

Pentecost Sunday

June 4, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 10th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Frank Henke

Sunday, June 11th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Marvin Patek

9 A.M. – Koerth – John & Mary Rainosek

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:13b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Your Gift to God: May 28th

Sweet Home	\$1,930
Building Fund	\$95
DSA	\$220
Koerth	\$583
Building Fund	\$5

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.

Teen ACTS Retreat July 6-9, 2017

Spend a weekend with friends growing in your faith, community and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Spots fill up quickly & you must **MAIL IN** the applications...so act fast! Applications can be found in the back of the church. Contact Ashley Hermes (361-293-0700) if you have any questions.

*"Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them
the fire of your love."*

Welcome Bishop Cahill

The parish family of St. John the Baptist welcomes our shepherd, Bishop Brendan Cahill, as he joins us for his first pastoral visit to the Church. Please be assured of how grateful we are for your presence on this solemn feast of Pentecost!

Concert to Benefit Prison Chapel

The Stevenson Unit Chapel Development Corporation (SUCDC) is hosting a concert on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the Cuero ISD Performing Arts Center. Produced by World Vision, the YOUR LOVE IS UNBREAKABLE TOUR will begin at 7:00 P.M. and features Gospel Music Association artists Jason Crabb and the group Selah. Money gained from ticket sales will be tagged by the group to acquire grant writing services and to employ an architect for drafting conceptual drawings for a chapel construction project. Ticket sales for the public will begin June 26, however, a weeklong presale event for the local community will begin June 18. Tickets are \$20, \$40, & \$60 and can be purchased online at www.itickets.com. To take advantage of the presale offer patrons should log on to the website and use the password SUCDC when prompted.

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.

Registration forms are available at the entrance of the church or may be picked up or dropped off at the parish office in Yoakum. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 30th.

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.

Retrovaille - August 4-6

In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse?

Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. **Retrouvaille** is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. For more information about the Victoria August 4-6, 2017, Retrouvaille Weekend, contact John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or email: jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Emmaus Center Grief Group Summer Schedule

Grief Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at *The Emmaus Center* at 1908 N. Laurent Street, Suite 140 on the following dates: June 12th and 26th; July 10th and 31st; August 14th and 22nd. The Group will not meet on Monday, May 29th – Memorial Day
Go to www.emmauscounselingcenter.com to make counseling and spiritual direction appointments or call (361) 212-0830.

Come, Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who has instructed the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may have a right judgment in all things and evermore rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

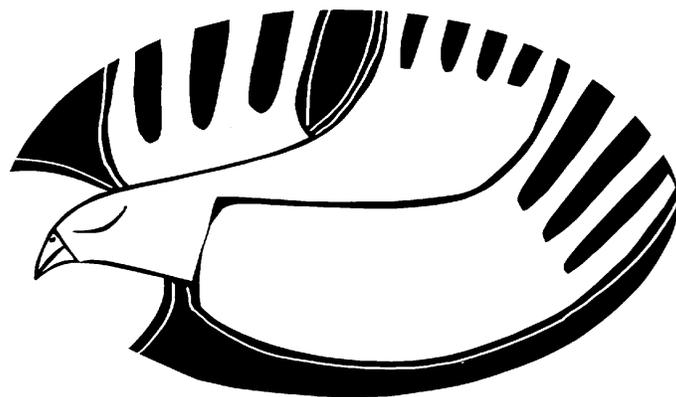
St. John the Baptist:

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.

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.**



Why is the Holy Spirit represented by a dove?

Philip Kosloski | May 31, 2017

It is one of the most ancient symbols of God, recognized by Jews even before Jesus' baptism.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is specifically mentioned as coming in the form of a dove. This occurs during Jesus' baptism where it is written, "the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove" (Luke 3:22).

Why a dove?

First of all, biblical scholars have pointed out how the Babylonian Talmud likens the Spirit of God that hovers over the waters at creation as a dove, "And the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters— like a dove which hovers over her young without touching [them]." This is not explicitly mentioned in the book of Genesis, but is alluded to in some translations where it is written, "the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Secondly, a dove was sent out by Noah in search of land after the waters of the flood stopped. Genesis recounts how, "the dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf" (Genesis 8:11). This episode is directly connected to Jesus' baptism as the flood is seen in Christianity as a type or prefigurement of baptism.

Third, in a pagan context, doves were seen in the ancient world as representative of the divine. It was very common for gods or goddesses to be surrounded by doves.

As a result, by the time of the New Testament, doves were already very much associated with God and specifically his Spirit. Early Christians readily accepted this imagery and soon after began depicting the Holy Spirit almost exclusively as a dove.

The dove is seen in Christian art not only at the baptism of Jesus, but also in various biblical episodes such as the Annunciation, when Mary was greeted with the news that she would bear the Son of God. Some of the first tabernacles that contained the Eucharist were fashioned in the form of a dove suspended over the altar.

The dove, with its pure white feathers, calls to mind the purity of God, and its swift flight in the air reminds us of the many movements of the Holy Spirit in our soul. It is a beautiful image, one that has lasted throughout the centuries.

