

# Third Sunday of Easter

## April 15, 2018

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
5 P.M. – Frank P. Henke

Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
7 A.M. – Father Charles Sonnier  
9 A.M. – August Dornak



### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for those preparing for reception of Confirmation.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

### Your Gift to God: April 8<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,343
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$15
DSA	\$40
Koerth	\$637
Building Fund	\$1,085
DSA	\$40

*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 Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up at all Masses April 28-29.

### Confirmation Reminders

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at St. Joseph's in Yoakum on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** at the 5:00 P.M. Mass. Students and sponsors are asked to be at Church Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. for a brief practice.

### First Reconciliation

The celebration of First Reconciliation in preparation for First Communion will be at 10:30 A.M. in the Church on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### First Communion

On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> we will have the celebration of First Communion at the 5:00 P.M. Mass.

### Acts of the Apostles: Pentecost

Come Holy Spirit! In this second session of our six part Bible Study on Acts we'll take a look at the powerful event of Pentecost, its Old Testament roots, and what it all means. Come join us as Fr. Jacob focuses on the Promised Gift of God's Spirit, **Monday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Center. Bring your Bibles!**

### Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.** at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. **This will be the last class offered until September.**

We have an  
Advocate with  
the Father  
Jesus Christ  
the Righteous  
One  
1 Jn.

### Koerth Hall

The Insurance-appointed contractor came this past week and performed the repair work on the restrooms in the parish hall. All should be working in proper order.

### Reminder

This has been posted several times in the past two years, but bears repetition concerning celebrations of the Sacrament of Matrimony. The parishes are not “for hire” as wedding venues...and there are no fees associated with celebrating a wedding.

However, one must have a connection by either being registered as a parishioner--and in the case of a young person out of school--whose parents are registered and attend/support the parish. This being “connected” is important to being a part of the community who prays together and works to maintain the parishes through their dedication and support.

Young people who chose CCD here in past years due to it having been a simpler and less demanding program but who were from other communities/parishes can't simply demand a wedding at the parish here. With our change in CCD these past couple of years the numbers of students from neighboring communities dropped drastically--especially in light of our requirements and the fact that our CCD/Faith Formation calendar is fairly identical to the ones in neighboring communities/parishes.

To quote one parent back at the time of CCD registration upon finding out the calendar was the same as in the community in which they lived: “if that's the case then I'll just send them back in our parish as it's the same schedule.” The “our parish” line rolled off her lips without a second

### The Emmaus Center: Roast and Toast

Saturday, May 12th – 6:30 P.M.  
The Cathedral Center in Victoria

Help Support *The Emmaus Center. Counseling and Spiritual Direction in the Catholic Tradition:* Join in the fun and festivities on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Victoria at The Cathedral Center for the First Annual **Roast & Toast** benefiting *The Emmaus Center*, the Diocese of Victoria's Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center. This year's honoree will be **Father Gary Janak**, on the occasion of his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. The evening will include a delicious meal, entertainment and live and silent auctions, with all proceeds directly benefiting *The Emmaus Center*. *The Roast & Toast* event promises to provide an opportunity to enjoy a great evening and support the Center's continuing efforts to serve others. Call *The Emmaus Center* (212-0830) or The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory (575-4741) for tickets and further information.



## Here's everything you need to know about the Easter candle

Philip Kosloski

### *The candle used during the Easter season has profound symbolism.*

Not surprisingly, early Christians used candles in their liturgies. Initially this was done for practical purposes (especially when praying in the catacombs), but the light coming from the candles quickly became symbolic.

The candle-lit ceremonies reminded Christians of Jesus' words in the Gospel of John, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). For this reason candles became a central part of Christian worship and were associated with the light of Christ.

Besides using multiples candles for practical illumination purposes, there began a tradition where a single candle was used as a direct symbol of Jesus. According to Fr. Edward McNamara, "The most likely origin [of the Easter candle] is that it derived from the Lucernarium, the evening office with which early Christians began the vigil for every Sunday and

especially that of Easter. In turn, this rite is probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. The rite therefore has its roots in the very beginning of Christianity. In the Lucernarium rite the light destined to dispel the darkness of night was offered to Christ as the splendor of the Father and indefectible light. This Sunday rite was logically carried out with greater solemnity during the Easter Vigil."

Over time the Easter candle was given greater prominence and was decorated to further expound on the Paschal mystery. Below is a brief guide to the Easter candle along with the corresponding symbolism.

#### **Wax Candle**

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "The pure wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from His Virgin Mother, the wick signifies the soul of Christ, and the flame represents His divinity."

#### **Light**

The Roman Missal summarizes this symbolism perfectly, "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." This connects the Easter candle to Jesus, "light of the world," as he describes himself in the Gospel of John.

From the Easter candle are lit all the other candles in the church, showing how Jesus is the source of our light.

#### **Flame**

The flame is reminiscent of the "pillar of fire" that led the people of Israel and protected them as they escaped the slavery of the Egyptians. The Exsultet refers to this symbolism when it states, "This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin."

#### **Cross**

The cross is the supreme symbol of Jesus and the instrument through which he saved the world from sin and death.

#### **Alpha and Omega**

It is common in Christian art to find two Greek letters: the alpha (Α) and omega (Ω). These two letters have an ancient history in Christianity and are rooted in the book of Revelation, where Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. He who conquers shall have this

heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son” (Revelation 21:6-7).

### **Year**

As the priest traces the year on the Easter candle, he prays, “All time belongs to him, and all the ages.” This reminds us that God is here with us today and is constantly guiding all creation to himself.

### **Grains of incense**

Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle on top of the cross, symbolizing the five “holy and glorious wounds” of Jesus Christ.

