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Spanish-language resources
for Mass, reflection



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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APRIL 2020

Dec. 31 – Outbreak of virus reported in Wuhan, China
Jan. 7 – “Novel” virus identified
Jan. 11 – First known COVID-19 death
Jan. 21 – U.S. announces first confirmed case in Washington State
Jan. 30 – World Health Organization calls it an emergency
Jan. 31 – Travel restrictions begin
Feb. 24 – Italy becomes the hardest hit
Feb. 26 – Ash Wednesday
March 6 – High profile events canceled in U.S.
March 8 – Italy goes on lockdown
March 11 – COVID-19 deemed a pandemic; professional sports begin to cancel seasons
March 12 – First case in the DOV reported in Lavaca County
March 13 – President Donald Trump declares national emergency
March 14 – Bay City reports 1st case
March 15 – Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria extend spring breaks
March 16 – Gatherings of more than 10 are discouraged
March 17 – Diocese of Victoria announces “No public Masses”
March 17 – Diocese-wide men’s gathering switches to virtual platform
March 19 – Worldwide Rosary promoted in the diocese
March 19 – Catholic schools in DOV announce closure through April 3 at midnight
March 20 – Many DOV churches set up Stations of the Cross and prepare to have Mass virtually
March 21 – Virtual men’s conference deemed a success
March 22 – 300,000 cases worldwide with 13,000 deaths
March 24 – First case in Victoria County

A Lent like no other

people in darkness have seen a great light



“Get in the Game” men’s conference goes virtual. See Page 11



Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin show us the way to make a ‘blessed space’ out of isolation. See Page 16



(CNS photo/Ann M. Augherton, Arlington Herald)

JANET JONES, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

As we watched the pandemic shutting down the world as we know it, the Diocese of Victoria’s churches’ response was fast and effective. Hope and reassurance obscured sadness and anxiety almost before it started, it seemed.

The Office of Communications has been flooded with hopeful messages and ideas to be shared.

Though we are concerned about our health and your health, worried about those who are sick and in the dark about what will happen next, so much creativity has come out of this. So many people started sharing ideas, picking up cameras, building websites and Facebook pages, finding resources for Mass, Lent and inspiration in general.

We are paving the road to solutions for future dilemmas.

And we are writing history.

Study Mass, return in awe

BY CHRIS KALLUS
Special to The Lighthouse

What is it like to be shot out of a cannon? That is exactly what happens when the priest gives us our final blessing at the end of Mass.

The word Mass comes from the Latin word “Missa.” At one time, the people were dismissed with the words, “Ite, missa est,” literally translated, “Go (meaning you) the Church, has been sent.” The word “Missa” is related to the word “missio,” the root of the English word “mission” – a sending forth.

So, what are we being sent to do?

Let’s look at Mark’s Gospel, Chapter 1, verses 14-15, which says, “After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: ‘This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’”

In Greek, the word for repent is “metanoia,” which means to have a complete change of heart to follow him. Jesus will cure all that gets in our way of attaining the impossible task of his mission.

Jesus’s mission had one central pur-

See Study Mass, pg. 14



During the Rite of Fraction, we should be completely focused on the Perfect Sacrifice as we invoke the Lamb of God.

**Photo by
Janet Jones**



‘Queen of seasons’ brings new creation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On our spiritual journey, we often reach a point when we desire a change but feel it isn’t possible. Change, even for something good, can be hard and stressful.

In the time of Easter, we face this reality with the hope that changing for the better is always possible. As we celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin and death, we celebrate also the victories of the disciples -- from fear to courage; of the thief next to Jesus on the cross -- from despair to a place in the kingdom; of the centurion -- from active participation in the crucifixion to the proclamation of faith that Jesus truly was the Son of God.

With the faithful women at the tomb who came to believe in the resurrection of Jesus, we are invited to share real hope in the power of Jesus – and so the Church rejoices in this season.

