

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 20th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Marcus Janak

Sunday, May 21st

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Otto, Lydia & Toni Havel

9 A.M. – Koerth – Rudy Chilek

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Your Gift to God: May 7th

Sweet Home	\$1,688
Online Giving	\$300
Building Fund	\$44
DSA	\$30
Koerth	\$1,917
Building Fund	\$1,115
DSA	\$51

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: This Weekend

A special collection for The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be taken up at all Masses this weekend.

Special Collection: Next Weekend

A special collection for the Retired and Needy Priests of the Diocese of Victoria will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. Please give generously.

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.

You Are Invited

St. Philip Parish
(304 W. Church St., El Campo)

**Invites you to an afternoon with
Sondra Abrahams of Lake Charles, LA.
on Sunday, May 21st at 1:00 P.M.**

During a near death experience on the operating table years ago, after being given a drug that stopped her heart, she was given visions of the future. Following her recovery, she shares her experiences with people all over the world. She has been called a mystic and a visionary by priests, and bishops, but the only title she claims is "Warrior for Christ".

For more information, contact St. Philip Church
at (979)543-3770.

Happy 
Mother's Day

Holiday: Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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.

Save The Date

The annual **"Quo Vadis" Vocations Camp for Boys** will be July 2-5 at Cooper's Farm in Ledbetter, Texas. This year's theme will be "Basic Training: going back to the basics of our Catholic Faith." Young men who are currently in 8th grade through 21 years of age are welcome to attend. Please begin inviting young men to save the date to attend this Camp. Priests and seminarians of the Diocese will staff this retreat.

Catholic Women's Conference

Are you ready to experience your "spa for the soul"? Jesus is ready to give you what the world cannot give you... peace, joy, strength, and renewal that is rooted in your special time spent with Him, knowing that you are a beloved daughter of God the Father, united together by the Holy Spirit with sisters in the Lord. That is this awesome event for women coming July 28-29! Father Michael Gaitley, MIC author of *33 Days to Morning Glory* is the keynote speaker for the weekend. Contact Ashley Hermes if you are interested in joining our group for a discounted registration rate. ashleyfay09@gmail.com or (361)293-0700.

"I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me."

Register Now for Diocesan Summer Activities!

Registration information and more details are available at victoriadiocese.org under the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry tab.



- ~ Camp David Jr. High Session I – June 11-13 ~
- ~ Camp David Jr. High Session II – June 14– 16 ~
- ~ Camp David Elementary Day Camp – June 14 ~

A fun-filled retreat offered for junior high age (student entering sixth or finishing eighth grade) will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Two different overnight sessions will be offered.



~ Rocky Mountain High Retreat June 24 - July 2 ~

Registration deadline has been extended. This retreat typically fills up so register NOW! This unique, week long retreat, in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in Southern Colorado, is an opportunity for high school age young people to take time away from their daily routine.



~ St. Joseph the Worker Work Camp July 9 – 12 ~

This 3 day retreat and work camp is an opportunity for high school age young people to enjoy the beauty of the Spiritual Renewal Center and participate in an event that gives back to the diocese.

The surprising connection between Our Lady of Fatima and Islam

Philip Kosloski | May 07, 2017

"Nothing ever happens out of heaven except with a finesse of all details."

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima, one aspect that often goes unnoticed is the subtle connection with Islam. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children near the city of Fátima, Portugal, a place named after both a Muslim princess and the daughter of Mohammed.

During the 12th century, Christian armies sought to recapture cities in Spain and Portugal that were being occupied by Muslim forces. In this time period, a knight named Gonçalo Hermigues and his companions captured a Muslim princess named Fátima. Some stories say that after her capture, Fátima fell in love with Gonçalo and the two were soon after betrothed. Before their marriage Fátima was baptized into the Catholic faith and took the name Oureana. The Portuguese cities of Fátima and Ourém are said to be named after this Muslim princess.

What's interesting is that the Muslim princess was named after one of the daughters of Mohammed, Fatimah bint Muhammad, a woman highly revered in Islam. She was given the title, *al-Zahra*, "shining one," and Mohammed once said about her, "Thou shalt be the most blessed of all the women in Paradise, after Mary." (While Muslims do not hold the same beliefs about the Virgin Mary as Catholics, they still hold her with highest regard.)

According to Fr. Miguel Angel Ayuso, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, this connection can be a doorway to dialogue. He noted in a joint prayer meeting in 2014 how, "the Catholic Church recognizes that Muslims honor the Virgin mother of Jesus, Mary, and invoke her with piety...Mary is mentioned various times in the Koran. Respect for her is so evident that when

she is mentioned in Islam, it is usual to add 'Alayha l-salam' ('Peace be upon her')...Mary, a model for Muslims and Christians, is also a model of dialogue."

Venerable Fulton Sheen draws an interesting connection between Muslims' reverence for Mary and the daughter of Mohammed and the appearance of Our Lady at Fátima.

"This brings us to our second point, namely, why the Blessed Mother, in this twentieth century, should have revealed herself in the insignificant little village of Fátima, so that to all future generations she would be known as 'Our Lady of Fátima.' Since nothing ever happens out of heaven except with a finesse of all details, I believe that the Blessed Virgin chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fátima" as a pledge and a sign of hope to the Moslem people, and as an assurance that they, who show her so much respect, will one day accept her Divine Son, too."

Surprisingly, besides attracting Christian pilgrims, the shrine at Fátima, Portugal, has also attracted Muslims in great numbers. They go to see the place where the Virgin Mary appeared in a city named after one of their most highly revered women.

In the end, the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fátima called Christians to pray for peace in the world. In an age when violence is so often committed in the name of Islam, how much more should we have recourse to Our Lady of Fátima! Let us continue to work for peace in the world and look to Our Lady to be a bridge between Muslims and Christians, begging her to end the hatred that has caused so much violence around the world.

