

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

June 3, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 9th

5 P.M. – Hanus Family

Sunday, June 10th

7 A.M. – Hubert Bujnoch

9 A.M. – Marcus Hermes

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Margaret Hermes.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Your Gift to God: May 27th

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Sweet Home | \$1,087 |
| Online Giving | \$20 |
| Building Fund | \$11 |
| DSA | \$5 |
| Koerth | \$791 |
| Building Fund | \$50 |

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, June 10th

St. Mary's – St. Mary's Parish Hall, Hallettsville
St. Rose of Lima – KC Hall, Schulenburg
Our Lady of Guadalupe – Parish Gym, Bay City

Sunday, June 17th

St. John the Baptist – FM 1383, Ammansville

Sunday, June 24th

Sts. Peter & Paul - Plum

Looking Ahead....

This year's parish picnic will be for the benefit of Queen of Peace on **Sunday, September 30th**. Perhaps appropriate in that this year marks the Centennial of the present Church building established in honor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. The original parish church--a wooden structure, was located on the side of the present church and much smaller. It was originally named Exaltation of the Holy Cross--but as the present Church was being planned and constructed during World War I and its conclusion, it was decided to change the title to honor the Blessed Mother and the peace the world longed for then--and still does now. The more decorative window behind the high Altar presents Mary holding the Christ child with an Olive branch (just as the statue in the Altar's high niche does). One unique aspect of the beautiful stained glass is that in the upper corners--not always easily seen--is a rainbow and a farmer walking behind an ox-drawn plow. Mark your calendars and start thinking of ways to pitch in to support the annual picnic. A planning/organizational meeting will be scheduled in mid-June.

Diocesan Catechist Rally

Those involved in Faith Formation/CCD...mark your calendars! "We are Catechists, Witnessing for Jesus: Living as Missionary Disciples" is the theme for the 2018 Catechist Rally which will be held on **Saturday, July 14th**, at the Cathedral Center, next to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria, Texas. The Catechist Rally is a Catechist appreciation and recognition event. All Catechist and Parish Catechetical Leaders are invited to attend.

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

-Calling All Youth- You are Invited!

2018 Vacation Bible School
July 9th – 13th
St. Joseph Family Center
9:00 A.M. – 12-noon

Students entering grades K-6 will be VBS campers
Students entering grades 7-12 will be VBS helpers

Adult helpers are also needed

Please contact Jana Guajardo at 361-648-3863 or
faithformation@stj catholicchurch.com

VBS Day Includes:

River Run Storytelling; Plunge-In Bible Challenge;
Fireside Snacks; White Water Games; River Riffs
Music & Dance, and Sandbar Crafts

VBS Daily Colors:

Monday – Yellow; Tuesday – Red;
Wednesday – Purple; Thursday – Green;
Friday – Blue

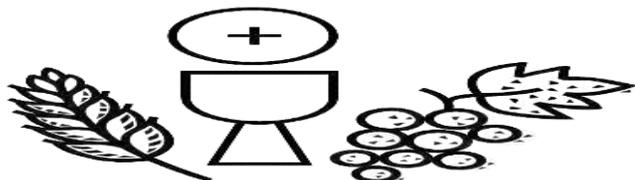
Safe Environment Student Awareness
will take place Monday, July 9th during snack
times.

Friday, July 13th – Parents are invited to our
Closing Celebration at 11:45 A.M.

Application forms are available at the
entrance of the church and at the St. Joseph
Pastoral Center.

Sacred Heart Teen ACTS Retreat July 19-22

The Sacred Heart Teen ACTS Retreat will be held
July 19-22 at Cathedral Oaks in Weimar, Texas.
Cost is \$160.00 (\$30.00 registration fee will be
credited to retreat fee). Retreatants will depart
from Hallettsville on July 19th at 5:00 P.M. and
return July 22nd for 10:30 A.M. Mass in
Hallettsville. Registration forms are available at the
back of the church.



Czech Heritage Pilgrimage to Prague:

There is still time to register for a **Czech Heritage Pilgrimage to Prague**, from September 22-30, 2018, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Czech statehood and the Feast Day of St. Wenceslas. Bishop Patrick Zurek and Father Bob Knippenberg will serve as spiritual directors. This pilgrimage is endorsed by the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (the K.J.Z.T.) and the Catholic Union of Texas (the K.J.T.). For more information, contact Ceci Triska at 979-543-8575 or email her at ceci.triska@gmail.com. **The deadline is June 15th.** Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

**“Keep the crucifix before
your eyes, and it will teach
you everything...”**

Elizabeth Scalia

*Seeking reassurance, finding peace in the Cross of
Christ*

Q: “Why should I consider Catholicism?”

