



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 15, 2018 - Third Sunday of Easter

dear Padre

Parish Office:

Phone: 756-2356

Fax: 756-2099

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Email: stromuald@bbtel.com

www.stromuald.org

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor, Father Brian Johnson

Email: Brian.Johnson@pastoral.org

Deacon, Tony Anthony

Deacon, Mike Wiedemer

Administrative Asst, Jane Haynes

CRE: Adult, Rosa Hockenberry

CRE: RCIA, 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

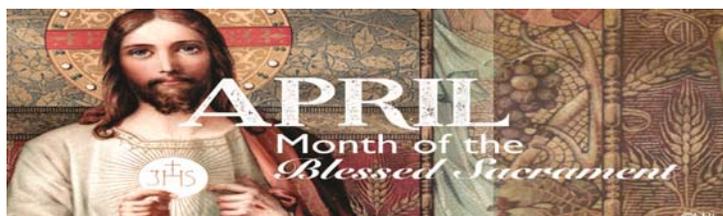
I read my horoscope in the daily newspaper faithfully. Is there anything wrong with this? I don't take what it says seriously, but sometimes the predictions do come true.

Many people enjoy reading their daily horoscopes as a form of entertainment. Like you, they don't take it seriously. When it's approached in this lighthearted way, there is no sin. Others, however, take their horoscopes seriously. Perhaps they don't realize what might underlie their fascination with it. Could it be a desire to escape responsibility? It's a cop-out to believe horoscope advice like, "If the position of the stars makes you act a certain way, then you're not responsible for your actions." This thinking doesn't acknowledge that God, as Lord of the universe, is the creator of these stars and their movements. It's absurd to ascribe mystical powers to the stars themselves as if they could influence us independently of God's providence.

What about predictions that come true? Reread that horoscope and you'll usually find it was worded in such a general way that it would fit almost any situation. There's also the aspect of the self-fulfilling prophecy. If you think you're going to have a certain type of day, you are more likely to have that type of day. Your approach affects your day, not an outside force.

The future will always contain unknowns. For Christians, however, the unknown is cushioned by the belief that all things are in the providential hands of a loving God.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



Masses for the Week

April 16th - 22nd

Tues	1:00 pm	Dorothy Manning (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	Robert Myldy (RM)
Thurs	9:30 am	Joann Bruington (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Thomas Wheatley
Sat	5:00 pm	Mita & Fred Sulpa (MW)
Sun	7:00 am	In Thanksgiving (SA)
	10:00 am	Earl O'Donoghue (PO)

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$8,885.00
Children.....	\$1.00
Building Fund.....	\$205.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$38.32

Parish Financial Summary

July-March, 2018

Total Income	\$410,900
Total Expenses	\$376,300
	\$ 34,600

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 - April 21st & 22nd

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Julie Jarboe Millie Whittler	Jennifer O'Reilly Pam Pollock	C-Jim Bland* C-Sam Bland S-Will Bland S-Arnold O'Reilly	Haley Weise Sam Weise	Minnie Nimmo	Pippa
7:00 am	Denise Hardesty Anne O'Reilly	Jim Heavrin	C-Greg Hardesty* C-Chuck Hardesty S-Kevin Oelze S-Stephen Oelze	Brianna Leslie Trey Laslie	Crystal Greenwell	Pippa
10:00 am	Sharon Hale Mona Hinton Tabetha Walz	Dolores Mattingly Joellen McGary	C-Noah Matthews* C-Mack Mattingly S-Chuck McGary S-Joey Walz	Mary Grace Mattingly Sydney Mattingly	Sandy Horsley	P.J./Choir Cantor: Cameron

