

# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

## April 16, 2017

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

5 P.M. – Father Charles Sonnier

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

7 A.M. – Otto, Angeline & Ricky Wenske

9 A.M. – Frank B. Rainosek & Stephan Jurena Families

### Christ is Risen!

May the blessings of the Resurrected Lord be with each of you as we celebrate the victory we have in Christ Jesus! May these next weeks of Easter joy permeate all of our lives with renewed hope and faith!

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

### Your Gift to God: April 9<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,555
Building Fund	\$5
Rice Bowl	\$171
Koerth	\$659
Building Fund	\$18
DSA	\$5
Rice Bowl	\$15

*May God reward your generosity!*

### Little White Books

The Little White Books are available for the Easter Season. Since there are a limited amount of books please consider sharing a book with family members.

### Office Schedule

The parish office will closed Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and reopen at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

### Operation Rice Bowl

During the season of Lent through Easter Sunday we will have the traditional almsgiving program, "Operation Rice Bowl" taken up as a second collection each weekend.

### CCD Notice

CCD classes will resume this Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

*"Christ, our paschal lamb,  
has been sacrificed;  
let us then feast with joy in the Lord."*

### Season of Graces

Easter brings many reasons to celebrate our faith--as the Scriptures remind us--**HE IS RISEN AS HE SAID!** It is also a time when many within our parish family will advance in the sacramental life. Remember these younger members of our family as preparations are made for First Reconciliation and Eucharist as well as our Confirmation candidates. This is an exciting time for them and their families as graces are experienced and shared!



## Want to Grow in Holiness, But Too Busy?

If you intended to make the last consecration and it didn't work out, here is another opportunity! The final day of the retreat and Consecration Day is on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima!

In our hectic day and time, St. Pope John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa knew that the quickest way to be transformed into a saint is through a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Join us on April 9th as we begin a 33-day preparation for Marian Consecration. For six weeks, we'll individually read about and reflect on four great Marian giants: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Pope John Paul II. They'll teach us the secrets to drawing closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary. In our weekly meetings, Sundays, 6:30-8 p.m. (except on Easter Sunday & Mother's Day) we'll share our insights within our small group and then watch a 30-minute video. The video by popular author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings our individual reflections and group experience into a clear and live-able focus. If you're looking for a simple way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Our Merciful Savior, and grow in holiness, join us for 33 Days to Morning Glory Small-group Retreat. Contact Joyce Harper 361-798-6325 so that your book can be ordered.

## 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.

## Enrich Your Spiritual Life ...ALPHA

Would you like to grow in your faith? Try Alpha! This video series will give you the opportunity to reflect on the most important aspects of Christianity and to ask questions about life. Don't worry if you've missed any classes. You are still welcome to come. Join us Monday evenings at 6:30 P.M. in the Family Center. Our last sesión will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## TMIY

That Man Is You continues to enrich the lives of the men who risk a bit more involvement and challenge in their journey of faith. You don't have to start from the beginning--if thinking about it considering a way to more actively engage your faith and strengthen your roots--don't procrastinate! **Come and join us this Wednesday at 6:00 A.M. in the St. Joseph Parish Family Center!**

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### Every Sunday (Six Weeks)

33 Days to Morning Glory – 6:30 – 8 P.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### Every Monday

**ALPHA** – 6:30 – 8 P.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### Every Wednesday

**TMIY** – 6 A.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### April 29

Confirmation Practice – 10:30 A.M.  
Sacrament of Confirmation – 5 P.M.  
St. Joseph Church, Yoakum

### May 6

First Communion – 5 P.M.  
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

# To hell and back: Journeying with Jesus from death to life

Fr Robert McTeigue, SJ | Apr 12, 2017

*Holding on to hope in times of despair is an intentional choice.*

Is a cemetery a good place to begin a meditation on Easter? Today, I found out. I spent the afternoon in a grand old cemetery, walking amidst monuments and markers that dated back centuries. The years and names spin through my memory now in a blur of stone.

Jews, Christians, Freemasons, firefighters, war veterans, patriachs, infants, families, orphans—myriad combinations of the human condition were there, memorialized by simple plaques, poignant sculpture, grand tombs and tiny markers. There were acres of reminders of human lives that came to an apparent end.

In a cemetery, one thinks of the dead, of course, but this afternoon, I thought of those who buried the dead and then turned to face the rest of their lives, wondering how they would face the next day without the presence of those they buried. How many mourners left with hope or with despair?

I think of these things as Lent of 2017 draws to a close and Easter draws near. I know that last Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion) Egyptian Christians were murdered in churches. Today I spoke to a dear man who just lost a friend of 40 years to cancer. How can we speak of hope or of home when we know that death comes for us all and that this world is passing away?

These are not new questions. From the beginning, man has suffered loss and death. Impermanence has driven man to desolation or to mania. Recall the last lines of the poem by Shelley:

*“And on the pedestal, these words appear:  
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;  
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”*

Just like the monuments I saw today, any work of human hand or will must succumb to the passage of time. Eventually, the memory of every person I walked past today will perish. In the presence of that dark and sobering fact, the Christian must speak.

In the presence of the dead and dying, in the presence of young and old, in the presence of saints and sinners,

every Christian must, to his last breath, proclaim these words (1 Corinthians 15:12-19):

*“Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”*

Either Jesus Christ, true God and true man, took on the whole human condition, including death, and infused it with hope rooted in divine life and triumphant love—or Christians have nothing of lasting value to offer the world. Oh, we may be well-intentioned do-gooders who speak of love and work for justice, but in the end, we are just as feckless, pointless and hopeless as the most worldweary cynic or despairing atheist. If Christ hasn't won for us victory over death, then whatever else we do or don't do, say or don't say, won't and can't matter in the end—because we're all doomed to die and be forgotten.

The glorious boast of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ, God's victorious shout of stubborn love, entered into time and space and flesh in order to search out and save sinners made in the divine image. Jesus Christ so fiercely loves the fallen children of his Father that he chose to enter our tombs to find us, even entering and plundering hell itself to retrieve us from our self-inflicted tragedy.

The Gospel of Christ crucified, risen, reigning and returning enables a walk through a cemetery to be an occasion of hope rather than despair. Christ wishes to share his victory over death with us, to sanctify us so that we might see the face of God and live, and to unite us with all the blessed who have gone before us in the communion of saints. Yes, for all mankind, there will be tears and tombs—and for Christ's faithful, there will be triumph.

*“This is the day the Lord  
has made; let us rejoice  
and be glad.”*