

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## May 21, 2017

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Emma Bujnoch

Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Rev. Marcus Valenta &  
all Deceased Members of the Armed Forces

9 A.M. – Koerth – Victor Pavliska

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

### Your Gift to God: May 14<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$967
Special Collection ( <i>Basilica Shrine</i> )	\$88
Koerth	\$1,063
Building Fund	\$26
DSA	\$1
Special Collection ( <i>Basilica Shrine</i> )	\$53

*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 Retired and Needy Priests of the Diocese of Victoria will be taken up at all Masses this weekend. Please give generously.

### Feast of the Ascension

The celebration of the Feast of the Ascension has been transferred to Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Holiday: Parish Office

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

### A Note about the Reception for Bishop Cahill in Koerth

The Bishop's visit is to give him the opportunity to visit with parish family for the first time at the parish since he arrived in the diocese. The parish is providing the paper goods, coffee and tea/punch. It is to be a simple "finger" type food gathering with napkins and plates. Parishioners are asked to bring cakes, kolaches, pastry, cookies, etc. so that those who come over can have a bite with their coffee. It's a "meet and greet" gathering that is going to be casual--no formal program, etc. Again...we are in need of goodies to be shared!!!

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 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](http://www.emmauscounselingcenter.com) to make counseling and spiritual direction appointments or call (361) 212-0830.

## Thanks...and a repeated: Help Wanted!

Special thanks to those who gave stepped forward in both parishes to assist with the care of the Sacred Linens. And, thanks to the youngins' who have jumped in and began helping with Serving at the Altar. But...we still need more help. Lectors are needed at both parishes, more young people to be Altar Servers, rosary leaders, and a more pressing need at Koerth is help putting the reception together for Bishop Cahill on Sunday, June 4th. Then soon enough there will be the joint effort Parish Picnic (Koerth this year) coming up down the road the last Sunday in September. If you are interested or curious about considering any of these areas just drop a note to [pastor@stj catholicchurch.com](mailto:pastor@stj catholicchurch.com) or call the Pastoral Center (293-3518). We have the numbers--just need some more to step forward and "risk" more investment in the life of the parish family...rewards are experienced through the appreciation of the community, and personally knowing one is "giving back" from the many ways the Good Lord has given to you!

## 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.

## 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.

## Vacation Bible School

Plans are underway for St. Joseph's Vacation Bible School!!! If you have a child going into grades K thru 6 in the upcoming school year, consider registering them for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held July 10-14 from 9:00 A.M. to 12-noon. There is no fee and your child(ren) will have a great time enriching their knowledge of Jesus! If you would like to volunteer to help or would like more information, please contact Jana Guajardo at [faithformation@stj catholicchurch.com](mailto:faithformation@stj catholicchurch.com).

Registration forms may be picked up or dropped off at the parish office. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Our Lady of Fatima Plenary Indulgence

The 100th Anniversary of the first appearance of Our Lady of Fatima was celebrated in Fatima, Portugal on Friday, May 12 and 13. Pope Francis has offered the following opportunity for a special plenary indulgence that goes through October: "The faithful, with devotion, can visit a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory, or proper place of prayer during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima. They must also offer to merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives." **In the Diocese of Victoria, Bishop Cahill with the support of Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, has chosen St. Mary's Church in Victoria to have a special statue of Our Lady of Fatima available for veneration on the 13th of May, June, July, August, September, and October.**

*If you love  
Me, you will  
keep My  
commands.  
(John 14:15)*

# How long is Jesus present in the Eucharist after we've received Communion?

Philip Kosloski | May 17, 2017

*"We have to pay proper respect to Our Lord"*

The great treasure of the Catholic Church is the Eucharist — Jesus himself hidden under the appearances of bread and wine. We believe, as the *Catechism* states, that “In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist ‘the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained*’” (CCC 1374).

Additionally, this Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist does not end immediately when we receive him at Communion time. The *Catechism* goes on to explain how, “The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist” (CCC 1377).

What does that mean when we receive him into our mouths? How long does Jesus' Real Presence remain in our bodies?

There is a famous story from the life of Saint Philip Neri that helps answer that question. One day while he was celebrating Mass, a man received Holy Communion and left the church early. The man appeared to have no regard for the Presence within him and so Philip Neri decided to use this opportunity as a teaching moment. He sent two altar boys with lighted candles to follow the man outside of the church. After a while walking through the streets of Rome, the man turned around to see the altar boys still following him. Confused, the man returned to the church and asked Philip Neri why he sent the altar boys. Saint Philip Neri responded by saying, “We have to pay proper respect to Our Lord, Whom you are carrying away with you. Since you neglect to adore Him, I sent two acolytes to take your place.” The man was stunned by the response and resolved to be more aware of God's presence in the future.

It is generally assumed that the Eucharistic species of bread remains for about 15 minutes after reception. This is based on simple biology and reflects the *Catechism's* statement that the presence of Christ “endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist.”

This is why many saints have recommended offering 15 minutes of prayer after receiving the Eucharist as a thanksgiving to God. This allows the soul to savor the presence of God and have a true “heart-to-heart” with Jesus.

In our face paced world it is often difficult to remain long after Mass, but that doesn't mean we can't at least pray a brief prayer of thanksgiving. The main point is that we need to remember Jesus' presence in the Eucharist stays with us for several minutes and presents us with a special time when we can commune with our Lord and feel his love within us.

If one day you forget, don't be surprised if your parish priest sends altar servers to follow you to your car when you leave Mass early!