Radio Minister: Chuck Robbins

Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY



"Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35). Though they don't recognize Him, Jesus meets on the road two of his disciples. *He meets them were they are at: feeling overwhelmed and discouraged.* He walks with them, leading them farther down the road. But later, they do come to realize it is Him, real and resurrected, sitting with them at the table during the special meal prayer and 'breaking of the bread'! Something in Jesus' words (his familiar & repeated phrases) or something in Jesus' gestures (the way he held the cup, or broke apart the

bread) opened their eyes to see Him clearly; that it was Jesus right there in front of them! Something about Jesus' words or actions took their hearts right back to that 'Last Supper moment', when Jesus set into a ritual format this memorial of His Sacrifice. I think of this ritual action of prayerfully 'breaking bread', as the name the first Christians used to describe their putting into action Jesus' command to **'Do this in memory of me'** (Luke 22:19). I find the apostles' regular and prayerful 'breaking of bread' to be an experience of God's worship in continuity **with what we do in every daily or at least Sunday 'celebration of the Holy Eucharist'** or 'participation in Mass' or 'Commemoration of the Lord's Supper'. The 'breaking of bread' seems to be a technical phrase indicating a regular gathering of the apostles to ritually participate together in a series of prayers, hymns, and religious actions. The Road to Emmaus event (Luke 24) suggests in order a 1) time of fellowship and prayer-sharing about personal concerns, 2) a reading/study of scripture and delivery of a message, 3) a time of 'thanks & praise' prayers over gifts offered (especially bread & wine) followed by a 4) ritual sharing-distribution of the consecrated food. See the full Emmaus story where Jesus presides over 'Bread-breaking' in Luke 24:15-31 or in Acts of Apostles 20:7-11 where St Paul also presides over 'Bread-Breaking' using those same elemental parts of fellowship & community prayers, scripture preaching, and sharing in the ritual bread blessing and eating. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-27, St Paul refers to 'bread-breaking' as an **organized tradition** passed on from the beginning. St Paul keeps his instructions to a minimum but he includes **actual words of the Last Supper to be included every time**, specifically referencing **'Jesus' Body'** and **'Jesus' Blood'**. St Paul even addresses the frequency of such ritual prayers when he says in verse 26, "For **as often** as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes." He also outlines the core belief of Christ's real presence in the elements of consecrated bread and wine (not just 'symbolic', not just a 'reminder') when he says in 1 Corinthians 10:16 "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation in the blood of Christ?** The bread that we break, is it not a **participation in the body of Christ?**" St Paul is as specific and clear as Jesus Himself when he described this sacrificial gift of His Life in John 6:53-56. There Jesus says of His own Body, and His own Blood, that they are **'real food and real drink'** to be received. Jesus is 'truly present', as His own Word indicates in John 6:56 "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **remains in me and I in him.**" That is **'real presence'**, Jesus in us and Us in Him. So we stay close to and follow a strict offering of His ritual words and actions began at the Last Supper. We 'do **this** in memory of Him'.

But, back to the actual title 'breaking of the bread', we find that phrase in Acts of the Apostles 2:42, 2:46, 20:7, 20:11, and 27:35. Mentioned so much times, tells me that 'the breaking of the bread' was a well-established and routine experience of regular worship for the first Christians. We find the action verb of 'break' referring to bread in Jesus' hands in the Last Supper accounts Mark 14:22, Matthew 26:25, Luke 22:19, and even St Paul mentions it in 1 Corinthians 11:24 (*verb 'break' linked to 'gave' is found in other miraculous scenes with Jesus such as the multiplication of loaves/fishes found in all four gospels Matt 14:13-21, Mk 6:32-44; Lk 9:10-17; Jn 6:1-13*). I think these powerful prayer experiences of grace that people had with Jesus impressed so deeply upon them His Divine Presence, that they continued to follow the same format from the beginning and all through Early Church History. Closely related to this divinely formatted prayer, was the observance of a weekly, special Day of Prayer for the First Christians, called 'The Lord's Day' (Revelation 1:10), also known as **'the First Day of the Week'** (Day of Jesus' Resurrection!). Considered a pre-eminent time to gather and worship, the gospels faithfully use the phrase 'first day of the week' to identify the Day of Resurrection and 'Return