St. Gregory Nazianzen, who preached in the fourth century in what is now modern-day Turkey, began a sermon for the Octave of Easter with the following: “Everything contributes to the beauty and the joy of the feast. The queen of the seasons makes a feast for the queen of days and offers everything she has that is most beautiful and pleasing. The sky is the most transparent, the sun at

A Shepherd’s Message

By Bishop Brendan Cahill



Whatever the intensity of the challenges or doubts or fears that we face, the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death is much greater – so the whole world rejoices in this season.

its highest and brightest, the course of the moon at its most brilliant, and the choir of the stars at its most purest. The springs run at their clearest, the rivers are most abundant, freed from their fetters of ice. The fields are filled with sweet scents, green things spring up, the lambs bound in the green

grass. Ships go out from their ports with all the sails filled, and the dolphins accompany them bounding and joyfully blowing. The shepherds and cowherds tune their flutes and pipe a melody.” (Jean Danielou, SJ, The Bible and the Liturgy, p. 291 - University of Notre Dame Press, 1956)

The ancient imagery from nature speaks powerfully of the Easter season as a time of new beginnings and a new creation. The message from the early Christians speaks even to our day. Whatever the intensity of the challenges or doubts or fears that we face, the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death is much greater – so the whole world rejoices in this season. The queen of seasons calls the world to rejoice and proclaim, “Alleluia – He is Risen!”

The cycle of seasons teaches us that every time in our lives has a purpose and a plan – all in God’s time. As the winter snows and the rains are necessary for the springtime streams and growth, the challenges and pains we encounter become opportunities to find God’s healing grace. The person who receives God’s healing grace often becomes the strongest witness of hope in the world. What wonderful news for us and for the world – to be healed and to be healers.

May you and your families have a blessed, hopeful Easter, with confidence in the personal love of Jesus for you and in the gift of the Holy Spirit to give you strength each day.

+Brendan

‘Reina de las estaciones’ trae nuevas creaciones

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

En nuestro viaje espiritual, a menudo llegamos a un punto en el que deseamos un cambio pero sentimos que no es posible. El cambio, incluso por algo bueno, puede ser difícil y estresante.

En el tiempo de Pascua, enfrentamos esta realidad con la esperanza de que siempre sea posible cambiar para mejor. Al celebrar la victoria de Jesús sobre el pecado y la muerte, también celebramos las victorias de los discípulos -- desde el miedo hasta el coraje; del ladrón al lado de Jesús en la cruz, -- de la desesperación a un lugar en el reino; del centurión -- desde la participación activa en la crucifixión hasta la proclamación de fe de que Jesús realmente era el Hijo de Dios.

Con las mujeres fieles en la tumba que llegaron a creer en la resurrección de Jesús, nos invitan a compartir una esperanza real en el poder de Jesús, y así la Iglesia se regocija en esta temporada.

San Gregorio Nazianzen, quien predicó en el siglo IV en lo que hoy es la Turquía moderna, comenzó un sermón para la Oc-

Mensaje del Pastor

By Obispo Brendan Cahill



tava de Pascua con lo siguiente: “Todo contribuye a la belleza y la alegría de la fiesta. La reina de las estaciones hace un festín para la reina de los días y ofrece todo lo que tiene que es más hermoso y agradable. El cielo es el más transparente, el sol en su punto más alto y brillante, el curso de la luna en su punto más brillante y el coro de las estrellas en su punto más puro. Los manantiales corren en su punto más claro, los ríos son más abundantes, liberados de sus grilletes de hielo. Los campos están llenos de aromas dulces, brotan cosas verdes, los corderos atados en la

hierba verde. Los barcos salen de sus puertos con todas las velas llenas, y los delfines los acompañan saltando y alegres. Los pastores y los pastores afinan sus flautas y cantan una melodía “(Jean Danielou, SJ, The Bible and the Liturgy, p. 291 - University of Notre Dame Press, 1956)

