

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 13, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 19th

5 P.M. – Pat Morvant

Sunday, May 20th

7 A.M. – Eugene & Lydia Hermes

9 A.M. – Special Intention

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for a Special Intention.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 1:1-11; Ep 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

Your Gift to God: May 6th

Sweet Home	\$1,997
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$20
DSA	\$13
Koerth	\$1,055
Building Fund	\$1,115
DSA	\$65

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

Next week's special collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Diocese of Victoria. On behalf of all our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

Holiday: Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Acts of the Apostles: The Ministry of St. Paul

To the ends of the earth! In this last installment of our Bible Study on Acts we'll take a broad look at the ministry of St. Paul who was so touched by the mercy shown him by the risen Jesus that he had to tell as many people as he could. Join us as Fr. Jacob lays out some of the major themes of St. Paul's ministry, **Monday, May 14th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Center. **Bring your Bibles!**

Diocesan Catechist Rally

Those involved in Faith Formation/CCD...mark your calendars! "We are Catechists, Witnessing for Jesus: Living as Missionary Disciples" is the theme for the 2018 Catechist Rally which will be held on **Saturday, July 14th**, at the Cathedral Center, next to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria, Texas. The Catechist Rally is a Catechist appreciation and recognition event. All Catechist and Parish Catechetical Leaders are invited to attend.

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.

*"Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always,
until the end of the world."*

**-Calling All Youth-
You are Invited!**

2018 Vacation Bible School

July 9th – 13th

St. Joseph Family Center

9:00 A.M. – 12-noon

Students entering grades K-6 will be VBS campers
Students entering grades 7-12 will be VBS helpers

Adult helpers are also needed

Please contact Jana Guajardo at 361-648-3863 or
faithformation@stj catholicchurch.com

VBS Day Includes:

River Run Storytelling; Plunge-In Bible Challenge;
Fireside Snacks; White Water Games; River Riffs
Music & Dance, and Sandbar Crafts

VBS Daily Colors:

Monday – Yellow; Tuesday – Red;
Wednesday – Purple; Thursday – Green;
Friday – Blue

Safe Environment Student Awareness

will take place Monday, July 9th during snack
times.

***Friday, July 13th – Parents are invited to our*
Closing Celebration at 11:45 A.M.**

Application forms are available at the
entrance of the church and at the St. Joseph
Pastoral Center.

Marten Program in Homiletics

Recently several priests of our diocese began a Homiletics and Preaching Renewal Program that will last until June of next year. We are fortunate in that our own Fr. Jacob is among them. They will be meeting together regularly during the year to focus on improving preaching skills. It'll involve deeper study, setting specific goals, giving each other in-depth evaluations and feedback, and meeting a few times with groups of priests from other parts of the country who are also working through this program. As they begin, please keep them in your prayers.

*"I will not leave you orphans,
says the Lord. I will come back to you,
and your hearts will rejoice."*

*Prayer to the Mother of the
Lord for all mothers*

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.

On this Mothers day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you.



*body
spirit
Lord
baptism
God
and
father
of
All.
ephr*

Mother's Day Prayer

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

What is a novena?

Philip Kosloski

Novenas are an ancient part of the the Church's devotional life and have a rich history.

Catholics often talk about “novenas,” and without any prior knowledge of the devotion the name can be confusing.

What is a novena?

Novenas are an ancient part of the the Church's devotional life and many trace the structure back to the days between Jesus' ascension and the feast of Pentecost.

Jesus' final command on earth before ascending into heaven was to “wait for the promise of the Father.”

And while staying with them [Jesus] charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “You heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

God fulfilled this promise on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, as is described in the second chapter of Acts. This Jewish feast was always celebrated 50 days after the feast of Passover.

According to St. Luke, Jesus ascended into heaven after “appearing to [the apostles] during forty days” (Acts 1:3) after his resurrection. This means that the time between Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is nine days (not including the day of Jesus' ascension).

For many Christians, they saw these nine days of prayer as a model of prayer and developed devotions that consisted of nine days (or months) of prayer for a specific intention or to a particular saint. This number was seen as divinely inspired and so “novenas” (from the Latin word, *novem*, meaning “nine”), were viewed as a perfect way to pray.

One of the earliest novenas was a period of prayer for the nine months preceding the feast of Christmas, in imitation of Mary's prayerful pregnancy.

It didn't take long for the number nine to be used in all sorts of situations, such as a novena of Masses said for a person, or a novena of prayers for the restoration of health. Thus, the “novena” was born and has become a central part of Catholic devotion ever since.

Happy



Mother's Day