Appearance' of Jesus to his disciples. We find it in all four gospels, Matt 28:1, Mark 16:2, and 16:9, Luke 24:1 & John 20:11. Yet, I love the relation of today's gospel reading of the 'Doubting Thomas' story that definitively establishes the pattern of the First Christians faithfully gathering 'week after week' to follow Jesus' command to 'do **this** in memory of me.' This regular gathering begins on Easter Day, the first day of the week in John 20:19, and then like clockwork **'a week later'** in John 20:26. It's amazing to me, that the scripture specifies that **'A week later'** the apostles and disciples **again** are gathered in the same place (now with Thomas)! Sounds like a date! (Remember that Luke's version of 'breaking bread' in chapter 24 occurs Easter night, also the 'first day of week'). Most importantly, Jesus showed up! I find that a revelation of such **patterned worship** for the First Christians, to gather weekly on the Lord's Day of Resurrection to share fellowship and ritual prayer with others (becoming our Sunday obligation' to worship God communally). But maybe, the clearest sign of this is demonstrated in the First Christians' actual practice found in the Acts of the Apostles. We find it stated in *Acts of Apostles 20:7* that "On the **first day of the week when we gathered to break bread**". Also, in another passage from St Paul we hear about a request for a 'charity' collection to be gathered during their regular community prayer time in *1 Corinthians 16:2* "On the **first day of the week** each of you should set aside as a gift whatever one can afford," What a comforting continuity to recall that what we participate in weekly runs from the first appearance of Jesus Resurrected on Easter Day until now, today as we come together to experience 'communion', singing hymns, reading scripture, praying and receiving Jesus with one another again. Such deep roots to what we do every week should motivate us never to miss an occasion to publicly pray and worship God together. I know we can easily fall into the trap of thinking, 'But what do I get out of Mass every week?' to excuse our failure to give God His due thanks and praise. But we have to ask ourselves the better question of **'What am I bringing to Mass each week?'** God certainly gives to me (inside and outside of Mass), so what do I offer him in return? Pray about it! And I am struck by the fact that even in the earliest days, such a temptation of 'skipping mass' occurred, as we hear about in the letter to the Hebrews 10:25, **'We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some**, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near." From the apostles' time, until now, faithful Christians gather in 'Christ's Name' to experience and know Him in the 'Breaking of the Bread.' What a gift for us to be part of such a revelation of God!

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

Sunday: What message, phrase or word do I remember from Mass today? Pray over and ask God what meaning it holds for you or for someone you need to share it with this week.

Monday: Do I give others time to share with me important things going on in their life? Do I listen closely to what they are saying

Tuesday: Jesus talked about the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. Which of those scriptures speak most to you? Which do you pray over the most and read as your first preference?

Wednesday: Who am I most likely to ask for guidance or clarification if I do not understand what God is doing in my life? From whom do I seek spiritual direction or wise counsel?

Thursday: Am I comfortable being guided by the Holy Spirit (On the Way with Christ), trusting God to lead and not forcing my own direction? Can I be at peace without knowing exactly everything I am going to be led to do by God's nudging today?

Friday: Perform a corporal work of mercy today. Offer it as an act of penance for no reward or recognition.

Saturday: Come to Mass early to pre-read the bible passages we will proclaim and study at Mass. Pray the Rosary with others, and ask the Blessed Mother, who treasured all of God's Words in her heart, and pondered on them (Luke 2:19), to help you understand God's meaning for you.

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!

Family Movie Night: Come join us on Saturday, April 21st, as we view the movie "Lukewarm" starring John Schneider... "Luke started out on the right path, but lately he has lost his way. Growing up without a dad was hard, and now Luke must decide if he can forgive his father and get his life back on track." Join us for popcorn and a drink and some good old family entertainment, at 6:15 pm, April 21st.

