

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 27th

5 P.M. – Frank P. Henke

Sunday, January 28th

7 A.M. – Robert & Frances Anderle

9 A.M. – Ignac Krejci

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of all the Souls of the Faithful Departed.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Your Gift to God: January 14th

Sweet Home	\$1,526
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$20
DSA	\$15
Koerth	\$685
Building Fund	\$95
DSA	\$60

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.

Annual Contribution Statement

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

*"The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the Gospel."*

St. Mary's University Chapel Choir

We welcome the St. Mary's University Chapel Choir who will be singing at this evening's Mass.

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.

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.

Koerth Parish Hall Restrooms

The hurricane winds brought in quite a bit of water into the Parish Hall restrooms that further damaged the paneling and floor. Our insurance has approved the work to repair these issue utilizing their own repair/restoration company. There has not been a timeline given yet as to when they will begin, but as soon as they inform us it will be posted in the bulletin.



Looking for a Special Way to Rekindle the Spark in Your Marriage? How about an enrichment retreat for marriages??

Father Gary Janak, along with several married couples, will be sponsoring a special weekend for married couples. *Choosing to L.O.V.E.* is a retreat for couples seeking to enrich their marital commitment, by focusing on what brought their covenant into existence – their marriage vows. It is not a weekend for couples experiencing serious problems in their relationship, but for couples seeking to be faithful to their marriage vows and desiring to strengthen the core of who they are as husband and wife. **The retreat will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center south of Victoria on February 16-18th.** Space is limited, so register now! The cost for the retreat will be \$275 per couple, which includes lodging, food, and materials. Registration forms are available at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Parish Office in Victoria or by emailing jvincent@olvcathedral.org. *A truly special way to treat your favorite valentine!*

Feast of St. Blaise February 3rd

We will have Blessing of Throats after the 5:00 P.M. Mass on the Feast of St. Blaise.

*"Come after me, and I will make you
fishers of men."*

God's guide to fishing

Tom Hoopes

The whole of Sunday's readings could be read as God's six tips for fishers of men.

The ultimate author of Scripture is the Holy Spirit. The Gospels report words spoken by God the Son. With a combination like that, you can find depths of meaning even in the smallest of phrases.

For instance: "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." In fact, the whole of Sunday's readings (Week Three of Ordinary Time, Year B) could be read as God's six tips for fishers of men.

1: No fishing experience is necessary.

The Gospel shows Jesus choosing Simon, Andrew, James and John – the greatest apostles in history. This is analogous to Alexander the Great picking his commanders or Napoleon forming his inner circle before setting out to conquer the world.

But Jesus doesn't choose the best and brightest; he doesn't choose those with the greatest tactical skills or the most far-reaching education. Instead, he chooses simple fisherman, minimally educated.

What these fishermen will achieve will dwarf the accomplishments of Alexander the Great and Napoleon. They will start a revolution of truth that made science possible. They will unleash beauty that reinvents the arts. They will start an ethical system that changes the way human beings are treated worldwide. How?

Because Jesus didn't say, "Come and fish with me." He said "Come after me and *I will make you* fishers of men." Ultimately, God did it – not them.

2: They didn't change the river of history; they fished it.

Jesus didn't call the apostles to change the world. Their goal was to lure a few souls out of the dark waters and into the light of grace.

This took the apostles a long time to understand. They thought their job was to expel the Roman occupiers, bring the tax collectors to heel, or put the Samaritans in their place. No. Their job was to fish.

It is the same with us. We worry about the crushing weight of society's burdens – politics, the economy, violence – but we don't have to. Our job each week is to fish. Bring a soul or two closer to Christ. God does the rest.

3: Fishers have to go where the fish are.

It is a little ironic that the Church chose a reading from Jonah as the first reading. In Jonah, the fish is the fisher of men.

But his story gives an important lesson. Jonah didn't want to travel to Nineveh to preach repentance. But that was where the people who needed to repent were.

In our time, too, we wish we didn't have to leave our comfortable circles to bring Christ to others. We wish they would approach us and ask us about the faith. They won't. We have to go where they are.

4: You have to use the lure the fish likes.

God in his wisdom made some fish who love lures, some who love live bait, and some who just go where the other fish are. The fisherman is only successful if he understands this.

It is the same with men and women. Some need to be lured, some need to be fed and some need to be netted. Only by doing things God's way does Jonah net Nineveh. It is the same for each of us.

5: The first rule of fishing is "Don't scare the fish."

One of the first rules a child learns fishing with dad is that he must not scare the fish. The Second Reading gives Christians just this message.

Paul says "those weeping" should act as if they were not weeping; "those rejoicing as not rejoicing ... those using the world as not using it fully."

We might translate Paul for our times this way: "Those who are shouting about politics should not shout; those obsessing about sports should relax; those who hate what their neighbor is doing should put that aside."

Others might act like these things are the only important things on earth. Not us. We know better. "The world in its present form is passing away," says St. Paul.

We don't want our attachments to pieces of the world to block anyone from seeing the next world. We don't want to scare the fish.

6: The most important thing, though, is to just go ahead and fish.

Simon and Andrew "abandoned their nets and followed him." James and John "left their father Zebedee in the boat" and followed.

God calls us, too, in the middle of our lives – in our workplaces and with our family – to put our plans aside and try to catch a few fish.

The future world depends on it.