

# Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## August 12, 2018

### Mass Intentions

Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

6:30 P.M. – Marcus Janak

Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

7:00 A.M. – Rose Mary Bishop

Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – James Jurica

Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Dolphie Jalufka

9 A.M. – Ben Kopecky

### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of the victims of abortion.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

1 Kgs 19:4-8; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51

### Your Gift to God: August 5<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,966
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$35
DSA	\$5
Koerth	\$733
Building Fund	\$1,115
DSA	\$37

*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.

### CCD Registration

For those who want to get ahead and cross an item off of the annual "to do" list...you can find the registration forms available for download in the parish website (or by stopping by the Pastoral Center during office hours). Formal registration will be held August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>—this is just information for the "early birds" amongst us.

### Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. (Vigil Mass)

Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 A.M.

### Faith Formation (CCD)

Registration for CCD classes for the 2018-2019 year will be held on **Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** after the 5:00 P.M. Mass and on **Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

### Help Needed

Our Faith Formation (CCD) Program is in search for classroom teachers and assistants for various grade levels. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Skye Anderle at 361-772-0418 or [faithformation@qpcatholicchurch.com](mailto:faithformation@qpcatholicchurch.com).

### Safe Environment Training

A Safe Environment Training class will be held **Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 P.M.** at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. This class is mandatory for individuals who are interested in assisting or participating in any school function, field trip, CCD aide. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc. Anyone interested in becoming Safe Environment compliant **must complete the online application ([www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)) prior to attending the class.**

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever."*

## Picnic Donations

It is not too early to be thinking about Auction items...no garage sale merchandise or used appliances, etc.; homemade jelly, pickles, bread, etc. (be sure to list all ingredients on food items).

## Picnic 2018

As always, we are in need of volunteers to help in various areas at the Parish Picnic. Please contact Allan Monk if you are willing to give an hour or so of your time to help make the picnic a huge success. Remember, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*



## Queen of Peace Church Centennial

This past month marked the 100th year since the construction of the present Church building began with the blessing of the church cornerstone in 1918. The actual consecration of the Church took place on June 3, 1919. Looking ahead plans are being considered for a special Centennial Mass on Sunday, June 2, 2019 with the Bishop coming to celebrate the date with an afternoon Mass. At this point getting the date in Bishop's calendar needed to be done. Details and further planning will be considered in the months ahead. Mark your calendars!

## Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be Saturday, **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 A.M. in the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room.

*"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."*

## September 1<sup>st</sup> – 5:00 P.M. Mass

The St. Mary's Chapel Choir will be attending and providing the music and singing at the 5:00 P.M. Mass on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## SOS Marriage Retreat

Surrender your marriage to God's plan.

Open your hearts and let the Holy Spirit lead you.

Serve the Lord in all that you do.

Are you longing to spend relaxing quality time with your spouse and better understand God's plan for your marriage and your family? If so, please join us for the annual Hallettsville Deanery marriage retreat, which will be held **August 17-19** at Disciple Oaks in Gonzales. We are all different couples, at all stages of marriage, and this weekend is designed for anyone! Registration forms are located in back of the church. You may contact Jeff and Leslie Chancellor at 361-772-2650 or Anthony and Joyce Harper at 361-798-6325 for more information. We hope to see you there!

## Area Picnics

**Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

St. Mary's – Praha

**Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sts. Cyril & Methodius - Cistern

**Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Sts. Cyril & Methodius – Shiner

Sacred Heart – Hallettsville

St. Mary's – Nada

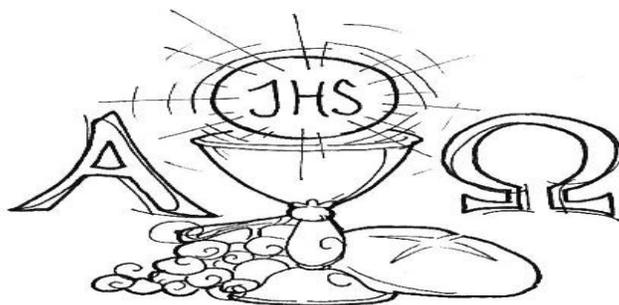
St. John Boscoe – Vanderbilt

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Cuero

St. Mary's – High Hill

**Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Cross - Yorktown



# The annual tradition of blessing herbs on the feast of the Assumption

Philip Kosloski

***The special blessing seeks to increase the natural powers of healing these plants possess.***

During the Middle Ages there developed an annual tradition of blessing herbs on the feast of the Assumption, August 15. It coincided with harvest time and was an opportunity to give thanks to God for the bounty received.

The custom arose primarily from Germanic countries, and the *Directory on Popular Piety* describes it as “a clear example of the genuine evangelization of pre-Christian rites and beliefs: one must turn to God, through whose word ‘the earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seeds in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds’ (Gen 1, 12) in order ... to stem the damages deriving from poisonous herbs, and benefit from the efficacy of curative herbs.”

The reason why the blessing of herbs became associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary was due “most of all because of Isaiah 11, 1, and his reference to the ‘shoot springing from the side of Jesse,’ which would bear the blessed fruit of Jesus.”

The first part of the blessing, found in the *Roman Ritual*, describes how God created the many plants of the earth for the benefit of humans and to heal them.

*Almighty everlasting God, who by your word alone brought into being the heavens, earth, sea, things seen and things unseen, and garnished the earth with plants and trees for the use of man and beast; who appointed each species to bring forth fruit in its kind, not only for the food of living creatures, but for the healing of sick bodies as well; with mind and word we urgently call on you in your great kindness to bless + these various herbs and fruits, thus increasing their natural powers with the newly given grace of your blessing. May they keep away disease and adversity from men and beasts who use them in your name; through Christ our Lord.*

What’s interesting is that lately there has been a renewed interest in plants and natural remedies, looking to the earth that God created for cures. This blessing seeks to amplify the natural powers of these plants through the grace of God.

The second part of the prayer is more closely connected to the harvest festivals of ancient peoples and their desire to have God bless their produce.

*God, who through Moses, your servant, directed the children of Israel to carry their sheaves of new grain to the priests for a blessing, to pluck the finest fruits of the orchard, and to make merry before you, the Lord their God; hear our supplications, and shower blessings + in abundance upon us and upon these bundles of new grain, new herbs, and this assortment of produce which we gratefully present to you on this festival, blessing + them in your name. Grant that men, cattle, flocks, and beasts of burden find in them a remedy against sickness, pestilence, sores, injuries, spells, against the fangs of serpents or poisonous creatures. May these blessed objects be a protection against diabolical mockery, cunning, and deception wherever they are kept, carried, or otherwise used. Lastly, through the merits of the blessed Virgin Mary, whose Assumption we are celebrating, may we all, laden with the sheaves of good works, deserve to be taken up to heaven; through Christ our Lord.*

The final prayer invokes the Blessed Virgin Mary and seeks her aid to use wisely the fruits of the earth.

*God, who on this day raised up to highest heaven the rod of Jesse, the Mother of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that by her prayers and patronage you might communicate to our mortal nature the fruit of her womb, your very Son; we humbly implore you to help us use these fruits of the soil for our temporal and everlasting welfare, aided by the power of your Son and the prayers of His glorious Mother; through Christ our Lord.*

While it may be an outdated prayer for agrarian societies, with the recent interest in “returning to the earth,” this just might be a tradition worth reviving.