Las imágenes antiguas de la naturaleza hablan poderosamente de la temporada de Pascua como un tiempo de nuevos comienzos y una nueva creación. El mensaje de los primeros cristianos habla incluso hasta nuestros días. Cualquiera sea la intensidad

de los desafíos, dudas o temores que enfrentamos, la victoria de Jesucristo sobre el pecado y la muerte es mucho mayor, ¡así que todo el mundo se regocija en esta temporada! La reina de las estaciones llama al mundo a regocijarse y proclamar: “¡Aleluya, ha resucitado!” El ciclo de estaciones nos enseña que cada vez en nuestras vidas tiene un propósito y un plan, todo en el tiempo de Dios. A medida que el invierno nieva y las lluvias son necesarias para las corrientes y el crecimiento de la primavera, los desafíos y dolores que enfrentamos se convierten en oportunidades para encontrar la gracia sanadora de Dios. La persona que recibe la gracia sanadora de Dios a menudo se convierte en el testigo más fuerte de esperanza en el mundo. ¡Qué maravillosa noticia para nosotros y para el mundo - ser sanados y ser sanadores!

Que usted y sus familias tengan una Pascua bendecida y esperanzada, con confianza en el amor personal de Jesús por usted y en el don del Espíritu Santo para darle fuerzas cada día.

+ Brendan



Bishop Cahill's Schedule

Please Note ALL Scheduled Events Are Subject To CHANGE

April

- 3** 6 p.m. Penance Service at St. Robert, El Campo
- 4** • Mass with Carmelite Sisters; Meyersville
• 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Nativity of the BVM, Nada
- 5** 6 p.m. Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 6** Noon Mass with the Missionary Catechists Sisters
- 7** 10 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 9** 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 10** Noon Good Friday – Living Stations of the Cross at Santisima Trinidad, Victoria
- 11** • Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
• 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 12** 9 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 13** 2:30 p.m. Communities of Faith meeting
- 14** 5 p.m. Interfaith Dialogue at UHV's Walker Auditorium, Victoria

- 15** 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton
- 17** Incarnate Word Academy Gala, Houston
- 18** • Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family, Victoria
- 19** • 8:00 a.m. Mass and then CCD visit at St. Mary Church, Praha
• 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 21** • 6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio Morning Air Show call in
- 22** • Mass at John XXIII High School, Katy
• 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
- 23** 6:30 p.m. Gabriel Project Appreciation Dinner; Victoria
- 24-26** TSC KC 116th Annual State Convention, Dallas
- 26** 3 p.m. Confirmation Mass for St. Cyril and Methodius; Shiner

Bishop Fellhauer's Confirmation Schedule

April

- 19** 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Michael, Cuero
- 26** 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Family, Wharton

- 29** • Day of Prayer for Church staff at Holy Name Church; Houston
• 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
- 30** 7 p.m. 8th grade Bishop's Award at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- May**
- 1** 6 p.m. Opening procession and Mass for Our Lady of Lavang Vietnamese Mass, Houston
- 2** • Mass with Carmelite Sisters, Meyersville
• 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph, Yoakum
- 3** • 9:30 a.m. Mass and visit at St. Joseph Church CCD program, Moulton
• 6 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross, Bay City

Official Announcements

Effective July 1, 2020:

Reverend Greg Korenek is appointed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas and is relieved of his duties as pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City, Texas and its mission of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wadsworth, Texas.

Reverend Robert Knippenberg is appointed pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn, Texas and Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Plum, Texas and is relieved of his duties as pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton and its mission of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Boling.



Please continue financial contributions

We cannot place the envelope in the offering basket at this time, so the Diocese of Victoria has made it possible for parishioners to continue supporting their churches online. Public Masses may be suspended, however, your parish priests and leaders are working hard to stay connected to parishioners and meet their needs – and pay the bills. Go to www.victoriadiocese.org/parish-donations to contribute.

And thank you for your generosity.



Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of April:

Rev. Timothy Kosler	04/23/1971	St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
Rev. Msgr. John Peters, VG	04/26/1974	Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville

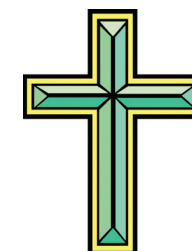
“Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood”

“Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!” -Pope Francis

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of April:

Rev. Msgr Michael Harrold	04/02/2015
Rev. Henry Rachunek	04/03/2013
Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch	04/04/2010
Rev. Peter Kaplinski	04/07/2003
Rev. Michael Malloy, O.Ss.T.	04/12/1986
Rev. Henry Pscencik	04/14/1989
Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin	04/17/2017
Rev. Charles Sonnier	04/22/2016

“Eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”



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DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The **interest from this amount** is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or layperson, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received. **Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.**

March 24, 2020

• General Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Johnny Prihoda by:

Thomas Schneider
Robert and Sharon Huette
Grace Lebeda

In memory of Lillian Besetzny,
Grandmother of Seminarian Caleb
Krischke by Hardy and JoAnn
McCullough

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip
Brune Seminary Burse

Lector

In honor of Deacon James Dvorak’s
birthday celebration by
Mark and Sharon Kubicek

• Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by
CDA Court of Our Lady of the Rosary
#1595, Nada

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in
Honor of his Work for Vocations

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Court
Daughters of the Holy Family #2665

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary
Burse #8

Lector

Donation by Soila Sanchez

In memory of Roger Janak by Pat Mladenka

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Annie Dolezal by:

The Robert Matlock Family
Jerry and Arlene Matlock
The Joe Roberts Family
Benny and Yvonne Farley
Evelyn Robinson
Kenny and Donna Brune
CDA Court Our Lady of the Sea, #2133

Acolyte

In memory of Annie Dolezal by:

Tiana and Eric Mortimer
Sandra Digiovanni
Helen and Billy Dolezal

• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In
Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes
Seminary Burse #2

Lector

In loving memory of Lillian Besetzny,

Grandmother of Seminarian Caleb

Krischke by:

Ralph and Bonnie Besetzny
Mark and Dianne Grahman
Dolores Janak
Glen and Donna Lux
Marcus and Sharon Bujnoch

Gladys Besetzny
M/M Frank Bludau, Sr.
Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky
Donald and Karen Kutac
Arnold and Dorothy Berger
Jerry and Gayle Akers
Tony and Joyce Bludau
Harvey and Cathy Besetzny
Danny and Donna Neiser, Jr.
Theresa and Tony Rerich
Mike and Elizabeth Holub
Joan Prihoda
Elsie Farek
Monica and Donald Heine
Stanley and Mary Jane Pesak
Diane Kutac
Evelyn Kusy
Harvey and Evelyn Hermis
A.J. and Gladys Kutac
Leonard and Grace Sumbera
Dennis and Patricia Otto
Lad and Denise Trojacek
Marybeth Krischke
David and Kathy Orsak
Tommy and Sara Bludau

Acolyte

In loving memory of Lillian Besetzny,
Grandmother of Seminarian Caleb
Krischke by:
Byron and Theresa Eckhardt and Family
Andrew Besetzny
Joanie and Stuart Krischke

• Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, In
Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joseph Vrana by CDA
Court of Our Lady of the Rosary #1595,
Nada

To contribute to an existing Seminary
Endowment Fund, send contributions with
the appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is a fund in which **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarian Fund. Publication of this fund will appear when new contributions are received.

Donation categories: Lector – \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte – \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate – \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon – \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest – \$2,500 >.

Lector

~

Acolyte

Freddie L. Kloesel

Candidate

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court of St. Bernadette #1108

Transitional Deacon

~

Priest

~

To contribute to the Education of
Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

23rd Annual KofC Bishop David Fellhauer
Invitational Golf Tournament Postponed

BY RON SITKA
Special to The Lighthouse

Due to the current situation with the coronavirus pandemic, the committee for the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament has decided to postpone this year’s tournament to Friday, Sept. 18. The original date was to be April 24.

