

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2nd

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Diane Janak

Sunday, December 3rd

7 A.M. – Sweet Home – Otto, Lydia &
Toni Havel

9 A.M. – Koerth – Victor & Cecilia Bujnoch

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for all those resting in both of our cemeteries.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Your Gift to God: November 19th

Sweet Home	\$1,087
Online Giving	\$520
Building Fund	\$510
DSA	\$15
Special Collection (<i>Campaign for Human Development</i>)	\$146
Koerth	\$656
Building Fund	\$20
Special Collection (<i>Campaign for Human Development</i>)	\$51

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.

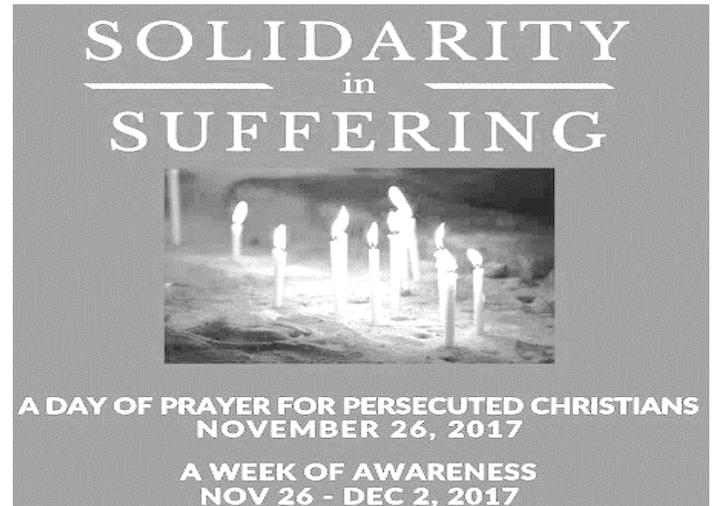
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8th, is a holy day of obligation.

Mass Schedule:

Thursday, December 7th – 6:30 P.M. (Vigil Mass)

Friday, December 8th – 7:00 A.M.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Solidarity at the Service of All People in the Middle East

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East need our solidarity, and the Middle East needs our Christian brothers and sisters. A concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution, both minorities and majorities, both Muslims and Christians.

A recent USCCB delegation visit to Iraq confirmed once again that what has happened—and continues to happen—to Christians, Yezidis, Shia Muslims, and other minorities in Syria and Iraq, at the hands of the so-called "Islamic State," is genocide. It is important for Syrians and Iraqis of all faiths to recognize this as genocide, for that recognition is a way to help everyone come to grips with what is happening, and to form future generations that will reject any ideology that leads to genocidal acts and other atrocities. Likewise, a particular focus on minorities is essential to forming communities that respect the rights of all, including members of the majority.

To focus attention on the plight of Christians and other minorities is not to ignore the suffering of others. Rather, by focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, we strengthen the entire fabric of society to protect the rights of all.

O God of all the nations,

the One God who is and was
and always will be,
in your providence

you willed that your Church
be united to the suffering of your Son.

Look with mercy on your servants
who are persecuted for their faith in you.

Grant them perseverance and courage
to be worthy imitators of Christ.

Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations
to work for peace among all peoples.

May your Spirit open conversion
for those who contradict your will,
that we may live in harmony.

Give us the grace to be united
in truth and freedom,

and to always seek your will in our lives.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

*Prayer composed by
Archbishop William E. Lori, Baltimore*

**'TIS (almost)
THE
SEASON**

We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. Join our parish for Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a unique way. Each day you'll receive an email with...

Short inspirational videos from
Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt
Practical tips for your everyday life
Real-life stories of hope

TO SIGN UP, VISIT

BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope

Dynamic Catholic

**Live Production of
Maximilian:
Saint of Auschwitz**

Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz, the moving, live production performed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at **Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria** on **Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m.**

Experience firsthand the story of the heroic priest, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, who courageously fought the forces of evil, and offered his life for another man in Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 10 and up.

Admission is free. For additional information, contact Holy Family Parish Office at 361-573-5304 or visit www.hfccvic.org.

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!



*"I am the Alpha and the Omega;
the one who is and who was and who is
to come, the almighty"*



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.

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?