



ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

April 29, 2018 - Fifth 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

Just last week, my parish ran a "join up" campaign at all the Masses. I felt guilty because I didn't sign up for anything. Do I have an obligation to join any of the parish organizations?

When you join any of your parish organizations, you will experience a network of people dedicated to building up the body of Christ through the various parish ministries.

According to the Code of Canon Law, the baptized are fundamentally united in the *communio fidelium*, "a dynamic reality requiring the active participation of all the faithful in the Church's life and mission" (Canon 209). It finds visible expression through public worship and through the exercise of obligations and rights. As a parish member, you are obligated to maintain communion with the Church; to fulfill your particular duties to the universal Church and your parish church; to live a holy life and promote the growth of the Church; to work to spread the gospel; and to follow what the pastor and bishops declare as teachers of the faith and leaders of the Church (Canons 209–212).

Laypeople are called to infuse their faith in Christ through all their undertakings in the secular world and within the Church. The various organized ministries of the parish offer ways that you, as a parishioner, can fulfill some of those obligations as you are able, in the Church's life and mission inside and outside your parish. Perhaps you will rethink your decision to not sign up for anything. It's never too late to become a parish volunteer!

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Masses for the Week

April 30th - May 6th

Tues	1:00 pm	Ron Wilcheck (Extended Care)
Wed	5:00 pm	O'Donoghue Family (MO)
Thurs	9:30 am	Chester Bruington (Medco)
Fri	9:00 am	Victor Henning
Sat	8:00 am	Travis Greenwood
	5:00 pm	Beavin Thornsberry (GT)
Sun	7:00 am	Rodney Mercer (AM)
	10:00 am	Doris Priest

Stewardship of Finance

Last Sunday's Collection

Sunday Collection.....	\$6,501.00
Children.....	\$0
Building Fund.....	\$5.00
Loose Change for the Poor.....	\$63.58

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 - May 5th & 6th

	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Servers	Rosary Leaders	Music Ministers
5:00 pm	Jerry Jarboe Mitzi Mattingly	Dayle Riley Brenda Wheatley	C-Eric Barr* C-Evan Barr S-Jamie Barr S-Harry Mattingly	Preston Flood Claire O'Donoghue Benjamin Barr	Brenda Wheatley	Pippa
7:00 am	Amelia Anthony Cara Wilson	Buddy Payne	C-Scott Wilson* C-Doug Flood S-Don Payne S-Bobby Joe Rhodes	Andrew Carwile Gabe Carwile Luke Carwile	Raymond Wethington	Pippa
10:00 am	LaDonna Barton Ort Critchelov Sandy Horsley Sharon Hale	Jessica Phillips Suzanne Rose	C-Drew Hinton* C-Mike Hinton S-Tyler Hinton S-Jim Sills	Tori Barton Ava Phillips	Pat Whitfill	P.J./Choir Cantor: Carlos
Radio Minister: Joe Hess Children's Liturgy: NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY						



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower" (John 15:1). Jesus starts out today's gospel describing His relationship to the Father. Back in Holy Week, we recounted the days of Christ's Passion, and we heard Jesus' prayer of surrender on the cross, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Jesus was stating His feeling of being the perfect servant, the finest instrument in the hand of the Father to bring about our redemption (showing us the Way!) Jesus was embodying the great psychological and *spiritual value of praying the Psalms at all*

