

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 2, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 8th
5 P.M. – Hubert Smolik

Sunday, September 9th
7 A.M. – Father Kuratko
9 A.M. – Agatha Conrow

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for our homebound parishioners.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Your Gift to God: August 26th

Sweet Home	\$1,574
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$500
Koerth	\$663
Building Fund	\$40
DSA	\$20

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.

Area Picnics

Sunday, September 2nd
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 9th
Holy Cross – Yorktown

Sunday, September 16th
St. Joseph - Moulton

Office Schedule

The Parish office will be closed Monday, September 3rd for the Labor Day holiday. Normal operations will resume at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday, September 4th.

Special Collection

A special collection for Black and Indian Missions, Catholic Communications Campaign and The Catholic University of America will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, September 8-9.

CCD/Faith Formation

We start the 2018-2019 CCD year this Wednesday. If you don't have a calendar it is available on the parish website for download as well as extra copies will be available in the classroom. Miss Skye Anderle is our coordinator this year and would be grateful for anyone who'd like to help out and volunteer. She can be reached at faithformation@qpcatholicchurch.com. It's going to be a great, grace-filled year sharing the treasure of our Catholic faith!

Faith Formation Safe Environment

As part of the Safe Environment policy of the diocese we will have our annual continuing education program for all CCD students and their parents on **Wednesday, September 12th**. The program will be presented in the individual classrooms.

"The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Prayer for the Blessing of Rain

O God, in Whom we live and move, and have our being, grant us rain, in due abundance, that, being sufficiently helped with temporal, we may the more confidently seek after eternal gifts. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RETURN: How to draw Your Child Back to the Church

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Church? Not sure what to do? Join us for RETURN as we explore the topics of evangelization, discipleship, and effective strategies for outreach. This 10 week one hour program will be held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center beginning **September 4th**. For more information about the book the program is based on, visit brandonvogt.com.

Baptismal Preparation Class

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

An “Informed” Decision

Most will remember the “old days” when an adult who wanted to be baptized or received into the Church would undergo several meetings with Father then “become” Catholic. The Church wants those who consider joining it to be as informed as possible about what “they are getting themselves into.” The best way to get a good and broad overview of the Church and its teachings is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.). **It begins on September 9th**, meets weekly (except holidays) and concludes at Easter when the candidates receive all of their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). If you have been thinking about joining the Church or know someone who has always said that they are eventually going to become a Catholic, now is the time to encourage them to take the next step. For more information contact Deacon Dennis Kutach at (361)741-2657 or at deacon@stj catholicchurch.com.

It's Soon Upon Us!

Picnic time is drawing close which means we need everyone's help, cooperation and generosity. Sell/buy raffle tickets...extras are in both Church's entrances. Keep an eye out for items for the Country Store, Auction, etc. Speak with Allan Monk about pitching in with help and service.

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 Raffle Tickets

Extra raffle tickets are available at the entrance of the church or at the Pastoral Center in Yoakum.



Dynamic Catholic is coming to the Diocese of Victoria!

What are your habits? Are they helping you become the-best-version-of-yourself or some second-rate-version of yourself? Our lives change when our habits change. Join us on Saturday, September 15th from 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and hear Jonathan Fanning with Dynamic Catholic present “Find Your Greatness – Four habits that will transform your life”. Cost of this event is \$25.00. Tickets may be purchased online at DynamicCatholic.com or by calling 1-859-980-7900. In addition to hearing a life-changing talk, all attendees will receive a hardcover copy of a Dynamic Catholic Book (valued at \$25), a CD copy of The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality (valued at \$10) and an Inspirational Journal (valued at \$12).

This is Satan's greatest weakness

Philip Kosloski

And the only way evil can be destroyed.

Often when we see great evil in the world we feel an urge to “fight fire with fire” and use the same tactics as the enemy. We start to convince ourselves that if we were only “powerful” enough, we could take down Satan and all his minions.

However, that strategy will only hurt us in the end. If we truly want to conquer Satan's power in our lives, we need to go after his greatest weakness.

Satan loves power and so he is going to use our desire for power against us. But there is one thing he hates and it alone can overturn his power: humble weakness.

That may sound strange, and a little counterintuitive, but it is the biblical way to defeat Satan.

The most supreme example of “weakness” that overcame evil was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ upon the cross. There we have the King of Kings stripped naked on the wood of the cross in supreme agony. His hands and feet are nailed down, leaving him entirely vulnerable. His captors can do anything they want to him and he can do nothing to protect himself.

Yet, this act of weakness was in reality a deed of extraordinary love and self-sacrifice. The power of love that it contained broke the bonds of death and opened up the gates of Heaven. Christ's example of shedding his blood would summarize for us what being a Christian is all about.

Countless men and women throughout history would be inspired to follow in Jesus' footsteps and as a result, evil empires were destroyed and corrupt political systems were demolished. Weakness would go on to save the day for the rest of history.

Philosopher Peter Kreeft points out in his book, *The Philosophy of Tolkien*, how even in Revelation, the “last battle between good and evil is a battle between two mythical beasts: Arnion, the meek little Lamb, and Therion, the terrible dragon beast. And the Lamb overcomes the Beast by a secret weapon: His own blood.”

Kreeft goes on to explain, “The weakness of evil is that it cannot conquer weakness. No matter how much power evil has, it is always defeated by the free, loving renunciation of power. It can be defeated ... as it was on Calvary: by martyrdom.”

Satan despises weakness as he thrives on the quest for earthly power. The more we try to be “strong” and “influential” in the world, the more Satan works on us and gains inroads. Think of Mother Teresa. She worked with the poorest of the poor and in the eyes of the world she was a short, weak, and frail elderly woman. However, in truth she was one of the strongest women to have ever lived and was a thorn in the side of Satan. He could never conquer her and the good work she did.

If we want to overcome evil, the pathway to victory is lined with humility and self-sacrifice. Only when we give everything over to God, will we ever be able to defeat evil.

A powerful prayer to defeat the work of Satan

Philip Kosloski

There is a spiritual battle around us and we must fight.

St. Paul famously wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, “For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

It is a truth of the Catholic faith that Satan and his minions are real and are actively engaged in a battle against us. They eagerly want our demise, but we must fight back against them.

Pope Francis explained this reality during a daily Mass homily in 2014.

The devil exists and we have to fight against him. Paul says so — I'm not the one saying it. The word of God says it ... However, do not be discouraged. (Have) courage and strength because the Lord is with us.

Among the many prayers that the Church provides for us in this battle against Satan, here is one simply called “Prayer to Defeat the Work of Satan.” It is a powerful prayer, one that begs God to cast out the darkness from this world once and for all.

*O Divine Eternal Father, in union with your Divine Son and the Holy Spirit, and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You to destroy the Power of your greatest enemy — the evil spirits. Cast them into the deepest recesses of hell and chain them there forever! Take possession of your Kingdom which You have created and which is rightfully yours. Heavenly Father, give us the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I repeat this prayer out of pure love for You with every beat of my heart and with every breath I take.
Amen*

