

The Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 12th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Laddie & Wanda Tomek

Sunday, August 13th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Dolphie Jalufka

9 A.M. – Koerth – Benjamin Kopecky

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

Your Gift to God: July 30th

Sweet Home	\$1,513
Building Fund	\$55
DSA	\$50
Koerth	\$679
Building Fund	\$90

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

The Picnic planning is off and running. As always, help and donations are needed. If you'd like to pitch in speak with Allan Monk or Bill Reardon (or call the Parish Office). It's a "joint" effort of both parish families--we need each other--and it is an important way we get to work together for a good cause.

Raffle Prize Donations

We are in need of raffle prize donations to get the picnic raffle in order. If possible we would like to have the donations by the weekend of August 20th so the tickets can be printed and ready for selling. If you would like to donate call the Pastoral Center in Yoakum (293-3518) or email pastor@stj catholicchurch.com.

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.

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

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.**

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.

Transfiguration of the Lord

Jesus' transfiguration on Tabor is an epiphany, a revelation of who Jesus is and to what his followers are called. We are summoned up the mountain to enter into glory. The suffering and glory of flesh and blood is a powerful image that runs through the feasts of August and September.

This feast comes 40 days before the feast of the Triumph of the Cross. At one time, these 40 days were a kind of "Lent" in preparation for autumn.

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased; listen to him."*

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:

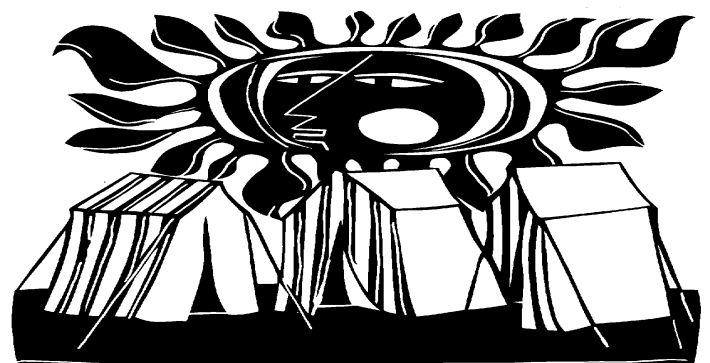
Gene Velek & Jerry/Joyce Kurtz

They can provide the needed information and help

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.



Why Catholics kiss images, rosaries, and sometimes even the floor...

Elizabeth Scalia

Perhaps the practice has died out in public, but I still catch myself doing it...

We were always kissing things.

Growing up in an ethnic Catholic neighborhood full of large families and clumsy kids, it was not unusual to see people pressing their lips against many things besides dogs and people. Let someone knock over a kitschy plastic glow-in-the-dark St. Jude and it would be placed back on the shelf with a quick kiss. Should a lady drop her rosary as she changed purses, there was a kiss and then a tuck into a safe satin pocket. Once, when a neighbor pulled change from his pocket, a small crucifix dropped to the curb; it was openly kissed before disappearing back into shabby brown gaberdine. My own devout grandmother — a convert from Lutheranism — would not hesitate to get on her knees and kiss the floor where holy water had spilled. No wonder the sole Protestant family on our block thought we were not just eccentric, but possible idolators to boot. No wonder that even today, when statue-kissing has gone out of vogue and few homes keep holy water around, many people cannot tell the difference between Catholic worship and mere reverence — between adoration, which is reserved for God, and veneration, which is merely reverence, albeit mixed with awe. The Communion of Saints must seem strange to outsiders who wonder why Catholics and Orthodox Christians bother taking side roads in their orisons when a prayer to Jesus seems like a faster, more direct route. As a religious sister from my childhood put it, though, “Why be singular when you can participate in heaven?”

We participate in heaven, in a manner of speaking, at holy Mass. I’ll never forget my younger son’s wide-eyed delight in learning that “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts” unites us to the chorus of continual praise offered by angels in the presence of the Creator. That information kept him bellowing at Mass for some years, until he realized that, to Eternity, a whisper works as well as a wail.

In St. Paul’s great Cloud of Witnesses we access our ancestry; we keep images of holy men and women about us, as would do with beloved members of the family. Believing in eternal life, and that Christ meant it when He said He was preparing a place for us, it seems a no-brainer to ask these distant-yet-near relations for their intercessory prayers.

Beyond the prayerful assists, and the relics and mementos that inspire us and help train our attention, Catholics and Orthodox Christians benefit from the wisdom of those who have traveled this vale of tears before us, struggling with the same sorry sins we battle today — lust, avarice, anger, sloth, pride, gluttony, envy and despair. Their advice echoes down to us through the ages with a resonating surety as, like professors in a spiritual university, they give real instruction on a range of subjects.

In theology: “The Father takes pleasure in looking upon the heart of the most holy Virgin Mary, as the masterpiece of his hands.... The Son takes pleasure in it as the heart of His Mother, the source from which He drew the blood that ... ransomed us.” — St. John Vianney

In practical humility: Once Macarius directed a young seeker to go to a cemetery and upbraid the dead. Then to go and flatter them. “What answer did they dead give you?” Macarius asked. “None at all,” said the youth. “Then go and learn never to let abuse or flattery move you. If you die to the world and yourself, you will begin to live for Christ.”

In suffering’s value: “During painful times, when you feel a terrible void, think how God is enlarging the capacity of your soul so that it can receive Him — making it, as it were, infinite as He is infinite. Look upon each pain as a love token coming to you directly from God in order to unite you to Him.” — Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, (who taught me how to pray...)

Whether they are memorialized in icons or dangling from keychains, who wouldn’t want to kiss such profound teachers as these?

