

Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 6th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Louis & Emma Wick
& Deceased Children

Sunday, May 7th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Wally Huehlefeld
9 A.M. – Koerth – Father Charles Sonnier

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Your Gift to God: April 23rd

Sweet Home	\$2,027
Online Giving	\$200
Building Fund	\$55
DSA	\$10
Koerth	\$671
Building Fund	\$140
DSA	\$2

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.

Special Collection

A special collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up at all Masses this weekend.

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be Saturday, May 13th at 9:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. **This will be the last class offered until September.**

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

First Reconciliation – First Communion

Our students in CCD/Faith Formation will celebrate First Reconciliation at 10:30 A.M. next Saturday. There will be a brief practice in preparation for First Holy Communion and then Confessions will be heard. Please be on time. First Holy Communion will take place at the 5:00 P.M. Mass next Saturday.

Faith Formation: May Crowning

This Wednesday the students in CCD will report directly to the church for May Crowning followed by the Holy Rosary. Children are reminded to bring flowers to place before the Blessed Mother. Dismissal/pickup will take place at Church and will most likely be prior to 7:30. All parents and family members are encouraged to attend and honor our Blessed Mother.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Every Sunday (Six Weeks)
33 Days to Morning Glory – 6:30 – 8 P.M.
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

May 6
First Communion – 5 P.M.
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home



Congratulations!

The parish family extends prayerful congratulations to our 2017 Confirmation Class. As these young men and women complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) may they continue to grow in grace and faith as they seek and discern the Lord's call in their lives.

Confirmation Class: Rigo Alvarado, Devin Chumchal, Brittany Farek, Bridget Frazer, Krystal Frazer, Shelby Frazer, Jodi Harrell, Miranda Hartl, Dylan Lauer, Megan Moorman, Ashley Novosad, Ryan Panus, Trevor Steffek, Wyatt Valigura.

Prayer for Confirmation Candidates

*This day you have received the
Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*You have been fully initiated into
The Roman Catholic Church.*

*A seal has been placed on your
soul that can never be removed.*

*You are forever marked as a
follower of Christ.*

You must now make a choice.

*When it becomes hard to practice the faith,
when you feel too busy to go to Mass,
when someone asks you to*

do something wrong,

*when you do not want to follow
the ways of the Church,*

*when you are worried what people think,
when you doubt that God is there,
what will you do?*

*May you choose Christ in these moments,
as you did today at your Confirmation.*

*May you call upon the gifts
of the Holy Spirit that were
poured out on you today, throughout
your journey of faith.*

Be bold, be faithful, be Catholic.

--Coreen Wagenbach

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 100th 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 Matussek & 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.

Saints Timothy and Maura, newlyweds martyred together

Meg Hunter-Kilmer | Apr 27, 2017

Tortured cruelly for practicing their faith,
together they refused to deny Christ

When Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin were canonized in 2015, the Catholic world was thrilled—finally a married couple canonized together!

But while they may have been the first to enjoy their canonization celebration together, they're not by any stretch the first married saints. For nearly two millennia, the Church has celebrated the witness of married couples who were made holy by their vocation. Some were married for decades, but Sts Timothy and Maura show us the power of the sacrament condensed into only one month of marriage.

St. Timothy was the son of a priest in 3rd-century Egypt. Raised in the Church, he became a lector, which was a minor order (like subdeacon or acolyte) that entailed far more than simply proclaiming the readings. He spent his evenings reading to the people of his village and preaching the Gospel as well as keeping the holy Scriptures and liturgical books safe in his home during the persecutions of Diocletian. In the year 286 Timothy married a pious 17-year-old woman named Maura and the two began a life of prayer and Christian witness together.

When Timothy and Maura had been married for only 20 days, Timothy was denounced as a Christian and a keeper of the holy books. His captors, on the authority of Diocletian himself, demanded that Timothy surrender the books of Scripture to them. Timothy refused, saying, "If a father who loves his children and who obeys the natural law does not deliver up to death his fleshly children, how can I give over my spiritual children, the sacred books, into your polluted hands?" Arian, the governor, was baffled by such an answer. "You see, don't you, the instruments prepared for torture?" Timothy was unmoved: "But don't you see the angels of God, which are strengthening me?"

So the tortures began. Timothy had white-hot irons shoved in his ears. He was blinded and his eyelids cut off. He was hung upside down with a stone around his neck. He would not budge.

Then they learned about his sweet young wife. If they couldn't tempt him to deny Christ for his own sake, surely they could induce him to give in for Maura's.

Arian appealed to Maura's hopes and dreams. After all, she'd only been married for three weeks. Didn't she want to live the life she'd been promised? Didn't she want to raise a family with her husband, to grow old with him? All Timothy had to do was hand over the Scriptures and he'd be set free to live in peace to a happy old age. Maura listened intently and asked to speak to her husband.

When Maura was brought in to Timothy, she explained the governor's offer. Here accounts differ. Some say Maura stood firm in her faith throughout: "But I, for my part, will never speak to you again if you deny Christ." Others claim Maura was overcome by grief at seeing Timothy's suffering and begged him to apostatize. Timothy was unmoved: "How is it possible, O Maura, that, being thyself a Christian, instead of animating me to die for the faith, thou dost tempt me to abandon it; and thus, to obtain a short and miserable existence here, expose myself to the never-ending pains of hell? Is this, then, thy love?" With that, they say, Maura was convicted and repented of her momentary weakness.

Whether or not Maura remained faithful throughout, this much is certain: While looking on the body of her agonized husband, she confessed herself a Christian and found herself subject to torture as well. Her hair was pulled out, her fingers cut off. When immersed in a pot of boiling water, though, she was unharmed. While the governor was impressed by such a miracle, he soon resumed his tortures (so cruel that even the pagan crowd was scandalized) by having the young couple nailed to two crosses facing each other.

For 10 days they prayed together, sang hymns, and encouraged each other as they suffered for Christ. When one was weak, the other would be strong, reminding the beloved of what Christ suffered and the promise of future life. Ultimately, both found themselves welcomed into the arms of Christ, glorious martyrs. The witness of their courage and joy so inspired their torturer that he soon became a Christian, was martyred himself, and is venerated in the Eastern Church as St Arian of Alexandria.

Though they were married for only a month, Sts Timothy and Maura understood the purpose of marriage: to challenge and encourage one another, through both suffering and joy, as together you follow Christ. Because they were equally yoked, they were able to persist through unimaginable pain, holding each other accountable and calling each other on to holiness.

On May 3, their feast day, let's ask them to intercede for all Christian marriages, that spouses may rejoice in suffering together, encouraging each other daily to live more fully for Christ.

Sts Timothy and Maura, pray for us!