Silence



Paul Turner

Several times during the Mass, the liturgical texts invite us to observe silence.

It makes you wonder if the folks who wrote those instructions had any idea how noisy a typical pew can be. Kneelers, hymnals, kids and coughing make it hard for anyone to remember what silence sounds like.

Still, the liturgy soldiers on, suggesting that at certain moments we just keep quiet.

For example, when the priest says, "Let us pray," he really means what he says. How do you normally pray? Hands folded? Eyes closed? Calming yourself down so you can concentrate on the presence of God? Keeping silent? He's inviting us to assume our prayer position. But sometimes he's busy signaling the server, flipping pages and adjusting his glasses. Sometimes we're whispering, looking at the bulletin, or just wishing he'd get on with it so we can sit down again. Silence here is an invitation to pray, not to squirm.

Another occasion for silent prayer is after communion. The liturgy bids us all to be quiet for a while to thank God for the wondrous sacrament we have received. Sometimes people want their silence during communion; they don't want to be disturbed by singing. Others can't stand the silence after communion because they want to get out to the parking lot before everyone else.

But silence follows communion. Communion itself is one of the most important times to sing. It gathers us as the Body of Christ and wraps us in joyful song, since spoken words or silent thought can't express what music can. Then, after all have received the mystery, we pause together to meditate on its splendor. Singing followed by silence helps the whole assembly celebrate communion together.

Sometimes we observe silence after the readings or after the homily. The first eucharistic prayer invites us to silence while we ask God to remember those, living or deceased, "for whom we now pray."

Silence is hard in our culture. Most of us habitually turn on a TV or radio. But we also know the benefits of being in silence once in a while outside, enjoying nature, getting some quiet time alone at home or in our room. Silence is golden. And the liturgy yearns for us to have some.

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How to enthrone the Sacred Heart in your home (and heart)

Philip Kosloski | Jun 01, 2017

Here are four different methods to consecrate your home to Jesus.

The month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, principally on account of the fact that the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart (the Friday after the second Sunday following Pentecost) is celebrated in June.

According to the Directory on Popular Piety, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is “one of the most widespread and popular [devotions] in the Church.”

It is a deeply Christo-centric practice that has been promoted by numerous saints over the centuries. When viewed, “in the light of the Scriptures, the term ‘Sacred Heart of Jesus’ denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being, and his person considered in its most intimate essential: Son of God, uncreated wisdom; infinite charity, principal of the salvation and sanctification of mankind. The ‘Sacred Heart’ is Christ, the Word Incarnate, Saviour, intrinsically containing, in the Spirit, an infinite divine-human love for the Father and for his brothers.”

Among the many pious customs involving the Sacred Heart is a traditional “enthronement,” or “consecration” of your house (and heart) to Jesus. In particular, Jesus promised to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque that, “I will bless the homes where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.”

Over the years the Church has developed various types of enthronements that make the placing of an image of the Sacred Heart a more formal and spiritual event. For example, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) has its own family consecration prayer service that can be found in Father James Kubicki’s book, *A Heart on Fire: Rediscovering Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. Besides the prayer service, Father Kubicki provides an engaging history on devotion to the Sacred Heart and why it is still relevant today.

Over the past several years Father Michael Gaitley has joined the cause and developed his own program called *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, which is very popular in parish settings. It features an extensive retreat that is aimed at uniting one’s heart closer to that of Jesus and ends in a consecration to the Sacred Heart.

Another chief promoter of the Sacred Heart is Cardinal Raymond Burke, who compiled a liturgical celebration of the enthronement in his book *The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*. He also includes a basic introduction to the ancient custom and provides a detailed instruction on how to prepare spiritually.

Additionally, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque wrote a personal prayer of consecration that could be used when devoting oneself or one’s family to the Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Thee I consecrate and offer up my person and my life, my actions, trials, and sufferings, that my entire being may henceforth only be employed in loving, honoring and glorifying Thee. This is my irrevocable will, to belong entirely to Thee, and to do all for Thy love, renouncing with my whole heart all that can displease Thee.

I take Thee, O Sacred Heart, for the sole object of my love, the protection of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy of my frailty and inconstancy, the reparation for all the defects of my life, and my secure refuge at the hour of my death. Be Thou, O Most Merciful Heart, my justification before God Thy Father, and screen me from His anger which I have so justly merited. I fear all from my own weakness and malice, but placing my entire confidence in Thee, O Heart of Love, I hope all from Thine infinite Goodness. Annihilate in me all that can displease or resist Thee. Imprint Thy pure love so deeply in my heart that I may never forget Thee or be separated from Thee.

I beseech Thee, through Thine infinite Goodness, grant that my name be engraved upon Thy Heart, for in this I place all my happiness and all my glory, to live and to die as one of Thy devoted servants. Amen.

Whatever method you use to dedicate your home to the Sacred Heart, the emphasis should be placed on spiritual preparation. It is not simply an activity where you place an image of Jesus in a prominent place in your home. Similar to consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it is focused on joining your heart to the heart of Jesus so that you are one with him in all things.