

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 13th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Virginia Markert

Sunday, May 14th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Frank & Tillie Kuchar

9 A.M. – Koerth – Living & Deceased Members of the
O. E. Hermes Family

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Your Gift to God: April 30th

Sweet Home	\$1,456.99
Online Giving	\$300
Building Fund	\$91
DSA	\$65
Special Collection (<i>Home Missions</i>)	\$82
Koerth	\$1,335
Building Fund	\$500
Special Collection (<i>Home Missions</i>)	\$55

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 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be taken up at all Masses next 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.**

Congratulations!

The parish family extends heartfelt congratulations to our 2017 First Communion Class students. May this first reception of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be the beginning of many more sacred encounters with the Bread of Angels to nourish and sustain each one of you!

First Communion Class: Hudson Hermes, Kallee Kifer, Addison Matula, Jiselle Perez, Emmerson Wenske.

Prayer for First Communion

Lord Jesus,

As I receive my First Communion

It is the start of a lifetime

Commitment to you.

Please always walk beside me

And be my comfort and guide.

May my faith and trust in You

Grow each time I receive Communion.

Jesus, I love You. Amen.

Appreciation and Gratitude

The entire parish family owes a deep debt of gratitude to those who face of their time and talent in sharing the treasure of our Catholic faith in our Faith Formation program this past year:

Teachers: Judy Anderle, Sky Anderle, Theresa Brewer, Helen Darilek, Anna Frazer, Kim Frazer, Angela Hartmann, Susan Hermes, Stephanie Tobola; **Volunteers:** Amanda Fling, Diana Jurena, Desiree Muenich, Emma Raska; **CCD**

Coordinator: Bill Reardon. Special thanks to Sweet Home Principal, Shane Wagner, for allowing us to use the school for classes and to Monica Turk for unlocking the gates and rooms every Wednesday.

2017 World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

- Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.
- Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week.
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.
- Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

Meditations from the Holy Father

Pope Francis

“Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life there is always strong and intense prayer from someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community. ...Vocations are born in prayer and prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.”

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.

Project Update

The painting work at the rectory is coming to its end soon. After that some floor work (laminat installation) will bring the updating to completion. Progress has been slow as the job has not been a pressing priority (for workers and for parish)--but--once complete, the rectory/office will be ready to serve another 90 years (built 1928) at least--new wiring, plumbing, roof, septic, HVAC, water well, etc.

Planning Ahead:

St. John the Baptist Parish

Bishop Cahill will be joining the Koerth Parish for the 9:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, June 4th. This will be his first visit to Koerth since he was ordained and became our third bishop. Plan ahead so that the parish family can welcome him appropriately. We are looking for some volunteers who would be interested in organizing a reception in the parish hall (which will be cleaned up by then). Let the Pastoral Center in Yoakum know if you could assist with this event. It would be a simple and brief "coffee/punch and sweets" gathering just to allow the opportunity for those who wish to come and say hello to the Bishop and thank him for his visit.

LORD of the Harvest,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving--for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. *INSTALL* those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you. *UNITE* us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

—Pope Francis

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Affectionately referred to as America's Catholic Church, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, has been a century in the making since the laying of its foundation stone in 1920.

Designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a National Sanctuary of Prayer and Pilgrimage, the Basilica is our nation's preeminent Marian Shrine, dedicated to the Patroness of the United States, the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. Mary's Shrine, as it is often called, is the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America and is one of the ten largest churches in the world.

Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Saint John Paul II, and Saint Mother Teresa are among the faithful who have visited this magnificent basilica. Now as its one hundredth anniversary approaches, a nationwide effort is underway to complete this great "Hymn in Stone" as its founders envisioned with the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome.

The Trinity Dome

The Trinity Dome is the central and largest dome of the Basilica. This "Crowning Jewel" will be adorned in mosaic and will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with America and the Basilica. The Nicene Creed will encircle the base of the dome, while the dome's pendentives will feature the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Trinity Dome will complete the work of the Great Upper Church

according to its original iconographic scheme and bring to a close construction of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception as it approaches its centennial milestone in 2020.

The National Collection

The Bishops of the United States approved a special one-time second collection for the Trinity Dome. Your prayerful and financial support will not only adorn this "Crowning Jewel" and complete Mary's Shrine, but will also leave a lasting legacy for generations to come in this living monument to our Catholic faith and heritage that is America's Catholic Church.

"I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me."

Emmaus Center Grief Group

Emmaus Center offers a grief group meeting on Mondays from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. at the Emmaus Center. Go to www.emmauscounselingcenter.com to make counseling and spiritual direction appointments or call (361) 212-0830.

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.

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HIS
WOUNDS
YOU
WERE
HEALED.
-PETER-