Senior Day will take place on Tuesday, April 24th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, with discussion of the saints on our agenda. St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert and St. Anselm will be on the table for discussion. Along with some good old fashion home cooking, we will be serving fried chicken and rolls. Bring a pal, bring a buddy, bring a friend and enjoy a day of fellowship at St. Romuald Senior Day.

Picnic News

Silent Auction Donations Needed: Baked Goods, Fresh Vegetables, Home made Items, newly purchased item of any kind, baskets (such as a wine basket), restaurant certificates, tickets to theme parks etc. Please contact Brenda Elder at 270-617-0176 or Sheila Sills at 270-993-8166 for more information.

Stuffed Animals: Donations of new or gently used stuffed animals are needed for our picnic. Baskets are at the doors of the church or you may bring them to the church office.



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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!!

St. Romuald Interparochial School and Pre-school are now accepting applications for anyone wanting to pre-register their children for next year. We welcome your inquiries about an education at St. Romuald Interparochial School. A quality education at SRIS is truly a family experience. We have a proud "tradition of excellence." Call 756-5504, email Lori Carwile lori.carwile@stromualdschool.org for pre-school or Sheila Drane sheila.drane@stromualdschool.org, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Patsy Whitfill, April 20th.

ANNIVERSARY: Greg & Jennifer Tate will be celebrating 25 years of marriage on April 23rd.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:30 pm	Rebuilding after Divorce
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:00 pm	Family Holy Hour
Fri	9:00 am	School Mass
	3:00 pm	1st Communion Prayer Day
Sat	6:15 pm	Family Movie Night
Sun	1:00 pm	1st Communion
Upcoming		
Apr 24	9:00 am	Senior Day

PRAYER REQUESTS

We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Debbie Bowlds, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, **Ashley Carwile**, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davye Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, **Don Ford**, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Joe Hess, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, **Joe Jarboe**, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, **Rebecca Logsdon**, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, Joe Miller, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, Patsy 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, Diane Whitney, Leona Whitworth, **Tom Winchell**, 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



Knights of Columbus Events: If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having an exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. Hardinsburg Council will conduct a membership drive after each Mass at St Romuald on April 21-22. Please considering joining us. For more information visit www.kofc.org.

Put on your calendar to take your family to breakfast on 29th of April, 8 am at St Romuald's Parish Hall, compliments of the Knights of Columbus. Coffee, milk, juice, sausage and gravy.

Knights of Columbus-Hardinsburg Council Members and Family: Come out and celebrate our clergy at our Annual Clergy Recognition/Appreciation Dinner, Patio Steakhouse, Tell City Indiana, 27 April 2018, 5:30 PM (CST)

Clergy: Fathers Brian Johnson, Dan Kreutzer, Tony Stevenson, and our Deacons Tony Anthony and Mike Wiedemer. Meals for Clergy will be provided by Hardinsburg Council 2499. Please RSVP to GK Pat O'Reilly: by April 20 with number in party. "

Evangelization in Jail & Prison Ministry: A training workshop to reflect upon the role of evangelist in the jail setting is being conducted by the Diocese of Owensboro. It will be an opportunity to work on evangelization approaches, bringing God's Word and hope to conversion situations for rehabilitation. To attend, please contact Deacon Mike or Deacon Richard Murphy at 270/ 683-1545 or send an email message to him at richard.murphy@pastoral.org on or before May 22, 2018.

AROUND AND ABOUT

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.**

Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce

The offices of Marriage & Family Life and Tribunal are collaborating on Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce, an informal panel discussion where panelists will share witness stories from their own experience of divorce. Sessions are scheduled in four locations across the diocese to allow multiple opportunities to attend. (The Tribunal Office will conduct a follow-up session in each location a month later to offer information regarding declarations of invalidity.)

