

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 22, 2020

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Billy Proschko.

Prayer List

Contact Theresa Bordovsky at 293-3124 or Ann Marie Bludau at 798-2959.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ep 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Your Gift to God: March 8th

St. Joseph Parish Support	\$3,384
Online Giving Parish Support	\$1,620
Building Fund	\$10
Rice Bowl	\$408
St. Ann Parish Support	\$277
Online Giving	\$80
Building Fund	\$60
Rice Bowl	\$50

May God reward your generosity!

Cancellations

Faith Formation Classes (CCD)
Until Further Notice

Altar Society meeting, Wednesday, April 1st

St. Ann & KJZT # 37 Country Store Fundraiser
April 4th & 5th

Catholic Daughters meeting, Monday, April 6th

Knights of Columbus, Wednesday, April 8th

Weekly Contributions

Your weekly contribution envelope may be dropped off at the parish office during regular business hours, placed in the drop box (left of the office front door), mailed to P. O. Box 734, or you may simply wait until Masses resume and drop them in the collection basket.

From the Office of Bishop Brendan Cahill March 17, 2020

In accordance with the guidelines of President Trump and our local authorities, I am requiring that priests begin celebrating Masses without a congregation. All people can join in spiritual communion from their homes, with the assurance that the sacrifice of praise is being offered for the health and salvation of the world. Indeed, the salvation of souls remains the mission of the Church, and we follow these guidelines specifically for that mission.

National, state and local government officials have stressed the need to limit the number of people who can gather in one place at the same time. The call is to act responsibly for the protection of all in our communities. **Therefore, effective today, and until March 31, our priests in the Diocese of Victoria will continue to daily celebrate the Eucharist in their parishes, but will do so *without* a congregation.**

This decision was made after much prayer and discernment, recognizing that large gatherings are a factor in the spread of this disease. Therefore, in order to discourage public gatherings, I decree that ALL Catholics of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligations, until March 31.

The Mass is televised live from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria on Sundays at 9 a.m. on KAVU television and live-streamed at www.olvcathedral.org. In addition, the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville is broadcast on Texas Thunder Radio (99.9 FM) or by downloading the free TUNEIN app to hear the Mass. In addition, there are national broadcasts of the Sunday Mass on various cable networks. Though not able to attend Mass, the faithful are encouraged to pray in their homes. Spiritual Communion can also be made at any time.

*“The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.”*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

This past Thursday, March 19th, was our patronal feast day. For many years we have gathered for Eucharist and celebrated our patron, honoring marriage milestones, and sharing a meal afterwards. This year we have found ourselves in a much different environment. The efforts--nationally, locally and by our Church--have asked us to exercise as much precaution as possible as the pandemic continues to be a threat to our welfare.

It's challenging/eye-opening to see how modernity still can be brought to a standstill by the reality of our mortality. Our faith mandates us to service to our brothers and sisters. At present--even with the restrictions we are living regarding our worship--our responsibility is greater than ever! If in the midst of the worry and fear ever present in the news of the impact this pandemic has on the world, it certainly involves strengthening our expressions of faith within our homes and our families. Whether we live alone, a young family, or retired, sharing time for prayer with one another is so central and cannot be overlooked. It's easy to relegate our faith expression to the weekend--if there's a possibility that our homes become true domestic churches, then these strained days can be spiritually fruitful. Pray together. With modern technology it's easy to access the scripture, reflections and commentaries, as well as the proven traditions of the Rosary, traditional prayers and devotions as a way to find strength in the midst of a shared and common concern. If uncertain as to what is available, don't hesitate to call the parish!

Pray together. Practice spiritual communion uniting yourself to Jesus by entrusting your very soul to his loving Sacred Heart. Pray the morning offering, the Act of Contrition, the litanies of the Sacred Heart, the Holy Name of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Visit the Blessed Sacrament as the church remains opened during the day. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the many professionals and caregivers whose dedication and talents are being tested and stretched. In doing so, we share in fulfilling our duty to our brothers and sisters...and we benefit in expressing gratitude to God who continues to sustain and protect us.

Check the parish Facebook page or the parish website to keep up with latest developments. Mass is being celebrated each day for our parish family--for each of us--and although it is not open for public attendance due to the precautionary restrictions--know and be assured the life-saving mysteries are being offered in the Supreme Sacrifice of Calvary at the Altar in our parish. Thanksgiving is rendered to the Father for the gift of His Son, asking the grace of the Holy Spirit to sanctify, strengthen and redeem us in our needs.

St. Joseph lovingly cared for those entrusted to his care while he was on earth. Now we trust he continues that loving protection and intercession with the Lord Jesus for us on our earthly pilgrimage of faith. Joseph was the guardian God chose for His Divine Son--and Joseph is our loving guardian watching over us as well!

Spiritual Communion

St. Thomas Aquinas defined Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him."

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

Here is a prayer by which you can make a Spiritual Communion:

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

Easter Flowers

Those who would like to donate towards the Easter floral decorations are invited to use the envelopes in the church entrances. All memorial/donations will be listed in the bulletin after Easter.

Invoking the Maternal Intercession of our Blessed Mother

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Please refer to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations posted in both **St. Joseph and St. Ann Cemeteries** regarding what is allowed and not allowed on gravesites. It is time, before the celebration of Easter, to remove all those items that are not permitted. Your cooperation, immediate attention and compliance with the rules will be greatly appreciated.

*“I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
whoever follows me
will have the light of life.”*

Prayer for Rain

O God, our Creator, you are the source of all life. It is through your divine providence and infinite power, that the wonder and splendor of all creation surround us. "How majestic is your name in all the earth." We pray to you who calms the raging waters and commands the wind, to provide us sufficient rain to meet our needs.

We ask for these blessings through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth. Amen.

COVID-19:

A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord.
Amen.