

# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## July 9, 2017

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Marcus Janak

Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Virginia Markert

9 A.M. – Koerth – E. J. Rainosek &  
Agatha Conrow

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Zec 9:9-10; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

### Your Gift to God: July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,275
Online Giving	\$300
Building Fund	\$176
DSA	\$21
Special Collection ( <i>Peter's Pence</i> )	\$75
Koerth	\$1,160
Building Fund	\$1,112
DSA	\$34
Special Collection ( <i>Peter's Pence</i> )	\$30

*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.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>; July 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.emmauscounselingcenter.com](http://www.emmauscounselingcenter.com) to make counseling and spiritual direction appointments or call (361) 212-0830.

*God had one son on earth  
without sin,  
but never one without suffering.*

### Help Still Wanted

We are still in need of helpers with lectoring, Altar serving, Helpers for distribution of Holy Communion and ushers. If you are interested, let the Pastoral Center in Yoakum know.

### KJT State Family Day – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

The KJT State Family Day will be held Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the KJT Activity & Fraternal Center located at 6116 State Hwy. 71 East, La Grange, Texas. All members and their families are invited to come enjoy a BBQ meal and a day of fun including music by Chris Rybak, Caricatures and a water slide for the children with attendance prizes throughout the day. Registration begins at 10:30 A.M. followed by Mass at 11:00 A.M. The meal will be served from 12:00 – 1:30 P.M. RSVP by July 14<sup>th</sup> at 800-245-8182 or [info@jktnet.org](mailto:info@jktnet.org). Hope to see you and your family on the 23<sup>rd</sup>!

### CCD/Faith Formation

For those who like to get ahead and mark items off of their "to do" list, the registration forms and calendar for the upcoming CCD/Faith Formation year are posted on the parish website. Simply download the forms and fill them out and turn them into the Pastoral Center in Yoakum.

### Area Picnics

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Ascension of Our Lord Parish – Moravia

**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**

St. Joseph Parish – Yoakum Community Center

## 2017 Catechist Rally

### Save the Date

On behalf of the Most Reverend Brendan J., Cahill  
and the catechetical office staff:

You are invited to the **2017 Catechist Rally**  
which includes:

#### Social

**Bishop Brendan's Inspirational Talk**

#### Dinner

**Prayer Service and Commissioning**

**Door Prizes (must be present to win)**

All catechists in attendance will receive a Diocese of  
Victoria "catechist" t-shirt, catechist bag with assorted gifts.

**RSVP deadline is July 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> or Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>  
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville St. Andrew, Hillje  
4:30 – 7:30 P.M. 4:30 – 7:30 P.M.

**To register to attend the Catechist rally, go to the  
diocesan website, [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org), and  
click on the Catechist Rally on the homepage--  
follow the instructions and register online.**



## *Dynamic Catholic Bible Study*

This July, St. Joseph's is offering an exciting Catholic study of the Bible for adults. The Great Adventure Catholic Bible study system created by Jeff Cavins provides the easiest way to understand the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. This study will help adults understand the Bible by finding the story that ties it all together. We will be using The Teen Timeline DVD series as well as The Great Adventure Storybook. The Storybook will be a perfect 'take away' from the study to share our salvation history with your children and grandchildren. Parishes everywhere are experiencing a renewal of faith and increased involvement from parishioners whose lives have been changed by The Great Adventure Bible study program. Sign up for this study will take place after Masses on the weekend of July 8-9. You can also contact the parish office at 293-3518 if you are interested. **Classes will be held in the St. Joseph Family Center at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays beginning July 12** and continuing through Wednesday, August 30. Please consider joining this wonderful opportunity to strengthen your Catholic faith!

## S.O.S. Marriage Retreat

Surrender your marriage to God's plan. Open your hearts and let the Holy Spirit lead you. Serve the Lord in all that you do. Are you longing to better understand your spouse? Are you seeking a better understanding of God's plan for your family? Do you need time with your spouse and God?