times of our life. Those words He prayed are *Psalms 31:6, a prayer of trust in time of trouble.* I think we overlook the Psalms too much, not understanding the remedy and consolation God desires to give us through them. The Psalms are God's comfort to soothe our soul, if we allow them. Not praying the Psalms is like having the medicinal cure to our disease in our cabinet without taking it! *'There is power in those psalms!'* So Jesus starts telling us in the gospel today first, how He relates to the Father and then he will end by saying how we relate to him-(we the branch to Him the vine). But Jesus Himself is in the hands of the vine-grower, increasing, flourishing and bearing fruit/seed under the care of the Father. In John 6:38, Jesus had said, "I came..... not to do my own will but the will of the One who sent me [Father]." That is a true vine being "trained" (like pole beans) and directed in its growth to thrive and harvest abundantly. The **abundance** is the **'glory'**. The vine-grower's hands cultivate and prune the vine for it to yield maximum fruit. That is Jesus' life and example on earth, **not doing 'what he wanted'** but what glorified the Father. Perfect Servant! The following verses of Jesus exemplify the attitude of the true vine: John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth by accomplishing **the work that you gave me to do.**" John 8:50 "I do not seek my own glory" John 7:18 "Whoever speaks **on his own seeks his own glory**, but whoever **seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful...**" Jesus seeks the harvest and glory of the Father, the source of life, not any personal gain/ success. It is the Father's plan/will that is worked for, and sought. I love how we see this tremendous growth with every reading from Acts of the Apostles every day of our Eater season. Particular episodes are especially amazing, such as in Acts Apostles 2:41 where we hear that after hearing a Spirit-filled preaching from Peter "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and **about three thousand persons were added that day.**" At one service, 3,000 added! God be glorified! There is mention later of a **'5,000 gain'** in Acts 5:14. The Church just kept growing, as Acts 2:47 reads that "And every day the Lord **added to their number** those who were being saved." And Acts 5:14 that "more than ever, believers in the Lord, **great numbers** of men and women, were **added to them.**" (See also Acts 6:7; 11:21, 24; 21:20, where we hear about the church growing and growing And growing) ...like an unstoppable kudzu vine, wisteria arbor or morning glory vine, the Church just keeps on growing! This awesome increase in numbers and life within the church reflects the universal mission of Christ's salvation of all the world. And it is open to still more, when I hear about the 5,000 being baptized, I think of the 5,000 that were fed miraculously by the seashore, back in mark 6:37-44. I imagine they all returned later to fully join the company of Christ's Church. The end of that miracle indicated that Jesus had the apostles gather up the leftover bread to fill up an additional 12 wicker baskets, which tells me Jesus allowed for **great amounts of growing room** for the multitudes to come on fully later! So Jesus ended today's gospel by describing our relation to Him, "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5) and our place on the vine is to grow and increase as branches. Jesus says about us that 'this is My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples' (John 15:8).

Just before Easter, I finished reading a book titled, "Exuberance" by Kay Jamison and she makes the point repeatedly about the unbounded resilience we see in life's diversity of species and it's extremely fertile regeneration, as if God has planted a method of abundant resurrection even into our natural experiences of life. (Flashback to 5th Sunday Lent, when we heard Jesus speak about the 'grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies'. Alone it is a solitary grain, but surrendering to the earth it dies and produces 'much' fruit (John 12:24)) So what about that 'abundance' or 'much' to be found in creation? Jamison pointed out some tremendously fruitful proofs of life teeming over in nature that scientists have

reported. For example, 1) Over a seven year period with the best of circumstances a pair of poppy flowers can produce 820 million million million descendants, or 2) a single pair of spiders over seven years can produce 427 thousand million million descendants (p.22-23). THAT IS SOME ABUNDANT LIFE! I call it the 'Glory of our Creator GOD!' And this exuberance of God's creative life-force is not only reflected in **great fertility**, but also in earth's **grand diversity**- so many different species among us! Jamison reports that in just a few square miles of Brazilian rainforest, scientists have catalogued over 1,500 different species of butterfly! When Pope Francis wrote his encyclical back in May 2015 titled 'Laudato Si' about caring for our common home of the universe, he often described the richly **'diverse and unique'** assortment of life as a demonstration of God's inexhaustibly creative power. He cautioned us to see every individual instance of creature and type, animate and inanimate, as preciously invaluable. Francis warned in paragraph 33 that **"Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost for ever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right."** He goes on to encourage better care of our world as reflecting God and coming from His Hand, by reminding us that **"At the end of time, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the full mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude"** (Laudato Si, #243). So, we must protect and cultivate through our human work and living here on earth, this abundantly fruitful garden (human, animal and mineral) that God has entrusted to us. We will give an account of our care for God's creation.

We thank God and pray for our farmers and gardeners who are preparing fields and beginning the planting season. I love the saying, "If you are eating, thank a farmer!" Part of our care of creation is conserving the earth's resources, but most importantly, we need to daily appreciate the toil and labor of our local and all farmers. Being moved to plant something back on Good Friday, I put some seeds in a couple pots in the rectory windows on its southwest side. I was thrilled when just after Divine Mercy Sunday, green pods started rising up and unrolling! I look forward to watching them grow fully, and bear fruit! Though often I may not take good advantage of eating the vegetables on time, I still love watching it happen, being part of the 'growth' process. Even though my only contribution is 'watering' I still do what I can. Certainly, I stand in awe, respecting God's amazing life-giving ways. And most important of all, I never stop thanking and praising God for the wonder of it all! Though St Paul is talking about increasing faith, what he says applies all the same to other natural processes, too, when he tells the Corinthian Church, "I planted, Apollos watered, **but God caused the growth.** Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, **but only God, who causes the growth"** (1 Cor 3:6-7).

