

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 11th
5 P.M. – Alois & Marie Stary

Sunday, February 12th
7 A.M. – Lena Bolom
9 A.M. – Victor Pavliska

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Your Gift to God: January 29th

Sweet Home	\$1,424
Building Fund	\$175
DSA	\$25
Koerth	\$525
Building Fund	\$1

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

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.

Projects Update

Sweet Home--the rectory windows were completed this week and look very good. Drywall repair and taping/floating continues and soon painting will begin. The windows had to be completed prior to the drywall work so no water/moisture would get in and the insulation completed. This week the external stained glass window frames will begin to be added to the church.

Koerth--Painters are beginning to wrap up as the tower was completed with its finishing coat. Repairs to the floor were accomplished (repairing small areas where water damage from entryway and windows was found). Now the sanding of the floor/sealing can proceed. The bell was serviced and bearings were replaced and the mechanization was installed to ring the bell at daily Angelus and have an automatic striker/toller for funerals.

Cemetery Inquiries

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

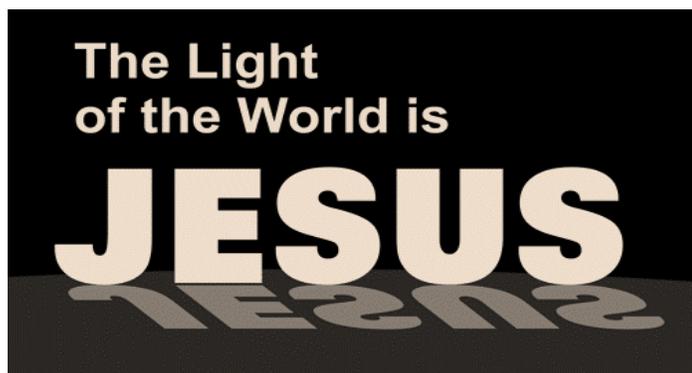
Queen of Peace:

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.



*"I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
whoever follows me
will have the light of life."*

TMIY

That Man Is You resumed this past week for the men of our parish family. TMIY is not intended as a life-altering moment...rather...it is an enrichment to acknowledge and engage that gift of faith each person possesses – accepting the challenge to step beyond selfishness and achieve a more full relationship with the Lord Jesus. The benefits of building one's faith relationship then easily extend into the relationships of our lives – be it with spouses, parents, children, co-workers, etc. Don't sit on the fence – get involved with other men seeking to deepen their own self-knowledge and love of God.

Come join TMIY on Wednesday at 6:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center.

ALPHA

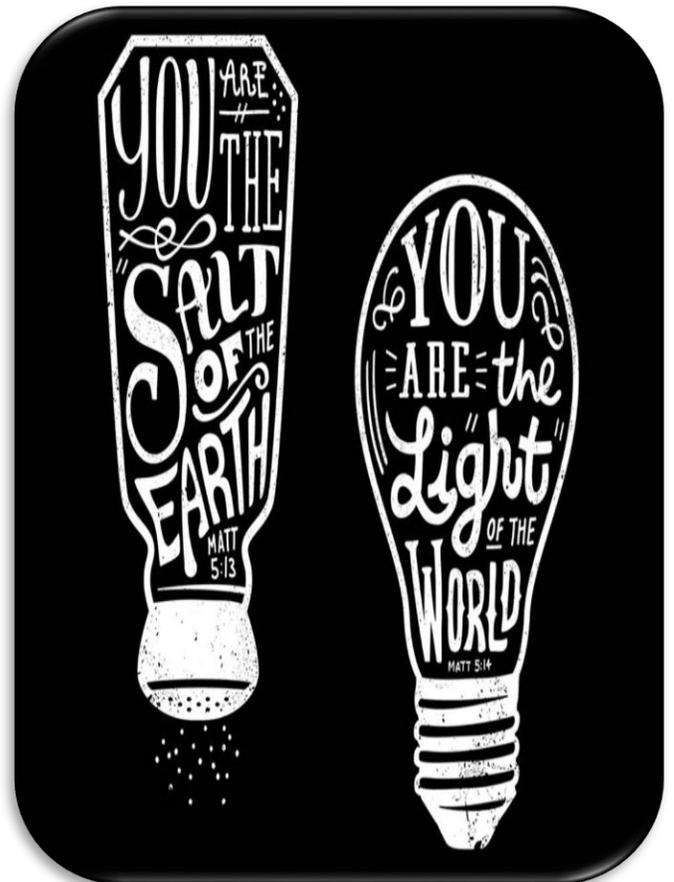
Got Questions about Life? Looking for something to do for Lent and Easter?

