

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 9, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 15th

5 P.M. – Living & Deceased Members of
K.J.Z.T. Society #12, Sweet Home

Sunday, September 16th

7 A.M. – Rose Pekar, James Konvicka,
Thomas Kocian

9 A.M. – Marcus Hermes

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for the living and deceased clergy of Sweet Home.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Your Gift to God: September 2nd

Sweet Home	\$1,636
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$46
DSA	\$10
Koerth	\$812
Building Fund	\$1,070
DSA	\$22

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.

Sacred Heart Women's ACTS Retreat

All women are invited to attend at spiritual renewal weekend being held:

October 11-14, 2018

Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center – Oakland, TX.

For more information contact: Joan Macha at 361-293-1371, Jocelyn Bolom at 361-293-4760, or Renae Harper at 361-208-4047. Registration forms are located at the entrance of the church.

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 this weekend, September 8-9.

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.

Safe Environment Training

A Safe Environment Training class will be held on **Wednesday, September 19th from 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 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 teacher, aide or monitor, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take communion to the homebound or nursing homes, etc. Anyone interested in becoming Safe Environment compliant **must complete the online application (www.victoriadiocese.org) prior to attending the class.** This class is for **ADULTS ONLY**.

Area Picnics

Sunday, September 9th
Holy Cross – Yorktown

Sunday, September 16th
St. Joseph - Moulton

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. For more information about the book the program is based on, visit brandonvogt.com.

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)

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 Raffle Tickets

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

"Praise the Lord, my soul!"

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).**



Feeling overwhelmed or worried?

This short prayer can help

Sophia Swinford

The famous poem by St. Teresa of Avila has calmed many a worried soul.

There's a lot to be worried about. In a culture built on social media and search engines, we're all expected to be informed and updated on all the latest causes, problems, and tragedies. We're expected to know about everything that is wrong with the world all the time ... and that's before we even get to the problems in our personal lives.

St. Teresa of Avila, a cloistered nun and reformer of the Carmelite Order, was a great saint and mystic who also struggled with depression in addition to other recurrent health problems. Familiar with the many burdens and obstacles of life, she composed this poem as an encouragement toward peace and trust in God when you are consumed with worry:

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

“Resting in God” is actually a thing! Who knew?

Melinda Selmys

I thought if I was awake I had to be working, or I was guilty of sloth. Turns out, I was doing it wrong!

“I think I’m suffering from sloth, and I don’t know how to fix it,” I said to my spiritual director.

He asked me to describe the form that my sloth was taking. In this case it was that sometimes I just sat down and couldn’t force myself to get up, and a lot of the time I ended up not finding time to pray until the end of the day, only to fall asleep during my prayers.

“Your problem,” he said, in a heavy Czech accent “is not sloth. It that you too busy and don’t have time to rest.”

His answer floored me. At the time, I had deeply internalized a Christian work-ethic which seemed to suggest that a mother’s work in the home could be justified only by an endless devotion to industry and self-oblation. Being constantly “on” and available – to my husband, to my children, to other family members, and to anyone else who needed me – would fulfill my calling and bring me happiness and anything less, I believed, was selfish.

Weren’t we supposed to imitate the saints, who poured themselves out endlessly on only a few hours of sleep?

Of course you couldn’t do that on your own strength: you needed supernatural aid. You needed to add at least a half hour of quiet contemplation into your morning schedule so that God could super-power you up. And if there was a baby jumping on your head starting at 6 a.m., and by 7 you are swarmed with small people whose vocabulary seems to consist entirely of “MOM!” — hey, all that meant was that you needed to get up earlier! After all, God should get the first fruits of your time and not just what’s left over at the end of the day, right?

I had thus come to think that the only possible reason why I might be lying in bed, staring at the ceiling, fighting a ferocious battle of will against my unwilling flesh was pure laziness — that if I really wanted to get up, I’d be on my feet in a second. The flesh was always capable; it’s just the will that was weak. Right?

Wrong. “Your problem is not sloth.”

The words shook up a deep strain of self-accusation that I had been hauling around for quite some time. I was afraid to believe that they might be true. The only reason I didn’t immediately dismiss this as a temptation to justify my own laziness was that it came from the holiest and wisest human being that I happened to know personally.

The bigger problem, though, wasn’t that I didn’t believe it: it was that I had no idea how I would go about managing my life if this were true. If the real reason why I felt tired was, you know, that I was actually legitimately tired, what was the solution? I couldn’t just throw the kids out in the yard and let them go feral.

The dishes needed doing, the laundry was already a perpetual mountain range of washed, unwashed, folded and unfolded piles. I was behind on literally every single thing.

All the things. Way behind.

What was I supposed to do about it?

“Rest in God,” came the answer.

This was a revelation. Never had it occurred to me that prayer could be something other than yet another form of activity: Prayer was something that you “did” — you had to make a constant, conscious effort to pay attention to the words; you had to focus on the meditations, in order to be present to God and not just going through the motions like a zombie.

What my director suggested was pretty much the opposite of all that. Resting in God is a kind of prayer where you purposely don’t *do* anything.

You don’t deliberately meditate, but if you start meditating by accident you also don’t try to stop it.

You don’t *say* anything or adopt a prayerful posture. If the words of a prayer pop into your head, fine. If other thoughts crowd in, that’s okay. The goal is to not make an *effort* but to be open and allow yourself to receive grace from God, like an infant nursing at the breast.

That’s all. You open yourself to God, who is present in you and with you and around you. You turn to God and let Him do the work.

Or as Christ put it, “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matt 11:28)

“Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.”