A: “Because you’re going to suffer. In life, everyone suffers. Absolutely no one escapes their turn at it. And Catholicism has the most complete theology of suffering, injustice and pain. Which is why she is the only church to process through this spiritual battleground upon which we walk, every day, behind a crucifix.”

When people tell me they are anxious or despairing, or that they are feeling too alone, my advice is very simple. I tell them, “*Get a crucifix.*”

Not a cross, a *crucifix*. Get a small one that can be kept discreetly at your desk. Get an even smaller one for your pocket, to carry with you. Get one for your home.

Keep the crucifix before your eyes, and it will teach you everything. It will train you to take a “long view” of things.

The earthly goings-on that make us anxious and full of despair are a manifestation of the wholly spiritual war that proceeds apace—continually, though unseen—all around us. When we buy into it and lose hope, we are opening ourselves up to a spiritual oppression meant to cast us into the darkness and away from the light. Because the main battle is supernatural, we recognize it

in our spirit; we feel it in our spirit, and then, when the oppression is too great, we either try to numb ourselves to it or we allow our spirits, and our faith, to collapse completely.

Better to arm the spirit. Feed it through Eucharistic adoration and Holy Communion; strengthen it with the sacramental grace of confession, so that regardless of what happens, despair never enters into the equation, never enters into you—because you understand that God’s hand is still part of things, that we are never abandoned; so much of what is spinning past, over headlines and through the ether is illusion or purposeful distraction, and if the rest is real, it is nothing to be afraid of, because we have been told that he is with us, to the end of all things.

So if you do not have a crucifix, get one; get a couple of them, and have them blessed. Then *study* them. Take a long, hard look at what is before your eyes. Ask God to show you what you need to know. Ask for what Solomon asked for: *an understanding heart*.

While looking, realize that everything you are feeling, all the things that are weighing on you—old wounds or new ones, vulnerabilities, disappointments, injustices, betrayals, mockeries, even hunger and thirst—have been experienced by Christ Jesus; he has known it all, borne it all, suffers with you and for you and permits you to join in his sacrifice—and thus his victory.

Ask Mary to teach you what she knows too, what she learned while she stood beneath the reality of it. Ask the Blessed Mother to explain about taking the “long view” of things, about keeping the faith even when one does not understand why things happen as they do; about how sometimes what is horrifying and unjust must happen, if something else—something remarkable and unimaginable and precisely what is required—is to be able to happen.

While you are meditating, it’s very possible that you will be tempted to distraction—that what the monks call “bad thoughts” may happen: sinful thoughts, anxious thoughts. When they arrive, follow Saint Benedict of Nursia’s instruction in his *Holy Rule*: “When evil thoughts come into one’s heart, dash them at once against Christ, the Rock”—imagine yourself crashing them against the crucifix, and they shatter.

Try it and you will see it’s true; you’ll be amazed at how calmly you’ll be able to observe the world and its goings-on, the illusions and the realities and the distractions in between, with a new and authentic sense of peace, if you keep the sacraments in your life and your eyes on the crucifix.

On a retreat one year, after meditating on the crucifix over the course of a day, I scrawled this in my notebook:

“Everything” is about nothing.

Everything ended with the sacrifice of the Lamb.

All is consummated.

We are forever and always at the Last Supper, at the Crucifixion, at the Resurrection.

Time ended with the tearing of the veil and the rolling back of the stone.

The rest is illusion and catching up.

There is nothing to be afraid of.

The upright crucifix teaches us balance because it helps us to become centered on Christ. We are not alone—even if we have run away, like the apostles, or denied him, like Peter (to whom he gave the keys to the kingdom); even if we have believed the great lie that we are unlovable because of our sins. Christ is with us, and he is the God Who Knows. He knows exactly what it is to be anxious and afraid, to wish circumstances were different and cups could be passed by; to feel unloved by those who should have known him best. He knows.

I sometimes think guilt and self-loathing is the “default mode” for too many of us, and I certainly carry my share, and yet when I concentrate on the crucifix, I feel only known—fully, wholly known—by the One whom I have come to understand is All Love. And so guilt and self-loathing have no hold there. There is only a deep wellspring of consolation.

Look closely, and consider the letters above him: I.N.R.I.

Intimate. Near. Reassuring. Instructive.

