

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## January 29, 2017

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Hubert Janak

Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Otto & Richard Wenske

9 A.M. – Benjamin Kopecky

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

### Your Gift to God: January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sweet Home \$1,801.14

Building Fund \$10

Koerth \$634

*May God reward your generosity!*

### Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

### [www.qpcatholicchurch.com](http://www.qpcatholicchurch.com)

Make sure and check out the parish website for Queen of Peace and St. John the Baptist. A few of the historical pictures are there (still looking for pictures of the church interiors) as well as CCD/Faith Formation calendar, registration and weekly bulletin. There is also a link to the diocesan cemetery database for both cemeteries and links to Catholic sites of interest.

### Annual Contribution Statement

Those who would like a statement of their envelope support contributions should call the parish office, 293-3518.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!"*

### Project Update

**Koerth:** Thanks to the members of the parish family who came in after long days at work and removed the old tile from the sanctuary floor in Koerth. Now that the pew area has had the linoleum removed and the sanctuary tile is out, the floor work can begin with the sanding, sealing and finishing. It promises to be a truly beautiful and authentic floor for a church built in 1887--and which continues to serve as a true sanctuary, beautifully appointed to assist us and future generations in our true worship. As much as it would be great to say definitively a date we will get back "in," at this point (we are on the downhill side of the work) the main concern is to get it right so that when back, we're back!

### Human Resources Director

The Diocese of Victoria has an opening for a Human Resources Director. A degree in HR Management is preferred or related experience. Position reports to the CFO. For qualifications, job description, and application, visit: [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org). The closing date to apply is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Cemetery Inquiries

Anyone with questions regarding the Catholic Cemeteries should contact the local representatives for the Cemeteries.

#### Queen of Peace:

Harvey Matusek & J. O. Hermes

#### St. John the Baptist:

Gene Velek & Jerry/Joyce Kurtz

They can provide the needed information and help with locating available plots. They will also provide the needed details to complete a purchase/reservation and receive a deed for record purposes.

## TMIY Update

Each Wednesday morning the men gathered at the bright and early hour of 6:00 A.M. for breakfast, camaraderie, inspiration/reflection and discussion. All meetings concluded by 7:30 A.M. It was both a challenge and reward to be able to dedicate the best part of the day to focusing on what defines us: our faith! If you were not able to take advantage of this opportunity you are in luck! **The next semester will begin this Wednesday, February 1, 2017.** And as all good Catholics recall...it will include the time of Lent...offering yet another way to better engage and deepen your faith. This is a new semester so it will be a great time to join us. If you are not sure just ask one of the men that attended the last semester to find out what they think.

## Additional Testimonials from:

### *THAT MAN IS YOU*

## What parish participants this past fall had to say regarding their experience of this parish offering:

“Once a week Christian Enlightenment Session amongst fellow St. Joseph parishioners and friends. If you enjoy the context and history of the homily at Mass...this gives details of the bible and its’ comparison to the world today.”

“I have a new friend, St. Joseph. I came to realize how many daily struggles he had and now I relate to him so much more as a father and husband. That made the early Wednesday mornings worth it.”

“St. Joseph’s is fortunate to offer the TMIY program. The past semester was 13-weeks of knowledge every man, husband, father, or grandfather was able to us to make their role in the family more worthwhile.”

***Registration forms for the next TMIY session which starts February 1<sup>st</sup> are available at the entrances of the church.***

## The Beatitudes for Children

**Blessed** are those who know they need God.

**Blessed** are those who feel sad; God will help them to feel happy again.

**Blessed** are those who are humble and do not brag or put others down.

**Blessed** are those who want to do as God would want them to do.

**Blessed** are those who forgive.

**Blessed** are those who try to do what is fair and act peacefully.

**Blessed** are those who are treated badly

## The Beatitudes

**Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed** are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**Blessed** are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

**Blessed** are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

**Blessed** are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**Blessed** are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

**Blessed** are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Blessed** are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# Did God ever lie to you?

