

# Pentecost Sunday

## May 20, 2018

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Joe & Albina Smirak,  
Joe & Angeline Smirak Family

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Father Marcus Valenta & the  
Living & Deceased Members of the Military

9 A.M. – Becky Wick

### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for those grieving the loss of loved ones.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

### Your Gift to God: May 13<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,705
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$5
DSA	\$170
Koerth	\$984
Building Fund	\$20
DSA	\$30

*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.

### Holiday: Parish Office

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

*“Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful and  
kindle in them the fire of your love.”*

### Special Collection

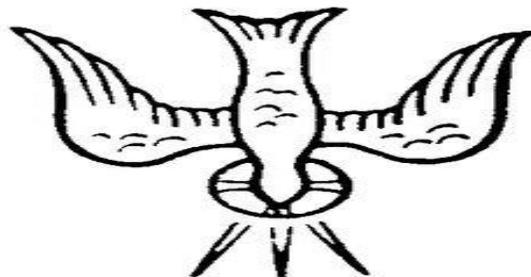
This week's special collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Diocese of Victoria. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup>**, 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 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. and return July 22<sup>nd</sup> for 10:30 A.M. Mass in Hallettsville. Registration forms are available at the back of the church.



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

### **2018 Vacation Bible School**

**July 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> during snack  
times.

**\*Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## **Area Picnics**

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

Sacred Heart Parish – Hallettsville KC Hall  
Sts. Cyril & Methodius – KC Park, Shiner

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Cross Czech & Klobase Festival  
Riverside Hall, East Bernard

**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

St. Mary's – St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hallettsville  
St. Rose of Lima – KC Hall, Schulenburg  
Our Lady of Guadalupe – Parish Gym, Bay City

**Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

St. John the Baptist – FM 1383, Ammansville

**Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Sts. Peter & Paul - Plum

## **Baptismal Preparation**

The Church requires that parents and godparents participate in a preparation program prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a "refresher" and overview of this important moment in the life of the family and the identity of our Catholic faith. The parish preparation program will be on "vacation" until September 8<sup>th</sup>. If someone desires to celebrate a Baptism this summer and one or more of the parents/godparents still need the class, they can attend in any Catholic parish and simply present their certificate. If they cannot locate a "class" that works with their schedule, there is always the option of the online version/program that can be completed. Unlike the parish sponsored programs which are free, the online requires registering for it and paying a fee of approximately \$30 to the company (this is solely the company's and in no way gets shared/given to the parish). After completing the online program a certificate is emailed to you for presenting to the parish as proof of having had the preparation. For those who want to pursue more information about this offering, go to [www.catechismclass.com](http://www.catechismclass.com).

*LORD of the Harvest,*

*BLESS young people with the gift of courage  
to respond to your call.*

*Open their hearts to great ideals, to great  
things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to  
mutual love and giving—for vocations  
blossom in the good soil of faithful people.  
INSTILL those in religious life, parish  
ministries, and families with the confidence  
and grace to invite others to embrace the  
bold and noble path of a life consecrated to  
you. UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and  
sacrament, so that we may cooperate with  
you in building your reign of mercy and  
truth, of justice and peace. Amen.*

*~ Pope Francis*

*"Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me,  
so I send you."*

# Pope Francis explains the Hail Mary phrase by phrase. Check it out!

Gelsomino Del Guercio

*And he remembers a mother who had an amazing gift of counsel. Here's the advice she gave her son:*

We all recite the Hail Mary, but how many of us know its true meaning? What is the prayer really saying?

In the book, "Mary, Mother of All" ("*María, Mamma di tutti*"), Pope Francis himself teaches us the meaning of the words of this essential prayer.

## **Full of Grace**

The Angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace" (Lk 1:28); in her, the pope explains, "there is no room for sin, because

God has chosen her from all eternity to be the mother of Jesus, and has preserved her from original sin."

"The Word became flesh in her womb. We, too, are asked to listen to God, who speaks to us, and to accept His will. The Lord always speaks to us."

## **The Lord is with you**

What happened in a unique way in the Virgin Mary, Francis says, "happens on a spiritual level in us as well when we welcome the Word of God with a good and sincere heart, and put it into practice. It happens as if God were to become flesh in us; He comes to live in us, because He makes His home in those who love Him and obey His Word. It's not easy to understand this, but, yes, it's easy to feel it in your heart."

"Do we think that the incarnation of Jesus is only a past event, that it doesn't affect us personally? Believing in Jesus means offering Him our body, with the same humility and courage as Mary."

## **Blessed are you among women**

How did Mary live her faith? "She lived it," the pope answers, "in the simplicity of the many daily occupations and worries of every mom, such as providing food and clothing, and taking care of the house... Precisely this normal existence of the Virgin was the ground on which a singular rapport and profound dialogue between her and God, between her and her Son, developed."

## **Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.**

Mary is receptive, but not passive, Francis explains.

"Just as she receives the power of the Holy Spirit at a physical level, but then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who takes form in Her, so also on a spiritual level, she receives grace and responds to it with faith. For this reason, Saint Augustine says that the Virgin 'conceived in her heart before in her womb.' She conceived faith first, and then the Lord."

## **Holy Mary, Mother of God**

The Mother of the Redeemer, the pope continues, "precedes us and constantly confirms us in the faith, in our vocation, and in our mission. With her example of humility and readiness to obey God's will, she helps us to translate our faith into a joyful proclamation of the Gospel, without borders."

## **Pray for us sinners**

In order to explain the meaning of this passage of the prayer, Francis relates an anecdote: "I remember how once, at the Shrine of Luján, I was in the confessional, in front of which there was a long line. There was also a young man who was very modern, with earrings, tattoos, all those things... And he had come to tell me what was going on with him. It was a big problem, very difficult. And he said to me, 'I told my mom all of this, and my mom said: Go to the Blessed Virgin and she will tell you what to do.' Now, that's a woman who had the gift of counsel. She didn't know how to solve her son's problem, but she pointed out the right path: go to the Blessed Virgin, and she will tell you. This is the gift of counsel. That humble, simple woman gave her son the best advice. In fact, the young man said to me, 'I looked at the Blessed Virgin and I felt that I should do this, this, and this...' I didn't need to talk; his mom and the young man himself had already said everything. This is the gift of counsel. You moms, who have this gift: ask that it be given to your children. The gift of counseling your children is a gift of God."

## **Now, and at the hour of our death**

Let us entrust ourselves to Mary, Pope Francis says, "so that she, as the Mother of our first-born brother, Jesus, can teach us to have the same maternal spirit towards our brothers, with a sincere ability to accept, to forgive, to strengthen, and to infuse confidence and hope. And this is what a mom does."

Mary's path towards Heaven began "with that 'yes' she spoke in Nazareth, in reply to the heavenly Messenger who announced to her God's will for her. In reality, that's exactly how it is: every 'yes' to God is a step toward Heaven, toward eternal life."

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.*