

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 15, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 21st

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Joe, Sr., Albina,
Angeline & Joe, Jr. Smirak

Sunday, October 22nd

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Adolph “Bo” Faltsek
9 A.M. – Koerth – Benita DeBord

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for eternal repose of the soul of Mary Rita Hermes Polansky.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

Your Gift to God: October 8th

Sweet Home	\$1,249
Online Giving	\$320
DSA	\$25
Cemetery Fund	\$20
Koerth	\$844
Building Fund	\$10
DSA	\$25
Cemetery Fund	\$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.

Special Collection

A special collection for World Missions will be taken up at all Masses this weekend, October 14-15.

Blood Drive

St. Joseph Parish is sponsoring a blood drive **today** from 9:45 A.M. – 12:45 P.M. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center mobile unit will be located on the Family Center parking lot. **Give the gift of life and donate today!**

K.J.Z.T. #12

Annual Meeting

St. Ludmila's K.J.Z.T. Society #12 of Sweet Home will hold its' annual meeting, meal and social on Sunday, October 22nd at 11:30 A.M. at the Queen of Peace Parish Hall. Spouses and children are invited. A turkey and dressing meal will be catered by Werner's of Shiner. Members are asked to bring a dessert. Everyone planning to attend must **RSVP by Monday, October 16th** by contacting one of the following:

Mary Ann Matussek – (361) 293-5305

Gladys Hermes – (361) 741-7431

Email Joyce Kurtz at jkurtz.kjzt@gmail.com

Alpha Fall Mini-Course!

Alpha is a program focused on engaging the fundamentals of the faith through dynamic conversation and quality videos in an informal environment. The format is always the same: food, a presentation, and small groups. Some of the topics include: why Jesus died, how to have faith, how to pray, and why we read the Bible. It's open to everyone, men and women, whether you've participated in Alpha before or not. Come join us at the St. Joseph Family Center on Monday evenings at **6:30-8:00 P.M. starting October 16th** for this shortened 8 week Alpha “Mini-Course”.

That Man Is You

That Man Is You (TMIY) has started its third "semester" this past week. It was one of the most thought-provoking sessions had thus far, dealing with real challenges Catholic men of all ages face. One doesn't have needed to attend prior "semesters," just take that first step and show up. Every Wednesday morning TMIY meets in the Family Center at St. Joe from 6:00 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.

Feast of All Saints Mass Schedule

The Solemnity of All Saints, November 1st, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated as follows:

Tuesday, October 31st – 6:30 P.M. (Vigil Mass)
Wednesday, November 1st – 6:30 P.M.

All Souls Day

Envelopes for All Souls Day can be found in the Church entrance. These intentions will be remembered for a novena of Masses and will remain on the Altar for the month of November.

All Souls: Visitation of Cemeteries

There will be blessing of graves at Koerth Cemetery on Sunday, October 29th immediately following the 9:00 A.M. Mass and at Sweet Home Cemetery on Thursday, November 2nd immediately following the 7:00 A.M. Mass.

Cemetery Flower Reminder

Christmas is just around the corner and it's time to remove those Easter flowers and any old, faded and tattered flowers as to keep things looking in good condition.

Helping the Local Area Hurricane Relief

For those who would like to donate to the Hurricane Relief and Recovery effort, one may go directly to the diocesan website where there is already a fund setup:
www.victoriadiocese.org/donate-hurricane-relief

Respect Life

Scheduling Mass Intentions

Beginning November 1st the 2018 calendar will be available for scheduling Mass intentions. Remember that the great majority of people want weekend Masses and there are a limited number of weekends. So be aware that not all intentions can be scheduled for weekends--some must be for weekdays. Scheduling can be done at the St. Joseph Pastoral Center during office hours for Sweet Home, Koerth, Hochheim and Yoakum. One should not simply drop a note to the Pastoral Center and assume a particular date is open--important that you speak with the staff to guarantee dates are open before making an assumption.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 29th

Blessing of Graves – Koerth Cemetery
after 9 A.M. Mass

All Saints Mass Schedule

October 31st – 6:30 P.M. – Sweet Home (Vigil)
November 1st – 6:30 P.M. – Sweet Home

Thursday, November 2nd – All Souls
Mass – 7 A.M. followed by Blessing of Graves
at Queen of Peace Cemetery

Sunday, November 5th

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Saturday, November 11th

Baptismal Preparation Class – 9 A.M.
St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room



The Emmaus Center:

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Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria

1908 N. Laurent Street, Suite 140
Victoria, Texas 77901

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www.emmauscounselingcenter.com
or call 361-212-0830

Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need

Why do we fold our hands during prayer?