Monday, April 9@ St. Thomas More, Paducah, 6:30 pm

Tuesday April 17 @ St. Romuald, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 24 @ Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 1 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, 6:30 pm

Find these dates and the follow-up sessions by visiting Owensborodiocese.org/family-life.

The Clarkson VA clinic will have their annual VA2K walk for Homeless veterans on 5/12 @ 10:00 am, at James Beville City Park in Leitchfield.

We are accepting donations of the following items, which will go to the homeless veterans in our area Sunscreen, Soap, Deodorant, Tooth brush, Tooth paste, Wet wipes, Razors, Ponchos, Socks, Bottled water, Hand sanitizer, Individual packaged snacks Ball caps, toboggans, Back packs. There will be tubs at the doors of the Church for these items.

Hardinsburg Community Blood Drive, Tuesday, April 17th, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Hardinsburg Baptist Church.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"When the Mass ends, the commitment for Christian witness opens. We leave the church to go in peace to bring the blessing of God to our daily activities, to our homes, to our work, to the affairs of the earthly city, glorifying the Lord with our lives. The Mass is not just a weekly commitment that can be forgotten about once people go out the church doors. No. Christians go to Mass to participate in the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, and to live as better Christians. If we leave the church gossiping or talking badly about other people, then the Mass didn't enter into my heart, because such poor Christian witness is not a fruit of Mass. Every time I leave Mass I must leave better than I how I went in and with a stronger desire to live as a Christian. When we are told to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord" that must find fulfillment in the concrete choices one makes. We cannot forget that we celebrate the Eucharist to learn to become Eucharistic men and women, which means allowing Christ to act in and through the choices one makes. We must embody Jesus' thoughts, feelings and actions toward others" (Vatican Audience 4-4-2018)



We welcome Tonya House into full communion with the Catholic Church.
We congratulate Austin Harris, Natalie Hockenberry, and Joshua Stasel on their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
We rejoice with Jozlyn Shaw on her First Holy Communion.

National Day of Prayer for America: Come join others in praying for unity within this blessed nation of ours. Let us pray for our government leaders and our country to be renewed in seeking God's wisdom and direction. Thursday May 3, at 12:00 noon at outside Breckinridge County Judicial Center (#pray4unity).

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Called by Name Program: Sunday April 22nd, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It has also been designated a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This year marks its 55th year. As we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, each parish in the Diocese of Owensboro has been invited to participate in **CALLED BY NAME**, a program of vocations awareness that offers an opportunity for us to pray for priestly vocations; to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our parish; and finally, to call forth and encourage these members to share their gifts in priesthood. Perhaps you know a man (high school or older) who would, in your opinion, have the qualities to become a priest. Please recommend this person by submitting their name online at <https://owensborodiocese.org/called-by-name/> or by contacting the vocations office: 270-683-1545 or jason.mcclure@pastoral.org

THANK YOU FROM ART & ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE: A Special Thank You to all who helped prepare our worship space for Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Marie Rose; Jeanne Lee; Don Payne; Judy Tivitt; Rosa Hockenberry; Chris Brumfield; Betty Heavrin; Debbie Metcalfe; Shelia Whitworth; Connie Brumfield; Arnold O'Reilly; Kevin and Shannon Oelze; Missy Critchelow; Betty Whitfill, Lauren and Mackenzie; Jenny Pile, Logan and Emma; Adam Basham; David Basham; David and Tabettha Walz, Rebecca and Logan; Laura Frank; Lou Ann Whitworth; Darlene Camp. It takes many to prepare our worship space for these special and Holy occasions and you did an outstanding job. If you would like to volunteer in this ministry to your church, please call the office 756-2356 or Dolores Mattingly 756-5219. It will only take a small slot of your time once a year.



Sunday, Apr 15, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Love fully

One thing Jesus never could stomach is a hypocrite. In the stories, he always prefers sincere sinners to religious fakers. It's easy to slip into the role of a synthetic disciple without even noticing.