## *How to deal with the pain and possibilities of disappointment*

Fr. Robert McTeigue, SJ - January 25, 2017

“Did God ever lie to you?” How would you answer that question? That question was asked recently by a brokenhearted child to her father, whom I know well. I have been wrestling with that question ever since.

My philosophical training can offer arguments explaining why God cannot lie. That’s pertinent and true, but it wasn’t what she needed in that moment. She’s struggling with crushing disappointment, seeing that what she’s been waiting for and has set her heart upon hasn’t arrived, and appears unlikely to do so. The truths of philosophy might bring her clarity later, but she wouldn’t now be able to see them through her tears.

Her father might have succumbed to the temptation to blunt the sharp point of her question with the flat end of a platitude: “Everything is going to be OK! After all, the Bible says, ‘Nothing is impossible with God!’” True—nothing is impossible with God—but that assertion wouldn’t help her if it were offered merely to silence her. That’s the trouble with platitudes: they can be a disservice to the truths they contain and to those who ask, because they can be used to stifle the voices and pains of those who raise uncomfortable and unwelcome questions. The father didn’t resort to platitudes because he has too much respect for his daughter’s intelligence and God’s majesty to do so.

And still we’re faced with her difficult situation: “I sought God’s will and acted accordingly. I waited to receive what God told me to wait for. And nothing’s happened. Worse than nothing’s happened—because the window of opportunity for me to receive what God directed me to wait for is starting to close. Has God lied to me?”

Here we can see the limitations of the consolation of philosophy and the truths of pious platitudes. Neither leads a confused and brokenhearted person to the cross of Christ. It is to that terrifying place, where evil tried to crush and erase faithful love that the wounded must go. It is there that we must behold the cost of absolute trust in God’s goodness. And it is only from there that we can find the power of the resurrected Christ.

At the foot of the cross, let’s echo the haunting words of long-suffering Job: “Though he slay me, I will hope in him.” (Job 13:15) Job will not settle for pat answers or platitudes. He seeks an audience with God. We should do the same—but we must know, in a way that

Job could not—that confronting God means confronting the crucified and resurrected Christ. We go to the Suffering Servant of God who surrendered everything, was plundered by evil, and was, after a time of darkness, vindicated by God. We must understand that if we brokenhearted turn to Christ, we mustn’t expect “Chicken Soup for the Soul.” No! Turning to Christ in our pain is to step on a dark road of blood and glory.

We can begin our embrace of Christ crucified-and-risen by echoing Job: “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2) God’s ultimate purpose is to unite us to Himself for eternity. Our temporary pains and joys in this life must be measured in light of the eternal glory God offers us.

We earthly pilgrims on the way to Heaven inevitably suffer, and finally die. Some of us may be martyred. Some of us may die while looking back on a pleasant life—most of us won’t. Along the way, none of us have the wisdom to understand fully how God’s grace and providence work with human free will, disappointment and dumb luck.

We have, however, the Church teaching us that if our hope in God rests upon what we may grasp in this passing world, we will be disappointed. Our hope in God can only rest upon the obedience of Christ crucified and the fidelity of Our Heavenly Father Who raised Christ to sovereignty and glory.

Poet John Keats spoke of this world as “The Vale of Soulmaking.” This finite, fallen and passing world, with its real and temporary joys and sorrows, can be used by God and the docile disciple of Christ to prepare a soul ready for eternal union with God. Grief and disappointments, though agonizing at the time, needn’t be thought of as “wasted” but can be redemptively used in purifying a soul for the happiness of Heaven.

So, how might that father have answered his daughter’s question? He might say, “No, God has never lied to me. And I know that He is faithful and loving, because what He has done for Christ, He wants to do for you and me.”

GOD  
CHOSE THOSE  
WHOM THE WORLD  
CONSIDERS  
**ABSURD**  
to  
SHAME THE  
**WISE.**  
1 COR.

