

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 18th

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Frankie & Elizabeth
Ressler

Sunday, November 19th

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – John & Betty Stasny,
Charles & Victoria Motal

9 A.M. – Koerth – Edward Hermes

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for living and deceased veterans.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

Your Gift to God: November 5th

Sweet Home	\$1,572
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$26
DSA	\$25
All Saints	\$290
Koerth	\$710
Building Fund	\$1,095
DSA	\$21
All Saints	\$65

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 next weekend of November 18-19.

*"Stay awake and be ready!
For you do not know on what day
your Lord will come."*

CROP Hunger Walk

The Yoakum Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, November 19th** at 1:30 P.M. at the Yoakum ISD Track. Participants should meet and register at the track. In addition to benefiting the hungry of the world, 25% of the proceeds collected will be given to the local Food Pantry at First Baptist Church. Walkers can obtain packets from any Ministerial Alliance member. For more information, contact Deacon Dennis Kutach at 741-2657.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by the Yoakum Ministerial Alliance, will be held on **Sunday, November 19th** at River of Life Church, 107 Highway 77-A. The service will begin at 5:30 P.M. with meal to follow. Everyone is invited to attend.

Pastoral Center Holiday Schedule

The Pastoral Center will close Tuesday, November 21st at 5:00 P.M. and reopen Monday, November 27th at 8:00 A.M. **Bulletin deadline for that week is Monday, November 20th at 4:00 P.M.**

That Man Is You

That Man Is You (TMIY) is in its third "semester". 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.

Workbook for Lectors

The 2018 Workbook for Lectors have arrived and are available in the Sweet Home sacristy. Cost is \$12.

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 with locating available plots. They will also provide the needed details to complete a purchase/reservation and receive a deed for record purposes.

Religious Goods

The St. Joseph Pastoral Center has various types of religious goods available for sale in the lobby. There are religious cards, crucifixes, rosaries, Bibles, prayer books (English and Spanish), Advent wreaths, religious Christmas ornaments, statues, cemetery candleholders, etc....just the beginning of the list. All are available during office hours. It is never too early to start your Christmas shopping!

Sleeping St. Joseph

When the Holy Father was elected and moved into the papal apartments, one item he brought with him was a statue of St. Joseph sleeping. He described the devotion he has to St. Joseph and his own "tradition" of placing little notes with petitions/intentions underneath the little statue, thereby putting the need and concern in St. Joseph's hands. The St. Joseph Pastoral Center has a couple of these unique "sleeping St. Joseph" statues if you would like to enhance your own devotion and tradition.



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

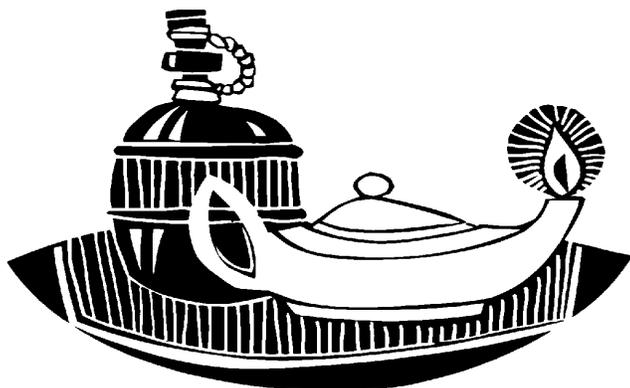
Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need

SOLIDARITY in SUFFERING



A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
NOVEMBER 26, 2017

A WEEK OF AWARENESS
NOV 26 - DEC 2, 2017



Why John Paul and Benedict say “Start your purgatory today”

Judy Landrieu Klein

Is purgatory a faraway place? Or does it begin here and now?

God is a consuming Fire. He alone can refine us like gold, and separate us from the slag and dross of our selfish individualities to fuse us into this wholeness of perfect unity that will reflect His own Triune Life forever. Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

While the month of November brings to the fore the awareness of the holy souls in purgatory, it also begets an important question: Is purgatory a faraway “place” or is it a state of existence all of us are called to, starting now?

St. John Paul II created a bit of a firestorm during a papal audience in 1999 when he stated during a catechesis on the Last Things, “Purgatory...is not a place, but a condition of existence.”

He continued, “Those who, after death, exist in a state of purification, are already in the love of Christ who removes from them the remnants of imperfection.” (General Audience, July 21, 1999)

Earlier, in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, John Paul II had written:

The “living flame of love,” of which St. John (of the Cross) speaks, is above all, a purifying fire. The mystical nights described by this great doctor of the church on the basis of his own experience correspond, in a certain sense, to purgatory. God makes man pass through such an interior purgatory of his sensual and spiritual nature in order to bring him into union with Himself. Here we do not find ourselves before a mere tribunal. We present ourselves before the power of Love itself ... It is Love that demands purification, before man can be made ready for that union with God which is his ultimate vocation and destiny. *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, 186-187

The Bible is replete with images that portray God’s love as fire, with a key theme being that the fire of God’s love burns that which it touches without destroying it (Exodus 3:2, Hebrews 12:28). Pope Benedict XVI explained this concept pointedly in the following words:

Jesus sets fire to the earth. Whoever comes close to Jesus, accordingly, must be prepared to be burned...it burns, yet this is not a destructive fire but one that makes things bright and pure and free and

grand. Being a Christian, then, is daring to entrust oneself to this burning fire. (*God and the World*, 222)

It could thus be said that purgation is the experience wherein one is immersed in the fire of the love of God, with the effect being that whatever is not of God, i.e., everything within us that is incongruent with his love, is burned away. As Catholics, we may readily accept that such purgation will happen to us after death. But what we don’t often consider is that the same love we will encounter after death is meant to cleanse us even now, while we are still alive. In fact, the degree to which we allow the fire of God’s love to purify us in this life will determine how much purgation we will need in the next!

So bring on the fire, right?

Well, it’s not quite that simple. Because purification involves the pain of suffering and death, most of us try our darnedest to avoid it.

What within us, exactly, must be purified unto death as we draw near to Christ? While St. Paul called it “the flesh,” Trappist monk Thomas Merton named it the “false self,” which he said is the illusory persona projected by the human ego that “wants to exist outside the reach of God’s will and God’s love ... the self that exists only in my own egocentric desires.” (*New Seeds of Contemplation*, 35)

This is the self that finds its identity in pleasure, popularity, power, posturing and pride instead of authentic love; the self constructed by the ego that gives us an identity of our own making instead of the identity that God invites us to discover only through love of him. This self must die that we might truly live; one must allow it to be stripped away in order to become real and true in loving God, self and others.

Purgatory now? Indeed, may it be so. Let us pray:

Sanctify, O Lord, our souls, minds, and bodies. Touch our minds and search out our consciences. Cast out from us every evil thought, every base desire and memory, every unseemly word, all envy, pride and hypocrisy, every lie, every deceit, all greed, all wickedness, all wrath, all anger, all malice, all blasphemy, all sloth, every movement that is alien to your holy will. Enable us to turn to you, O God, who loves humankind, to call upon you with boldness, with a pure heart, a contrite soul, a face unashamed, and with lips that are sanctified. Amen.

From *The Divine Liturgy of James the Holy Apostle and Brother of the Lord*

*“My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.”*