

# Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday April 23, 2017

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Sweet Home – Larry Munsch

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

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

9 A.M. – Koerth – Ben Barton

## This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

## Your Gift to God: April 16<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$2,459
Online Giving	\$200
Building Fund	\$1,000
Rice Bowl	\$152
Holy Thursday ( <i>Seminarian Education</i> )	\$1,193
Good Friday ( <i>Holy Land</i> )	\$340
Koerth	\$1,337
Building Fund	\$10
DSA	\$2
Rice Bowl	\$119
Holy Thursday ( <i>Seminarian Education</i> )	\$260
Good Friday ( <i>Holy Land</i> )	\$25

*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.

## Special Collection

A special collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up at all Masses next weekend.

*"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting."*

## Confirmation Reminders

Bishop Emeritus David E. Fellhauer will be at St. Joseph's next Saturday evening as he joins us for Confirmation at the 5:00 P.M. Mass. Students and sponsors are asked to be at St. Joseph's Church Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. for a brief practice.

## Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. **This will be the last class offered until September.**

## TMIY

That Man Is You continues to enrich the lives of the men who risk a bit more involvement and challenge in their journey of faith. You don't have to start from the beginning--if thinking about it considering a way to more actively engage your faith and strengthen your roots--don't procrastinate! **Come and join us this Wednesday at 6:00 A.M. in the St. Joseph Parish Family Center!**

## Enrich Your Spiritual Life ...ALPHA

Would you like to grow in your faith? Try Alpha! This video series will give you the opportunity to reflect on the most important aspects of Christianity and to ask questions about life. Don't worry if you've missed any classes. You are still welcome to come. Join us Monday evenings at 6:30 P.M. in the Family Center. Our last session will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Sacrament of Marriage

Since the last bulletin posting mentioning the need for couples choosing to marry here to actually have some connection to the parishes, there have been several calls desiring to book the church for a wedding--most were aware of the needed "connection" as they quickly informed the office that they were baptized here or some other distant activity--being the last time they worshipped/attended here. In most of these cases, neither groom nor bride has any connection to the community--it's just that someone knew someone, or was baptized 20+ years ago here as a visitor to the parish, whose parents happened to marry here equally a long time ago, or other detail...and now they want to marry here. Not wanting to dampen the desire of any couple to marry properly--but still wanting to uphold the connection between marriage and a Church community one actually belongs to or worships within--couples who are not registered parishioners or part of a family who are, will be asked to get a letter from their home parish pastor (the priest in the parish where they live and worship) granting them permission to celebrate the sacrament in Sweet Home. There are no "charges" for marrying in the Church--it is a right accorded to those who worship together and support one another in faith. Marriage should take place in one's home parish. And so as to be clear...it does not add to the "ease" of the preparation work to immediately state one is going to bring in a visiting priest--again, this is not a wedding chapel to reserve. It's one thing to first ask to marry at a church where you will be a guest--quite another to immediately inform that you want to "do things your own way" and try to get around the basic guidelines/requirements. Sweet Home and Koerth parishes exist for the local Catholic population of these two communities who support it, pay the bills, and maintain it. These are not wedding venues to reserve like a reception hall. This is fairly much along the same line of thought with what has been encountered during this past year first with the CCD/Faith Formation program, and even with the Cemeteries and their administrative maintenance.

*"Peace be with you."*

## Projects Update

**Koerth Church** – Work has been completed with a few minor "to do" items left to be taken care of...including cleaning up the parish hall that has been the sacristy storage area during this entire project.

**Sweet Home Church** – All of the window work has been completed.

**Rectory** – Painting of the interior will hopefully be wrapping up very soon.

## Want to Grow in Holiness, But Too Busy?

If you intended to make the last consecration and it didn't work out, here is another opportunity! The final day of the retreat and Consecration Day is on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima!

In our hectic day and time, St. Pope John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa knew that the quickest way to be transformed into a saint is through a relationship with Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Join us on April 9th as we begin a 33-day preparation for Marian Consecration. For six weeks, we'll individually read about and reflect on four great Marian giants: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Pope John Paul II. They'll teach us the secrets to drawing closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary. In our weekly meetings, Sundays, 6:30-8 p.m. (except on Easter Sunday & Mother's Day) we'll share our insights within our small group and then watch a 30-minute video. The video by popular author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings our individual reflections and group experience into a clear and live-able focus. If you're looking for a simple way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Our Merciful Savior, and grow in holiness, join us for 33 Days to Morning Glory Small-group Retreat. Contact Joyce Harper 361-798-6325 so that your book can be ordered.

*"Blessed are they who have not seen,  
but still believe!"*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### Every Sunday (Six Weeks)

33 Days to Morning Glory – 6:30 – 8 P.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### Every Monday

**ALPHA** – 6:30 – 8 P.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### Every Wednesday

**TMIY** – 6 A.M.  
St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum

### April 29

Confirmation Practice – 10:30 A.M.  
Sacrament of Confirmation – 5 P.M.  
St. Joseph Church, Yoakum

### May 6

First Communion – 5 P.M.  
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home

## Why Is the Eucharist Called “the Host”?

Aleteia | May 22, 2016

*The Latin word "hostis," meaning victim, was first applied to the Eucharist in early Christianity*

The Eucharist is referred to as a host, but why?

I decided to seek out the origin of the word “host,” so I checked several dictionaries and discovered that a Latin word linked to its history meant “victim.”

The Romans referred to a vanquished enemy offered to the gods as a *hostis*.

The term became common in Western Christianity because of its use in the Vulgate (the Latin translation of the Bible, made mostly by St. Jerome), for example in Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18, to signify sacrifice.

Thus “host” came to refer to the greatest victim of human aggression: God-made-man, crucified and risen.

Christians adopted the word “host” to refer to the immolated Lamb who was risen and present in the

Eucharist. It came to signify the reality that Christ himself unveiled at the Last Supper: “This is my body ... this is my blood, poured out for you.”

The consecrated bread is thus a “host,” the true host, the true victim, the Body of the Risen One, once mortally assaulted by human evil and now alive among us, surrendered to us as food and drink: Take and eat.

Unfortunately, much of the significance of the word “host” has been lost, and it has come to refer simply to the circular piece of unleavened bread, both before and after consecration.

But today, when I speak of the “host,” I think of the paschal Victim. I think of the death of Christ and his resurrection. I think of the paschal mystery.

“Host” for me is all of this: the death of Our Lord and his resurrection, the total gift of himself, his presence in the consecrated bread and wine.

As we are invited at each Mass to behold this host, we bow in profound reverence, on our knees, in contemplation, taking up the commitment to “offer [our] bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

To adore this “host” is to surrender oneself to the mystery so as to live it day after day. And to enter into

Communion with this “host” is to assimilate this mystery in the whole of our being so as to become like Christ: a victim, given in service to our brothers.

Now I understand better what the Second Vatican Council exhorts when it expresses the desire for faithful who participate at Mass with “a good understanding of the rites and prayers” so that they should “take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration.”

That “by offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him, they should learn also to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator; they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 48).

