

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 22nd

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – E. J. Rainosek

Sunday, July 23rd

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Julius & Evelyn Tobola

9 A.M. – Koerth – Marinell Smolik

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

Your Gift to God: July 9th

Sweet Home	\$1,688
Building Fund	\$20
DSA	\$10
Koerth	\$668
DSA	\$10

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.

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.

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 28th. Go to www.emmauscounselingcenter.com to make counseling and spiritual direction appointments or call (361) 212-0830.

"The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest."

KJT State Family Day – July 23rd

The KJT State Family Day will be held Sunday, July 23rd 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 14th at 800-245-8182 or info@jktnet.org. Hope to see you and your family on the 23rd!

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.

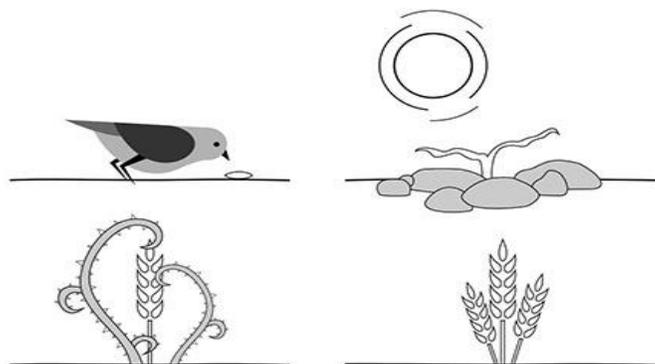
Area Picnics

Sunday, July 16th

Ascension of Our Lord Parish – Moravia

Sunday, August 6th

St. Joseph Parish – Yoakum Community Center



Gratitude

Our parish families owe a debt of gratitude and appreciation to all of our staff of Vacation Bible School. It was a great success with 75+ kids from Yoakum, Sweet Home and Koerth. We want to acknowledge the continued generosity of the Knights of Columbus for covering the expenses associated with this fun, faith-filled event for our local youth! Many thanks!!!

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. **Retrouvaille** (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 Retrouvaille Weekend, contact John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or email: jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or visit the web site at [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) 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.

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.

"The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will have life forever."

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.

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Holy smoke! Why the Church uses incense at Mass

Philip Kosloski

Its spiritual purpose is rich in meaning, and incense has been used in divine worship for thousands of years.

The *Catechism* reminds us that prayer involves much more than our soul, “Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays” (CCC 2562).

For this reason the Church’s public forms of worship contain numerous elements that are visible and engage our bodily senses. The *Catechism* teaches us that, “In human life, signs and symbols occupy an important place. As a being at once body and spirit, man expresses and perceives spiritual realities through physical signs and symbols. As a social being, man needs signs and symbols to communicate with others, through language, gestures, and actions. The same holds true for his relationship with God” (CCC 1146).

To help engage all of our senses during the celebration of Mass, lifting up our bodies and souls to God, the Church for centuries has used incense as an important exterior sign.

Incense was a vital part of worship for many ancient religions, including the Jewish worship of God. In the Tabernacle, as well as the Temple, God commanded that an “altar of incense” be built. God directed that Aaron, the High Priest, “shall burn it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations” (Exodus 30:8).

Connected to this tradition is the best known phrase mentioning incense in the Old Testament, “Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:2).

Christians quickly adopted the use of incense, and it appears prominently in the book of Revelation in the heavenly liturgy, where St. John describes, “the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God” (Revelation 8:4).

In light of the above scripture passages the primary meaning behind the use of incense is to symbolize our prayers rising up to God. When we see the incense we are reminded that the priest is there to gather up our petitions and plead on our behalf before our loving and merciful God.

Incense also calls to mind the heavenly reality of the Mass. It connects our celebration to the heavenly liturgy depicted in the book of Revelation and reminds us that the Mass is a meeting place between heaven and earth.

Last of all the thick cloud of incense can often obscure our view of the altar. This is a good thing and reminds

us of the mysterious nature of the Mass. Our mortal minds cannot comprehend fully the mystery that is being celebrated before our eyes and the incense makes that reality even more tangible.

So while the use of incense can seem strange at times, it has deep spiritual roots and has been a part of divine worship for thousands of years.

This might be the best Marian prayer for when you really need help

Philip Kosloski

The 12th-century prayer has been connected to numerous miracles throughout the centuries.

One of the most widely known Catholic prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, almost as popular as the Hail Mary, is the *Memorare*. It is an ancient prayer that has a miraculous reputation.

The prayer, traditionally attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, gets its name from the first word of the original Latin prayer. However, the prayer as we know it today is actually found within a much larger prayer to the Virgin Mary entitled *Ad sanctitatis tuae pedes, dulcissima Virgo Maria* (“At your holy feet, most sweet Virgin Mary”).

The *Memorare* was popularized by another Bernard, Fr. Claude Bernard, in the 17th century. Fr. Claude believed that the recitation of the prayer was the cause of his miraculous healing. He printed over 200,000 leaflets with the prayer on it in different languages to distribute wherever he could.

St. Francis de Sales said the prayer daily and St. Teresa of Calcutta taught others to pray it when they most needed help. Mother Teresa would pray it whenever she was faced with an emergency situation and most needed a miracle. It never failed her and has proven its miraculous character over the years through thousands of testimonials.

Pray this prayer with sincere faith and trust in God. He always answers our prayers, though not always in the way that we expect.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