You're Invited!

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith that will run over eleven weeks. The format for Alpha is simple: a meal, a talk, and good conversation. Each talk looks at a different question around the most important aspects of life and faith, like – *Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus?* and *How do I pray?* There's no obligation to say anything. And there's nothing you can't say. It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly, and open environment.

Please join us for these sessions that will be led by Fr. Jacob Koether on Monday evenings at the St. Joseph Family Center in Yoakum from 6:30-8:00 P.M. starting February 20. For more information contact the office at 361-293-3518 or parochialvicar@stj catholicchurch.com.

You may also want to check out the ALPHA website: www.alphausa.org/catholic.



Imagine waiting for hours, in stifling heat, for the possibility of Mass and the Eucharist

*Compared to these priests,
I expend very little effort
bringing Jesus Christ to anyone*

Colleen Duggan – January 29, 2017

Recently, I found myself at my in-laws' dining room table having dinner with two African priests, Father Augustine and Father Jean, both of whom are fluent in at least five languages and studying for Master's degrees in prestigious Catholic programs in the United States. After just a semester in America, these two priests have a sense of the spiritual poverty we experience here, and over glasses of wine and juicy steaks, they were quick to explain the differences they observe in the U.S. compared to Africa.

"In my country," Father Augustine said, "Christianity is still new and when people convert, they are on fire for the faith, but there are not enough priests to cover the large territories. We cannot get Christ to the many people who need him."

He told us this story: "One day I was bringing communion to a rural area in Africa. I borrowed the rectory's only car and after driving several hours, I came to a road that was flooded with water, with no way to cross. The people I intended to visit that day had not been to Mass in over one month. They had been without Christ in the Eucharist for over a month! I had to get to them; I could not leave them without Jesus. I couldn't disappoint them."

Father sat quietly in his car for a few minutes, wondering what to do. Crossing the road was physically impossible but leaving the people without the Eucharist was also impossible. On the side of the road, he noticed a man working. Father Gus got out of his car and explained the situation to the stranger. Father asked the man if he could borrow a bike he noticed that was sitting against a tree.

The worker agreed so Father went back to his car,

collected his Mass kit, and strapped what he needed onto the bike. Then, using a stranger's bike, he rode in the stifling heat for several hours more to get to the people. When he arrived, he was thirsty, soaked with sweat, and covered in thick sheets of dust.

He was also hours late for Mass.

"But the people," he said, "just sat there in the church waiting for me. They were not angry, they were not impatient I was late. They wanted Christ in the Eucharist and they knew I would bring Him to them. They were happy to wait until I arrived."

Father Gus and Father Jean had other stories to tell — tales of overcoming ridiculous obstacles in order to bring Jesus in the Eucharist to the spiritually hungry. After one evening with these priests, I realized that compared to them, I expend very little effort bringing Jesus Christ to anyone. I get frustrated and give up quickly when my attempts to pray with my own children are met with discord and protests. I often allow my vanity or pride to keep me from sharing my faith with others who don't think the same way I do. I talk myself out of saying the blessing in front of people because I don't want to make any of us uncomfortable! I don't always clarify inaccurate statements people make about the Catholic Church and her teachings. Father Gus and Father Jean ride bikes across the African wilderness to bring people Jesus. Do my acquaintances even know I'm a Catholic?

But the most poignant questions their testimony prompted me to ask myself included: would I wait for over an hour in an empty church to receive Christ like those committed African converts? Is my entire day, week, or month focused on the moment when I can receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ? Is the Eucharist the focal point of all my thoughts, the summit of all my actions? How many times do I—the spoiled American I am—complain when I don't receive the Eucharist or the sacrament of Confession in the manner I desire?

The evening I spent with Father Gus and Father Jean will stay with me for a long time. While our time together consisted mainly of stories they told about teaching Catholicism in their home country, those two holy priests also managed to bring Christ to a suburban dinner table in America and they shared Him with a group of people also in desperate need.