Philip Kosloski | Oct 12, 2017

It is an ancient tradition with deep symbolism.

Many can remember being taught by religious sisters how to pray with folded hands, though sometimes the instruction was lost in kid translation. One individual recounts (whether true or not) the reason the sisters taught him for folded hands.

Pray with hands folded up so that your prayers will go to heaven.

If your hands are pointed down your prayers will go down to hell.

And if your hands are sideways, your prayers will bounce all over the room.

Truthfully, the real reason we fold our hands in prayer has much deeper symbolism. In fact, the tradition has its roots in the customs of ancient cultures.

In the Jewish tradition there is evidence in the Talmud that some prayed with hands folded as early as the post-Exilic period and even continued after Christianity was established. Some historians believe that Christians adapted this custom from their Jewish heritage.

Another common belief is that the hands-folded posture was derived from a Roman practice symbolizing submission.

Religious historians trace the gesture back to the act of shackling a prisoner's hands with vine or rope: joined hands came to symbolize submission. In ancient Rome, a captured soldier could avoid immediate death by joining the hands together. Just as waving a white flag today, the message was clear, 'I surrender.'

Centuries later, subjects demonstrated their loyalty and paid homage to their rulers by joining their hands. In time, clasping the hands together communicated both an acknowledgement of another's authority and one's own submission to that authority.

This type of joining hands to profess loyalty is still evident in the liturgy of ordination. A bishop will clasp the hands of the priest he is ordaining and say, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?"

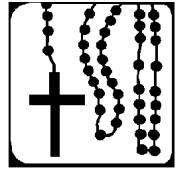
Another aspect of the folding of hands includes crossing the thumbs, which many have been instructed to do in the form of a cross.

All of this results in a gesture that represents loyalty to God, pointing our prayers to heaven and being reminded of the cross of Christ.

While Christians are not bound to pray with hands folded, it is a beautiful option, one with ancient roots and profound symbolism.

Rosary

Paul Turner



The rosary is a prayer based on the repetition of the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. During its recitation the believer reflects upon the birth, life, death, and glory of Jesus Christ and the role of Mary. A chain of beads resembling a garland of roses gave the rosary its name. The beads are not essential to the prayer, but they help count through 50 Hail Marys (five decades). The recitation of the traditional 15 decades permitted unlettered Christians to imitate more simply the monastic practice of reciting all 150 psalms in weekly prayer.

In addition to meditation, the rosary leads to petition. It implores Mary's intercession in bringing our prayers to God. As she won the cooperation of Jesus at the wedding feast at Cana, so we ask her to bring our needs to the Holy One of God.

The precise origins of the rosary are obscure, but it probably formed in imitation of meditative practices of Islam and after the Christian desire for prayer in a language more easily understood than the Latin of the Mass. Its popularity increased after the 15th century due to the zealous encouragement of the followers of St. Dominic, who believed our Lady had miraculously given the rosary to him. Because believers who attended Mass at that time had less to say, do, or see compared with today, the recitation of the rosary during Mass became a popular Catholic devotion much encouraged by religious educators. The popes of the church have continually cultivated the rosary as part of the faithful's private devotion and especially in family prayer. Many Catholics recite it privately or in groups before Mass. The liturgy for the dead calls for a vigil service of Scripture readings on the night before the funeral, but many parishes replace it with the rosary, even though the rubrics make no such provision.

Catholics may observe some people praying the rosary during Mass. This was an honored custom for many centuries. Today we are encouraged to participate in the Mass and to pray the rosary apart from the Eucharist.

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