Sunday: What word or message do I carry away from Mass today? Take a minute to talk to someone else about what you heard and understood.

Monday: Do I use wisely gifts entrusted to me? Do I conserve resources and show proper care of the earth's goods? Do I thank God for allowing my use of them?

Tuesday: I am not the only branch on the vine of Jesus. Do I see myself as organically connected to Christ and to Christ's other members? How do I relate to the whole vine?

Wednesday: Am I grateful for other workers in the vineyard? How do I show my gratitude for their work, too?

Thursday: Do I feel 'pruned' or 'cut back' at times? Maybe something I think of as 'loss'. Pray to see the 'work of the gardener' in it, cutting back to encourage greater growth.

Friday: Practice an act of random kindness for a stranger, as a work of mercy.

Saturday: How am I preparing for Mass this weekend? What am I bringing to our prayer?

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!

Picnic News

Silent Auction Donations Needed: Baked Goods, Fresh Vegetables, Home made items, newly purchased items 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.

Meat Donations: Rudy & Kathy Brumfield will be collecting meat donations again this year. The donation is \$50. The meat is the biggest expense for our picnic and your \$50 donation is greatly appreciated. You may mail your donation to Rudy & Kathy Brumfield, 333 Hillside Drive, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or put it in the collection basket in an envelope marked Meat Donation or drop it by the church office.

Ministry Schedule: We will soon be putting together the ministry schedule for June, July and August. If you want to participate in one of the ministries at Mass, change the Mass you are presently assigned to or be taken off the list, please call the office before May 9th. **We need more Eucharistic Ministers for the 10:00 am Mass and Rosary Leaders for all the Masses if you would like to volunteer!**

St. Romuald Senior Mass for our high school graduates is set for May 20 at the 10am mass. We will meet in front of the church at 9:30 dressed in our caps and gowns (which they are set to get on the 18th at school). Please contact Gayle Poole at 270-617-1308 if you will be able to attend.

Celebration

BIRTHDAYS: Jim Sills, May 4th

ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Linda Rhodes, May 2nd, 61 Years
Doug & Sharon Hale, May 6th, 40 years.

This Week at St. Romuald

Mon	1:00 pm	Blue Army Rosary
	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues	10:00 am	Scripture Study
	10:00 am	Senior Day
	1:00 pm	Mass (Extended Care)
	4:00 pm	Rosary
	6:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul
Wed	4:00 pm	Confessions
	5:00 pm	Mass
Thur	9:30 am	Mass (Medco)
	6:30 pm	Men's Jail Ministry
Fri	9:00 am	First Friday Mass
	9:30 am	24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	8:00 am	First Saturday Mass
	5:00 pm	2nd Collection for Project Graduation
Sun	7/10 am	2nd Collection for Project Graduation
	6:30 pm	Women's Jail Ministry

Will you be a high school sophomore, junior or senior next year?
Do you hear Jesus' call to love? Do you want to lead change for good?
Do you want to make lifelong friends?
If so, then **Brescia University's**

**"Living & Leading with Love" (L³)
High School Youth Theology Institute, is for you!**

Generously funded by the Lilly Endowment.
For more information or to **apply now** go to www.brescia.edu/L3
Or contact Dr. Emily DeMoor at 270-686-4229
emily.demoor@brescia.edu



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, **Bonnie Gail Fentress**, Ginny Flood, Don Ford, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Joe Hess, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, **Jacqueline Huddleston**, 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 Rolen, Suzanne Rose, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, **Deborah Sue Stevens**, 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



Stories of Hope & Healing: The Tribunal Office will hold information sessions, as a follow-up to the panel discussions, to address specific questions and issues regarding Declarations of Invalidity (Annulments).
Tuesday, May 8th - 6:30 pm St. Thomas Moore
Tuesday, May 15th - 6:30 pm St. Romuald
Tuesday, May 22nd - 6:30 pm Holy Spirit Parish
Tuesday, June 5th—6:30pm Our Lady of Lourdes

The Blessing of the Child in the Womb: At all the Masses on May 5th & 6th Fr. Brian will be offering a special blessing to all expectant mother who would like to participate. We invite the mother, father and family members to stand to experience the "Gift of Joy". The Blessing is bestowed upon you and you will receive a booklet as a point of reference to read during the time you carry your child.