Our religious routines—prayer, Mass attendance, lip-synched proper responses to moral issues—can go on autopilot. Meanwhile, self-congratulation, nasty judgments, self-involvement, and the unwillingness to forgive can turn our hearts to stone under the surface. How we love is far more important than how we look.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48 (47).* "Those who say, 'I know him,' but do not keep his commandments are liars."

Monday, Apr 16, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

For everything there is a season

In order to bring something new into the world something about the old has to change. Prospective parents give up a lot of freedom when they invite a child into their family. To move to a new place you have to surrender the old one. When Jesus inaugurated "the way, the truth, and the life" in his ministry, it threatened business-as-usual for the contented synagogue-goers around him. They feared the destruction of the old practices and didn't cheerfully anticipate the arrival of the new. Change is always intimidating. Pray for the grace to make room for the new.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273).* "This Jesus the Nazorean will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."

Tuesday, Apr 17, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Focus on the good—in everyone

Just as Mother Teresa had her critics, so also Father Damien was maligned after his death. It was novelist Robert Louis Stevenson, however, who visited the island leper colony where Damien ministered in 1889 and set the record straight. When a Honolulu pastor publicly called Damien a "coarse, dirty man" whose leprosy should be attributed to his "carelessness," Stevenson rebutted: "You are one of those who have an eye for faults and failures; that you take a pleasure to find and publish them; and that, having found them, you make haste to forget the virtues and the real success which had alone introduced them to your knowledge. It is a dangerous frame of mind." Not all are called to Damien's heroism, but every Christian must reject a narrow-mindedness that sees only the faults and failures of others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274).* "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Wednesday, Apr 18, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Hang out the welcome mat

Christians who define their faith in limiting terms—"who's out and who's in," for example—appear to have missed the memo from Christ that all are welcome at his table. Too often throughout history, and today as well, a desire for "religious purity" ends up hurting a lot of people who don't fit the mold. Avoid exclusionary ideology; remember that everyone else doesn't have to be wrong for you to be right with God. Christ is bigger than that, and we can be, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275).* "I will not reject anyone who comes to me."

Thursday, Apr 19, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

One life to live

"Forever is a long time," our mothers reminded us when we moaned about how it would take that long to do our homework or chores, or for summer to come again. But somehow the homework and the chores got done, and summer arrived—but forever never did. How will we know when forever begins? Technically, it already has; that is, the idea of everlasting life is not something for the future but is a continuation of the life we now enjoy. When the priest prays at Mass, "Lead us to everlasting life," he is really saying, "Keep us *in* everlasting life." Time to start living life for keeps!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276).* "Whoever eats of this bread will live forever."

Friday, Apr 20, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Follow the light

Impressionist painter Claude Monet, a master at capturing the effects of light on landscapes, often found the process harrowing. He would paint the same scene with a dozen canvases and still not be satisfied. While trying to capture the color of an Italian landscape, Monet wrote: "I'm afraid what I'm doing is just dreadful and yet I really am understating it; the light is simply terrifying." Monet's *Water Lilies*, his final masterpiece in the study of light, was completed well after he had lost most of his sight. In the end, he had overcome his fears and learned to be the light. Our mission as Christians is similar: to painstakingly master our doubts and become one with the Light of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277).* "He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'"

Saturday, Apr 21, 2018

MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

To know God is to love God

"Faith seeking understanding" is the motto of Saint Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109). Anselm saw faith that "merely believes what it ought" as no faith at all. For Anselm, an active love of God, or faith, seeks a greater knowledge of God. That belief led him into the heady world of philosophical theology in search of a single proof for the existence of God. He finally came up with what he believed to be an irrefutable argument: "God is that than which nothing greater can be conceived." Although immediately criticized by a contemporary philosopher, Anselm's argument continues to be considered in any discussion of the existence of God. What steps can you take to deepen your knowledge of God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278).* "You have the words of eternal life."

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