

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 11th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Joe L. Pekar

Sunday, November 12th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – All Living & Deceased
Members of the Armed Forces

9 A.M. – Koerth – Marinell Smolik

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for all the faithful departed.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Mal 1:14b – 2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

Your Gift to God: October 29th

Sweet Home	\$919
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$5
Koerth	\$673.42
Building Fund	\$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.

Special Collection

A special collection for the Campaign for Human Development will be taken up at all Masses the weekend of November 18-19.

Baptismal Preparation Class

Saturday, November 11th – 9:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room

*“You have but one Father in heaven
and one master, the Christ.”*

Eternal Rest

In the Sweet Home sanctuary near the crucifix burn seven candles remembering those for whom funeral rites were celebrated in our parishes: Benjamin Kopecky, Benita DeBord, Larry Munsch, Marinell Smolik, Millie Kutac, Paul Jeremiah Sluka and Dorothy Dworsky. May they Rest In Peace, and May their grieving loved ones know the confirm and hope found in our faith.

Pray Saint Gertrude the Great's Prayer for the Holy Souls

One of the most popular prayers for the Souls in Purgatory is that of Saint Gertrude the Great. She received many visions of Our Lord during her lifetime and expressed to Jesus her great desire to pray for the deceased. In return, Jesus taught Saint Gertrude the following prayer. It is piously believed that 1,000 souls are released from purgatory by praying this prayer with the heart.

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

Prayer from St. Augustine

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is Holy.*

Vocation Awareness Week November 5-11

Did you know that in our country, compared to 50 years ago, there are 20,000 fewer priests and 130,000 fewer religious sisters? At the same time, the Catholic population has continued to grow steadily. Many factors have contributed to the decline: growing secularism, a lengthened period of adolescence, attitudes about celibacy, etc. During Vocation Awareness week, please pray that young people in today's society will hear and respond to God's call. And do your part to encourage them to consider the priesthood and religious life. Do you have someone in mind who may make a good priest? Mention it to him. Even if he's not called, it's a compliment to his faith – one he'll never forget!

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please personally encourage young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

*Whoever exalts himself
will be humbled;
but whoever humbles himself
will be exalted."*



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

- Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.
- Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week.
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.
- Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.



The Emmaus Center: *Counseling in the Catholic Tradition*

Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria

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

For an appointment, go to
www.emmauscounselingcenter.com
or call 361-212-0830

Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need

Meditations from the Holy Father

“Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life there is always strong and intense prayer from someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community. ... Vocations are born in prayer and prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.”

Pope Francis

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.** for this shortened Alpha "Mini-Course".

That Man Is You

That Man Is You (TMIY) is in its third "semester". One doesn't have to 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.

An essential key to holiness we often forget

Philip Kosloski

Hint: It doesn't involve any extra prayers or devotions.

Prayer is essential to growth in the spiritual life, but so are basic human virtues — building blocks of daily life that everyone should strive to achieve, in order to make our world a better place.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains,

“Human virtues are firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life.

The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good. The moral virtues are acquired by human effort. They are the fruit and seed of morally good acts; they dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with divine love” (CCC 1804).

Basically, a virtuous life is achieved through good habits. These habits are the foundation of holiness.

The ancient philosopher Aristotle also illustrated this same concept in his *Nicomachean Ethics*. He explained how “moral virtue comes about as a result of habit.” If we do not have a habit of virtue, we will never draw closer to God.

Throughout the centuries various writers have developed a list of the seven human virtues that provide an essential key to holiness. Going through this list is a perfect way to practice an examination of conscience, discovering how we have succeeded or failed in living out the Gospel.

Chastity – According to one's state in life, chastity revolves around the proper ordering of sexuality.

Temperance – Deeply connected to many different passions, temperance allows for the ability of self-control.

Charity – A hallmark of Gospel living, charity is born out of a selfless love of neighbor.

Diligence – This virtue focuses on counteracting laziness and applying oneself to a task with perseverance.

Patience – One of the hardest virtues, it means bearing difficult things (and difficult people) with gentleness and compassion.

Kindness – Often forgotten on the internet, kindness is a virtue and a worthy habit to adopt.

Humility – Last, but not least, humility counteracts a prideful nature and is true self-knowledge, recognizing both your faults and strengths.

Sometimes a confessor will challenge a penitent to pick one virtue to work on, taking baby steps to make it a lasting habit. A person can draw much closer to God by practicing a single virtuous habit each day.



“The greatest among you must be your servant.”