Knights of Columbus Events: 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.

Barbecue Chickens: The Knights of Columbus will be selling Barbecue Chickens on May 6th at St. Romuald, St. Mary and St. Anthony after the Sunday Mass. For Knights of Columbus Members: If you can help cook chickens please text or email me at 270-617-0754 or jp_oreilly@yahoo.com respectively. Cooking starts at 3:30 am at St. Romuald's pit. Thank you GK Pat O'Reilly.

St. Romuald Altar has reduced the price of the almonds to \$6.00 per bag. You may pick up a bag at the church office.

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.**

Project Graduation: Please help the graduating seniors have a fun and safe celebration following their high school graduation, by contributing to the second collection we hold the weekend of **May 5-6**. A senior will offer an appeal at each of the masses. We welcome them and look forward to helping them out!

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@stromualdschool.org for pre-school or Sheila Drane sheila.drane@stromualdschool.org, or come by the school to pre-register your children.

2018 Kindred Fest: A Day of Praise Through Song: June 23rd music begins at noon! At Tradewater Music Festival Amphitheater located 5 miles west of Providence, Ky. Music Lineup includes Matthew West, Plumb, Stars Go Dim, Abandon & Leanna Crawford. Group pricing available, for more info, visit www.KindredMusicFest.com or box office 270-635-2969.

Mother's Day Photo Booth will be available Sunday, May 13th, before the 10 am Mass by the Breck County 4-H Photography Club, until noon. Come have your mom's picture taken with yourself or the entire family for only \$5.00, frame included. Come and support the youth of St. Romuald as we have two members from our parish who have gone on to become ribbon winners at our county fair and one a state champion.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

A Word from Pope Francis:

"The Christian life begins again new at every Mass, where God satisfies/fills us with love. Without him, the bread of life, every effort of the Church is in vain. Works of charity, as good as they are, they are not enough, unless those works are done with love. If love is lacking in those who do the works, if the source is lacking, if the point of departure is lacking, which is the Eucharist, then every pastoral commitment is merely a whirlwind of busy-ness rather than an act of service. Whoever receives the Eucharist takes on the face and mentality of the Lord, who is the bread that was broken for us. And this living bread does not rise with pride, but is given to others. The person who receives the Eucharist ceases to live for themselves, for their own success, to have something just for themselves or to become someone. No, they live for Jesus, and as Jesus, lift up others. As Bishop Bello has said, the Eucharist does not support a sedentary life. We must get up and go out. Without rising from the table, one remains an 'unfulfilled sacrament'. (Papal address 4-20-2018)



Email Prayer Chain

Would you like to be part of an email prayer chain and pray daily for those in need of prayers due to illness or other needs? To be a part of this ministry, please send an email

to Marie Rose at rosejm@bbtel.com to become a prayer warrior. When others are in need of prayer you will be notified by email to begin praying for them. We (21 warriors) are currently praying for the needs of 66 people, those on our parish prayer list and the family members of the recently deceased, who were on our list. If you have a prayer request, just send an email to Marie at the above address.



Please pray for the eternal rest and peace for Jennifer Boehman (Kim Brumfield's sister) who passed away last week. Please keep her family in your prayers, too, for their comfort and strength.

Anointing of the Sick-First Wednesdays of Month:

Father Brian will offer the sacrament of the sick, 'Anointing for Healing' at the Wednesday evening mass (5:00pm) May 2nd. The Catechism specifies that those who can be anointed include 'anyone in danger of death from sickness or old age' yet also includes anyone 'prior to a serious operation', or 'for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced' (Catechism #1514-1515).

Readings for the Week

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
- Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
- Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
- Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
- Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

Eucharistic First Friday 24-hour Adoration:



Adoration

Following the 9:00 am Mass on May 4th we begin the 24 hour adoration until Saturday morning mass at 8:00 am. We are blessed with dedicated adorers for each hour, but can use extra people for some hours. Please call Minnie Nimmo 270-617-0297 or Patsy Whitfill 270-617-2557 to volunteer spending an hour if prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

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 outside Breckinridge County Judicial Center (#pray4unity).



