and joy. God doesn't stand aside while we hurt, but enters into the history of humanity to animate and save it with his grace. Christians are called to reject the temptation to be too sure of themselves, wanting to 'do without God' or be 'liberated from God'. When we find the courage to consider ourselves for what we are, we realize that we are people called to deal with our fragility and our limits. Instead of facing our own weaknesses and truth, many people look for 'a way out', turning to dangerous shortcuts like the dark tunnels of drugs, superstitions, magic rituals or ruinous fads. Christianity offers a different path; not an easy one, but one that leads to hope through love and sacrifice. It's good to know our limits, and not be discouraged to offer our limits to God. He takes us by the hand, never leaving us alone. Never, and because of this we have joy." (Homily 3-11-2018)

The Men's Lenten Discernment Retreat is a retreat for men ages 18-30 who are seriously thinking about their vocation and who have the desire to courageously give their lives to Christ. This retreat is an opportunity to set some time out in silence to listen to the voice of God in your life; receive guidance for the discernment process; learn the tools of discernment, and sharpen your discerning skills. There will be time for prayer, reflection, and rest. The Men's Discernment Retreat will be held on **March 23-25 (Palm Sunday Weekend)** at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. There is no cost to attend but registration is necessary.

Registration deadline is March 19th

For more information and to register online, contact the vocations office:

270-683-1545, jason.mcclure@pastoral.org,
www.owensborovocations.com



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; (procession) Is 50:4-7; Ps 22: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

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.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 10-15, 2018 at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making through the lens of missionary discipleship. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 14th. Registrations after May 14th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email robin.tomes@pastoral.com for more information.



Sunday, Mar 18, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT; THIRD SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Yes, we can!

Maybe it feels like something's holding you back: lack of education or funds, past decisions or old wounds, complicated relationships or too many responsibilities. But in the big picture, only two things impede our liberty: sin and death. If we could get beyond those two, we walk into perfect freedom. The good news is, we can! In today's Scrutiny, we celebrate how the "death-dealing" power of evil gives way to the "life-giving sacraments" that make it possible for us to walk free of every episode of death. What binds you? Jesus is calling you to freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34)*. "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them."

Monday, Mar 19, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

Seek some fatherly advice

Jesus taught his disciples to pray "Our Father . . ." We are blessed in the name of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a generous and strong father who always put the well-being of Mary and Jesus first. He stands as an inspiration for parents, and he points to the kind of parental love God has for us. He is also a powerful intercessor. Catholics call Saint Joseph the patron saint of the entire church. Pray to Joseph today in your own words for the wisdom and courage to care for the people and responsibilities in your charge.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543)*. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Tuesday, Mar 20, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Integrity is the best calling card

There are countless guides on how to write the perfect résumé. Nearly all suggest that you include lots of credentials and personal referrals of influential people. After all, it's who you know and what qualifications you bring to the table that matter, right? On the other hand, what would a prophet's *curriculum vitae* look like? Here we are seeing a different kind of *vita*, where personal integrity carries the day. In the gospel the Pharisees want to see a traditional résumé of Jesus, but many people believed in Jesus based on the power of his witness. Listen carefully to what Jesus is saying and do your best to honor it in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252)*. "Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him."

Wednesday, Mar 21, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

God's got nothing to prove

W. C. Fields used to exclaim in his films, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" No doubt Fields enjoyed using these exotic biblical names as an expression, but behind them are three actual characters from Hebrew scripture. The Babylonian king had commanded them to worship the statue of a god or face immediate execution. Their response was an interesting one. Of course they wouldn't bow down, and if God saved them, so be it. But if not, they *still* wouldn't deny their God. Now that's faith—both the willingness to give up their lives but also their affirmation that God did not have to prove anything to deserve their trust. Faith does not begin with what God will do for you if

you believe. It starts with believing because God *is* God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253)*. "Jesus then said to those . . . who believed in him, 'If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples.'"

Thursday, Mar 22, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

How well do you know God?

"How well do you know me?" quizzes—with questions like, "What's my favorite band/movie/song/video game? Where would I most like to be? Who are my heroes?"—have long been lighthearted ways to test or strengthen friendships. With Lent particularly set aside for repentance and renewal, it's a good time to take a "how well do you know God" quiz. Ask yourself: Based on scripture and tradition, what do I know to be God's likes and dislikes? Who are the people with whom God has found favor? Where am I likely to find God? Your search for answers will no doubt test and, let's hope, strengthen your friendship with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254)*. "Jesus answered, ' . . . You do not know him, but I know him.'"

Friday, Mar 23, 2018

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Timely advice

"Turibius the Tireless" could be the nickname of today's saint. As a Spanish missionary and later bishop in 16th-century colonial Peru, he traversed a 176,000-square-mile diocese—three times—to attend to those in his charge. His favorite saying is one we do well to keep in mind: "Time is not our own, and we must give a strict account of it." Keep a simple time log for a week, and you'll learn something about your priorities. You might be surprised by how much time is frittered away. Not that down-time is all bad, mind you—relaxing and recreating are also part of God's plan. But keep in mind that time is a nonrenewable resource. How will you spend your precious allotment?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255)*. "Many there began to believe in him."

Saturday, Mar 24, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be the voice of the voiceless

Each year, on March 24, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed. This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was martyred on this date in 1980. Archbishop Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador. "Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet." These fateful words of Romero speak of what it means to be a person of faith. Faith must be lived out. Romero preached the gospel by how he lived. His life broadcast the Good News, calling others to lives of holiness and humility. Your life can speak volumes, too; it's simply a matter of letting God make of you a microphone.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256)*. "He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation."

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