

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 5th

5 P.M. – James Jurica

Sunday, May 6th

7 A.M. – Rose Pekar, James Kovicka,

Thomas Kocian

9 A.M. – Ben Barton

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for the Living and Deceased Members of the L.J. & Anita Havel Family.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

Your Gift to God: April 22nd

Sweet Home	\$1,265
Online Giving	\$520
Building Fund	\$20
Koerth	\$992
Building Fund	\$10
DSA	\$8

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

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered home missions because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds programs – such as religious education, seminary formation, and lay ministry training – to build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous.

First Reconciliation

The celebration of First Reconciliation in preparation for First Communion will be at **10:30 A.M.** in the Church next **Saturday, May 5th**.

First Communion

Next **Saturday, May 5th** we will have the celebration of First Communion at the 5:00 P.M. Mass.

Acts of the Apostles: St. Stephen, the Martyr

St. Stephen, pray for us! In this fourth session of our six part Bible Study on Acts we're focusing on St. Stephen's incredible preaching, his use of the Old Testament, and why it was so provocative. Join us as Fr. Jacob explains why Stephen was martyred in the first place, **Monday April 30th 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 12th at 9:00 A.M.** at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. **This will be the last class offered until September.**

Sacred Heart Teen ACTS Retreat July 19-22

The Sacred Heart Teen ACTS Retreat will be held July 19-22 at Cathedral Oaks in Weimar, Texas. Cost is \$160.00 (\$30.00 registration fee will be credited to retreat fee). Retreatants will depart from Hallettsville on July 19th at 8:00 A.M. and return July 22nd for 10:30 A.M. Mass in Hallettsville. Registration forms are available at the back of the church.

Gratitude

The parish families extend appreciation and gratitude to Knights of Columbus Council 1582 and Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 206 for the gifts of Bibles to each of our Confirmation students. Your kindness and generosity to our newly confirmed is appreciated!

Day of Equipping

This one-day training, presented by Bart Schuchts, is designed to equip and prepare God's people do the works Jesus did throughout His ministry on earth. During this special day of training you will learn the foundations of abiding in Christ, hearing His voice, and becoming empowered to pray for others as Jesus did. If you desire the Holy Spirit operating in your life as described in John 14:12 and Ephesians 4, this training is for you.

***Come Be Equipped So That His Will Be Done...
On Earth As It Is In Heaven.***

Teaching Sessions Include Topics On:

- Equipping God's People
- Living in the Fullness of Confirmation
- Recognizing How God Speaks to You
- Abiding in Christ
- Following the Movements of the Holy Spirit

During the day the teaching will be augmented by prayer demonstrations, listening to God exercises, and praying for one another.

July 13, 2018

**St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church
EL Campo TX**

Register at: www.JPIIHealingCenter.org

**Local Questions: Pat Hoelscher at
pat623@icloud.com**

Early registration opens April 9, 2018

Online registration closes July 2, 2018.



JOHN PAUL II HEALING CENTER

Transformation in the Heart of the Church

*"I am the vine,
you are the branches."*

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 12th 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 30th 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.

Healing The Whole Person

Jesus responds today to brokenness, disease, and pain with transformative love and restoration. Through three days of teaching, worship, prayer, and testimony, you'll encounter God in a powerful way, and experience deeper freedom as the Father speaks to you in the depths of your heart, and through the supernatural graces of the sacraments. Whether you're struggling with life, or you just want "more" in your walk with God, this conference will empower you with tools, revelation, and a greater desire to live your life passionately on fire for God. Grounded in Church teaching, you'll engage the topics of "Facing our Brokenness," "Encountering the Father's Love," and "Living in Freedom."

Saint Philip the Apostle Catholic Church is hosting a Healing the Whole Person retreat, led by the John Paul II Healing Center, on July 12-14th. Learn more, and register for this amazing retreat at <http://jpiihealingcenter.org/> Early Registration opens on April 9th and Online Registration closes on July 2, 2018. For local questions you may contact Pat Hoelscher @ pat623@icloud.com

The miraculous image of Our Lady that came down from the sky

Philip Kosloski

Over the centuries the image has been the source of countless miracles.

In an Italian village outside of Rome there was a church built in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel that had fallen into severe disrepair. The people of the city did not have enough money to restore the church and so they waited and prayed for a miracle.

Then, according to a popular legend, on April 25, 1467, before a Mass in honor of St. Mark, the people of the village witnessed a marvelous site. They heard melodious music coming from up above and as they looked, they saw a white cloud of such luminous beauty. The cloud slowly descended and eventually hung over a wall in a side chapel of the church.

The cloud began to vanish and in its place, there remained a miraculous image of Our Lady. Almost immediately the sick were healed. Ever since the image and devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel has obtained countless healings.

Yet, while the image came down from the sky, the painting was a real painting that was miraculously transported from a church in Albania. After several military defeats, it was feared that the church would be destroyed and the precious image desecrated. Two men then witnessed the image of Our Lady lift off the church wall and fly off into the sky. They followed the image and eventually came to Rome, where they saw it disappear.

After inquiry, it was discovered that the image from Albania was the one that came down in the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Whatever the exact origins of the image may be, the image is one favored by Christian faithful around the world and many miracles continue to occur through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

Why is the Holy Spirit represented by a dove?

Philip Kosloski

It is one of the most ancient symbols of God, recognized by Jews even before Jesus' baptism.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is specifically mentioned as coming in the form of a dove. This occurs during Jesus' baptism where it is written, “the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove” (Luke 3:22).

Why a dove?

First of all, biblical scholars have pointed out how the Babylonian Talmud likens the Spirit of God that hovers over the waters at creation as a dove, “And the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters— like a dove which hovers over her young without touching [them].” This is not explicitly mentioned in the book of Genesis, but is alluded to in some translations where it is written, “the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2).

Secondly, a dove was sent out by Noah in search of land after the waters of the flood stopped. Genesis recounts how, “the dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf” (Genesis 8:11). This episode is directly connected to Jesus' baptism as the flood is seen in Christianity as a type or prefigurement of baptism.

Third, in a pagan context, doves were seen in the ancient world as representative of the divine. It was very common for gods or goddesses to be surrounded by doves.

As a result, by the time of the New Testament, doves were already very much associated with God and specifically his Spirit. Early Christians readily accepted this imagery and soon after began depicting the Holy Spirit almost exclusively as a dove.

The dove is seen in Christian art not only at the baptism of Jesus, but also in various biblical episodes such as the Annunciation, when Mary was greeted with the news that she would bear the Son of God. Some of the first tabernacles that contained the Eucharist were fashioned in the form of a dove suspended over the altar.

The dove, with its pure white feathers, calls to mind the purity of God, and its swift flight in the air reminds us of the many movements of the Holy Spirit in our soul. It is a beautiful image, one that has lasted throughout the centuries.