St. Romuald First Communion April 22, 2018



Sunday, Apr 29, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

People change

Once England was our enemy. Ditto for France, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Italy, China, Korea, Cuba, and most of the Middle East. Our country has been in conflict with island nations and African peoples. We've fought up and down

Central America, not to mention our own Native Americans. Southern states were pitted against the North. It takes our hearts time to catch up with a new reality. Paul, the Christian killer, became a signature disciple of Jesus. How long before we're prepared to call an enemy a friend?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8 (53). "But they were all afraid of [Paul], not believing that he was a disciple."*

Monday, Apr 30, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE

Poor in spirit

Even though the man who was to be Pope Pius V (1504-72) would become a university professor, head of several houses of the Dominican order, a bishop and cardinal, a grand inquisitor, and eventually pope who had to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent, it seems he never forgot where he came from. Born of impoverished Italian nobility, as a boy he worked as a shepherd. After becoming pope he lived a simple and prayerful lifestyle, built hospitals, and opened the papal treasury to care for the poor, with whom he was personally involved. He kept wearing his Dominican habit, establishing the custom of popes wearing white. Prayer and service, worship and works of mercy will keep you close to God and the gospel, whatever else you do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 (285). "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."*

Tuesday, May 01, 2018

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER

Holy work

How do you feel about your work? For many, it's a means to an end, a paycheck, something to be endured, a distraction from other important things in their lives, or even a road to wealth and power. The church, however, views work from a somewhat different angle: Everyone has the right to meaningful work that will support them and their families. Work should help build up society for the good of all. It also participates in God's creative and redeeming work. It's a holy thing. As you work today, remember Saint Joseph, who was a worker, and work both for your daily bread and the kingdom of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a (286). "What must we do to perform the works of God?"*

Wednesday, May 02, 2018

MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Many parts, one harmony

Maybe because his own world was so full of discord—early Christians bickering about doctrine, himself repeatedly exiled by emperors for his own belief in Jesus—Saint Athanasius (295-373) kept returning to the image of harmony to teach about God's ways. "A choir is composed of a variety of men, women, and children, of both old and young. Under the

direction of one conductor, each sings in the way that is natural for him: men with men's voices, boys with boys' voices, old people with old voices. Yet all of them produce a single harmony." What a helpful reminder whenever we think others should agree with us! Unity can exist without uniformity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 (287).*

"Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit."

Thursday, May 03, 2018

FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

Live outside the bounds of history

Based on the sparse details history has preserved about the apostles Philip and James, it would seem that they did nothing all that noteworthy. They simply chose to follow Christ and do the works he did. But their radical, countercultural choice—one that led to their martyrdom—was really quite extraordinary. The same holds true for any modern Christians trying to do the works of Jesus. We may not capture the attention of news reporters or historians for choosing to love our neighbors and forgive our enemies, but we will certainly catch God's eye, which is imperative if we hope to enter the Kingdom that exists outside the bounds of history.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561). "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do."*

Friday, May 04, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Friends in high places

"On the night before he died he had supper with his friends." These words from the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass remind us of the humanness of Jesus. Though he is Lord and Savior, we can also call him friend and brother. His becoming a human being allows us both to relate to God on human terms and share in the divine life, which is life eternal. The God we worship is on intimate terms with us. Take a few moments today to ponder this incredible fact. How do everyday moments reveal God to you?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17 (289). "I do not call you servants any longer . . . but I have called you friends."*

Saturday, May 05, 2018

EASTER WEEKDAY

Take the handoff

A little more than halfway through the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke mentions the original 12 apostles for the last time. From then on the book is pretty much the story of the acts of the other great apostle, Saint Paul. While Paul felt it necessary to defend his status as an apostle from time to time, there's no doubt he was largely responsible for bringing the gospel of Jesus out of its Jerusalem center and spreading it around the Mediterranean area, from which it eventually spread to the whole world, as Christ had intended it to do. The passing along of the Good News of Jesus and the shape the church gives it have been the responsibility of Christians from the first days. They still are today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290). "They handed on to the people for observance the decisions reached by the apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem."*

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