

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 20th

5 P.M. – James Jurica

Sunday, January 21st

7 A.M. – Laddie & Wanda Tomek

9 A.M. – Louis & Lena Bolom

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Deceased Members of Vincent & Theresa Mozisek Family.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Your Gift to God: January 7th

Sweet Home	\$1,803
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$41
DSA	\$5
Koerth	\$1,072
Building Fund	\$1,030
DSA	\$20

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.

A Few Statistics

As one year ends and another begins, here a few of the "numbers" that reflect where we've been:

2017

Registered parishioners: 221

Baptisms: 4

First Communions: 6

Marriages: 6

Funerals: 6

9 DAYS FOR LIFE
PRAYER • PENANCE • PILGRIMAGE
PRAY WITH THE BISHOPS TO END ABORTION
4 WAYS TO JOIN
9daysforlife.com

Bishop Cahill and the U.S. bishops invite us to pray for the protection of all human life. A special novena **called 9 Days for Life will take place from January 18th through the 26th**. The Diocese of Victoria will be participating in the 9 Days for Life and will have a group traveling to Washington DC for the March for Life. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com! #march4life_victoriatrix

Diocese of Victoria 30th Annual Catholic Conference

Saturday, January 27, 2018
Holy Family Church, Wharton

The seven principles of **Catholic Social Teaching** will be presented by 22 speakers in 32 workshops. The titles, descriptions and presenter vitae can be seen on the diocesan website.

Also see the newly revised flyer and registration form, mailed in mid-October, for titles and names of speakers. If you did not receive one, call us at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2224, 2225, or 2227.

On line registration is now open. Go to the Diocesan website www.victoriadiocese.org to register.

Annual Contribution Statement

Those who would like a statement of their envelope support contributions should call the parish office, 293-3518.

You are Invited to: "Rediscover Jesus"

An invitation is extended to you to join a small group using the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly beginning the week of **February 4, 2018 through March 23, 2018**. Small groups are being offered from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Sunday through Thursday. Please call the Parish Office, 293-3518, if you would like to join a small group for Lent and indicate the best day of the week. If you would like to host or form a small group in *your* home (or for more information), call Ashley Hermes, 293-0700, Sharon Janca, 293-8367 or Joyce Harper, 798-6325.

Why I'm Catholic (and you should be too)

Has anyone ever asked you why you're Catholic? Have you ever wondered yourself? Would you like some good reasons? If so, you might enjoy this six part series presented by Fr. Jacob. Sessions will take place on the **Mondays of Lent from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center beginning February 19th**.



Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace March 9-11, 2018

Registrations are open for a Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace. Come from wherever you are to experience a deeper walk with Jesus. Retreat will be held March 9-11 at the High Hill Conference Center of God's Embrace located at 2911 FM 2672, Schulenburg, TX. Weekend begins Friday evening and concludes with Sunday Mass. Open to couples and singles. Cost is \$100 for retreat and food. Overnight lodging is not provided, but discounted rate is available at Holiday Inn in Schulenburg. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call 979-561-8883.

2018 13-day Camino de Santiago/ Fatima Pilgrimage!

Please join other Catholics from the Galveston/Houston/Victoria area to hike the Camino de Santiago along the countryside of Spain. This tour begins in Sarria, the most popular Camino starting point, covering the last 100km of the Camino Francés to converge on Santiago de Compostela with an additional stop in Fatima and Porto. There are spots available for the following 2018 dates: June 4-16 and June 25-July 7. If you are interested in joining this spiritual journey, contact Jane Lakatos at jhlakatos@gmail.com.



The Emmaus Center: *Counseling in the Catholic Tradition*

Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria

1508 E. Airline
Victoria, Texas 77901

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

Now offering some services in Spanish.

Extending a Listening Heart to Those in Need



"Samuel, Samuel!"

“Ten pounds of manure in a five pound can” The essential art of saying “No”

Tod Worner

“You can’t put ten pounds of manure in a five pound can.”

What does *that* mean?

Let me explain.

Over the course of my life, my dad has offered me a treasure trove of indispensable advice...

“Watch the ball.”

“Put some elbow grease into it.”

“Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.”

And quoted the great masters...

“Small strokes fell great oaks.”

“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.”

“Nothing ventured; nothing gained.”

Ah, yes. But, nowadays, the words that especially ring true when I examine my overcommitted life are,

“You can’t put ten pounds of manure in a five pound can.”

Nope. You can’t.

Now, contrary to the assumption that this is just hayseed wisdom, consider its deeper meaning.

In the midst of ever-growing responsibilities and opportunities, there is only so much time. We forget that. But we try to convince ourselves otherwise. If only we manage our time more efficiently (we tell ourselves), we will achieve our goals, be happier and find greater fulfillment. We just need to work harder. Wake up earlier. Go to bed later. Work through lunch. Shortcut this. Skip that. Multitask. Cram it in. Cram it in. Cram it in. *Don’t you feel the improvement? Aren’t you becoming enlightened?*

Hardly.

This is the classic Mary and Martha situation. Mary and Martha know how busy life is and are aware of all the demands made upon them as homemakers and hostesses. And when Christ comes for a visit, their eyes open to what needs to be done. Martha, dutifully, gets on with the tasks of cleaning and food preparation. But Mary discerns something deeper. Somehow, the presence of Christ has concentrated her mind. The “to-do” list falls away. And she sits and listens. Unlike Martha, Mary finds her priorities transformed from what *needs* to be done to what *ought* to be done. The difference? One is that

nagging sense of tasky (albeit earnest) human priorities. The other is the transcendent and enlivening priority of God. One tends to tax and distract; the other seems to invigorate and center. To be sure, this is not a call to jettison all workaday responsibilities, but rather to triage them in favor of God.

Recently, I came across an insightful excerpt written by a priest that got me thinking. He described the spiritual life of someone torn by all of their appetites and commitments as *dis-integrated* (literally having lost the unified, wholeness that our soul craves in its communion with God). And the person who can say “no” to that which distracts or overwhelms and “yes” to the call of God as *integrated*. Effectively, it is about moving toward or away from that *unum necessarium*, or One Necessary Thing. When we are breathlessly overcommitting and zealously multitasking, our tendency is to call ourselves *stressed*. But it may be more. We may be spiritually fractured and dis-integrated. As we flop in the chair exhausted at day’s end, we may try to convince ourselves that we are fulfilled. But are we? Our list may be done, but our soul may be empty.

By periodically saying *no* to the incessant demands of life, we may feel we are shutting the door on opportunity or even shirking ever-growing responsibilities. We have a deeply ingrained habit to follow the dictum, “Don’t just sit there, do something!”. This frenetic pace can be damaging and unsustainable. By saying *no*, we are not limiting ourselves. Instead, we are opening ourselves to a sliver of peace, a moment to breathe, a crack in the door through which God can fit. Or as Flannery O’Connor privately prayed

“I do not know you God because I am in the way.
Please help me to push myself aside.”

Perhaps it is time to push ourselves and our tasks aside. And perhaps it is time to say *yes* to God.

Are we ready?