Join us for a weekend marriage retreat that will allow you time with your spouse and with God. Time to draw closer to God and to each other. A retreat to equip you with tools to better communicate, love, and support each other and to better serve the Lord in your marriage and family. The marriage retreat will be held at Disciple Oaks in Gonzales on August 18-20. It will begin on Friday evening and conclude Sunday afternoon. All marriage types are encouraged to come; new and aged, strong and shaky. Registration forms are in the back of church. Cost is \$250.00. **Deadline for registration is July 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact Jeffrey & Leslie Chancellor (361-772-2650) if you have any questions or would like more information.

## Retrovaille - August 4-6

**Married Singles Lifestyle** –The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. **Retrovaille** (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. For more information about the Victoria August 4-6, 2017 Retrovaille Weekend, contact John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or email: [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or visit the web site at **[HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com)** For more information about the Victoria August 4-6, 2017, Retrovaille Weekend, contact John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or email: [jbvjov@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or visit the web site at **[www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)**.

*"For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

## 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](http://www.itickets.com). To take advantage of the presale offer patrons should log on to the website and use the password SUCDC when prompted.

### 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.

## Why do I have to fast one hour before Mass?

Philip Kosloski

*The discipline highlights our need to be hungry for the Eucharistic bread we eat.*

Many Catholics from an older generation will remember the “midnight fast.” It meant that one could not eat before Mass starting from the midnight before. For this reason Masses were generally celebrated at dawn and Masses in the evening were extremely rare. Few people wanted to fast all day long before attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

This practice of fasting before Mass is an ancient discipline, present as early as the 2nd century. It remained in place until Pope Pius XII reduced the fast to three hours in 1957. The

fast was further shortened in 1964 when Pope Paul VI lowered it to one hour before reception of Communion.

The current *Code of Canon Law* reflects this change and states, “A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine” (Canon 919 §1).

However, in some cases those rules do not apply. “The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour” (Canon 919 §3).

But why? What does it matter if I ate a cheeseburger right before I walked into church on a day I intend to receive the Holy Eucharist?

Pope Paul VI wrote concerning the power of spiritual discipline in his apostolic constitution *Paenitemini*: “Mortification aims at the liberation of man, who often finds himself, because of concupiscence, almost chained by his own senses. Through ‘corporal fasting’ man regains strength, and the wound inflicted on the dignity of our nature by intemperance is cured by the medicine of a salutary abstinence.”

Jesus knew the power of fasting and went into the desert without food for 40 days before setting out on his public ministry. Furthermore, he taught his disciples that, “This kind [of demon] cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:29).

Fasting builds up our spiritual strength, and the Church asks us to complete this simple task every time we receive Holy Communion for our own benefit. Just like any athlete we need to exercise discipline and fasting is great for building those spiritual muscles. Without fasting we are weak and our passions drive us to wherever the wind blows.

Additionally, Pope John Paul II lamented in *Dominicae Cenae* how modern Catholics possess a “lack of Eucharistic ‘hunger’ and ‘thirst,’ which is also a sign of lack of adequate sensitivity towards the great sacrament of love and a lack of understanding of its nature.” We need to “hunger” and yearn for the Eucharist before we can properly receive it. Our reception of Holy Communion needs to correspond to an inner hunger that is indicative of a soul that thirsts for God’s love. If we don’t have this hunger (brought to mind by our physical hunger during fasting), we might think of Holy Communion as something ordinary, not needing any preparation beforehand.

Last of all, fasting before Mass is an image of the Eucharistic stories in the Gospels, specifically the Feeding of the Five Thousand. After a long day the disciples urged Jesus to send the crowd away so that they could buy food for themselves to eat. Instead, Jesus multiplies the bread and fish, leaving everyone “satisfied” at the end of the meal. Just like the crowd on that day, when we approach the table of the Lord we must be hungry, or as the Psalmist proclaims, “As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God” (Psalm 42:1).