

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 5th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – George A. Gajdousek

Sunday, August 6th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Rose Pekar, James Konvicka,
Thomas Kocian

9 A.M. – Koerth – Anton & Julia Okruhlik

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

Your Gift to God: July 23rd

Sweet Home	\$1,648
Building Fund	\$120
DSA	\$10
Koerth	\$635

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.

Feast of the Assumption August 15th

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15th, is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday, August 14 – 6:30 P.M. (Vigil Mass)

Tuesday, August 15 – 7:00 A.M.

Lectors and Ushers Needed

We are still in need of more folks to step forward and assist with the roles of lector and ushers at Mass. There have been a few times when no ushers "step" forward and others scramble to pitch in. These are not difficult tasks and they are a service to the liturgy and to our parish.

Picnic Meeting: Wednesday

We will have a Picnic Planning meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Sweet Home Parish Hall. All are encouraged to step forward and pitch in so as to make the Picnic a success.

CCD Registration

We will have CCD registration after the 5:00 P.M. Mass on Saturday, August 19th and after the 9:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, August 20th. It is important that we get our children registered to be able to acquire the necessary materials in time for CCD to begin. The forms and calendars are available for download at www.qpcatholicchurch.com. You may also handle registration in advance by stopping at the Pastoral Center in Yoakum during office hours.

Safe Environment Training

A Safe Environment Training class will be held **Wednesday, August 16th at 6:30 P.M.** at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room in Yoakum. This class is mandatory for individuals who are interested in assisting or participating in any school function, field trip, CCD aide. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc. Anyone interested in becoming Safe Environment compliant **must complete the online application (www.victoriadiocese.org) prior to attending the class.**

Area Picnics

Sunday, August 6th

St. Joseph Parish – Yoakum Community Center

Sunday, August 13th

St. Michael's – Veteran's Memorial Park, Weimar

Tuesday, August 15th

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Praha

Raffle Items Needed

We are in need of donations for raffle items--the sooner we have them the quicker we can have the tickets printed up. Cash gifts will be converted to Gift Cards (MasterCard/Visa). We are hoping to have approximately 15 prizes. You can drop a prize donation (marked as such) in the collection basket--or if it is an actual item--drop it by the Pastoral Center in Yoakum or get with one of the co-chairs.

Join Bishop Brendan Cahill and God's Embrace Ministries on a "Lead Me Retreat" September 8-10!!

God's Embrace Ministries invites you to join Bishop Brendan Cahill for a weekend retreat experience on *"Lead Me into the Deep, Lord"*. Come from wherever you are to experience a deeper walk with Jesus. Retreat will be held at the **Spiritual Renewal Center** located at 718 Gussie Schmidt Road, Victoria, TX. Weekend begins 5:00 P.M. Friday, September 8th, and concludes with 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday September 10th. Open to men and women, but space is limited. Cost: \$450 for married couples or \$250 for singles. **Pre-registration** required online at www.godsembrace.org or call 979-561-8883 for more information.

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.

"Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; for you have revealed to the little ones the mysteries of the kingdom."

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.

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

5 Things Catholics Should Know About First Fridays

Philip Kosloski

Learn about devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the graces that come from observing First Fridays

It is no wonder, therefore, that our predecessors have constantly defended this most approved form of devotion — the pious devotion of the faithful toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus [and] the custom of receiving Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month at the desire of Christ Jesus, a custom which now prevails everywhere.—Pope Pius XI Miserentissimus Redemptor

What's so special about First Fridays?

Our parents grew up going to church every First Friday of the month and taking part in Sacred Heart devotions, but in recent decades the pious practice has fallen out of

practice, and is dismissed by some as an “old-fashioned” anachronism.

A main reason for the decline in interest in this devotion is probably rooted in simple ignorance: people don’t know what First Fridays are all about; families and parishes may not have adequately passed down their importance to the next generation. Here are five things to know.

1. How did the First Friday Devotion begin?

While some saints referenced the Heart of Jesus in their writings even centuries earlier, in 1673, a French Visitandine (Visitation) nun named Margaret Mary Alacoque had visions of Jesus, wherein he asked the Church to honor His Most Sacred Heart. In particular, Jesus asked the faithful to “receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months.” The request was connected to a specific promise made to all who venerated and promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart. After Margaret Mary’s death, the First Friday practice steadily spread in the Church —endorsed by popes and promoted by saints — but it greatly increased in popularity when Margaret Mary was canonized a saint in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

2. Why nine consecutive months?

The number nine is traditionally associated with a novena and finds its origin in the nine days that the apostles spent in prayer before Pentecost. A novena provides an extended amount of time for preparation and interior renewal.

3. What am I supposed to do on First Fridays?

Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion with the intention of honoring Christ’s Sacred Heart. If you are not in a state of grace, and thus unable to receive, you will also need to go to confession.

4. What are the “promises” connected to this devotion?

Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary, “In the excess of the mercy of my heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.” This means that if a person faithfully receives communion for nine consecutive months on First Fridays, Jesus will grant that person extra graces at the time of their death, making it possible to repent of their sins and receive the last rites (if needed).

This promise is the last of 12 promises connected to the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, particularly attached to the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in one’s home:

- (1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- (2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- (3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- (4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- (5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- (6) Sinners will find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- (7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- (8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- (9) I will bless every place in which an image of my heart is exposed and honored.
- (10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- (11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
- (12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

5. Are the First Fridays a “ticket” to heaven?

It is not as simple as going to Mass for nine months and then clocking out, never going to Mass again and leading a sinful life! The entire purpose of this devotion is to draw a person closer to the heart of Christ. If a person fulfills these obligations with sincere faith, it is natural for he or she to be closer to God and better prepared for death. The moment that this devotion is observed in a superstitious manner, neglecting the need to live a virtuous life, all bets are off and Jesus’ promise is null and void.

Jesus wants us to rest on his heart, like St. John, and the First Friday devotion is an opportunity for us to encounter him more than just on Sundays and to deepen our love of him.

Coming to know, love and trust that we may take rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and place our anxieties within, is what the First Fridays are all about.