The sponsorship, team sign-up and other information about this year’s tournament were sent out to all our past supporters several weeks ago. We have already been receiving donations and sponsorships in the mail at the chancery office. I want to assure you that all funds collected will be applied to the Chancery Youth Office Programs or the Vocation/Seminarians per your instructions in your submittal.

We still need and ask for your support for this event and

the great programs that it supports. Golfers who want to play in the tournament on the revised date should send in your team’s entry forms with payment at your earliest convenience.

We will be sending out reminders and any additional information periodically throughout the summer to all our sponsors and players. Please remember that a “Priest” level sponsorship is the minimum level required for priority team registration if the field fills up.

Thank you for your continued support.

For information about registrations or sponsorships, contact Wendy Eggert, Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria, at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2232, or email weggert@victoriadiocese.org.

• Ron Sitka is chairman of the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament.





2020 CONFIRMADI – Confirmation Mass at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado took place on Feb. 15. Pictured, front, from left, are the Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor, E. Gobella, E. Almeda, J. Fowler, J. Sulak, E. Gonzalez, M. Briones; and back, from left, G. Avalos, C. Hernandez, L.M. Briones, the Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, B. Almeda, J. Rodriguez and N. Carruthers.



ADULT CONFIRMATION MASS FOR THE VICTORIA DEANERY — The Victoria Deanery celebrated 10 adult confirmations Tuesday evening, Feb. 25 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory with Bishop Brendan J. Cahill presiding and Rev. Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows concelebrating, and the Very Rev. Gary Janak, rector and pastor of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, assisting as master of ceremonies. Pictured from left are, front row, Bridgette Garcia, Anthony Leos, Bishop Cahill, Miranda Aguirre, Kaitlyn Stafford and Shauna Holder; and, back row, Father Jacob Koether, Emily Perez-Resendiz, Nathan Stary, Alfredo Juarez Jr., Kevin Alaniz, Kelli Chancellor, Chris Kallus, catechist, and Father Gary Janak. The adult confirmation course offered in the Victoria Deanery is for adult Catholics in the deanery that, for various reasons, have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation. It is a five-week course offered twice a year: spring and fall. For more information, contact Jenny Vincent at jvincent@olvchurch.org or call the OLV parish office at 361-575-4741.



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Jesus' passion evident in his anguish

We are currently experiencing the most passionate or emotionally charged time of the liturgical year. Normally we look at the word “passion” as found in the Passion of Christ which is defined as “the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

However that same dictionary also defines the word “passion” as “ardent affection, love, or a strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept.” So now, let’s look at this concept of God’s great love – passion – for each of us as we reflect on Jesus’ sufferings.

We are filled with jubilation and expectancy as we see a loving Jesus riding on a humble donkey rather than a victorious warhorse and being cheered by the simple people of Jerusalem. This celebration shifts to a more solemn mood as the chief priests and scribes plot to turn the multitudes away from Jesus and to capture and destroy him.

Knowing what we know now, we can see how Jesus loved us as he earned our eternal salvation through his agony, which culminated in a most shameful and excruciating death.

It was through his passionate love for us that he endured his anguish, which must have been intensified:

- by the betrayal on one of his own, Judas;
- by his disciples falling asleep three times during his terrible agony in the

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



garden;

- by the desertion of so many of his disciples during his ordeal;
- by the boastful Peter’s denial;
- by the mockery of bystanders; and
- by the extreme sense of abandonment during his death struggle that compels him to cry out in the words of the psalmist, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:2a)

Very likely this psalm was part of Jesus’ memory bank of prayer; in great anguish, he would turn to it just as one of us might begin to pray the Lord’s Prayer in time of distress. Psalm 22 is a psalm of lamentation, which expresses a severe intensity of passion, a feeling of abandonment and turmoil by Jesus, as he cries out to his Father.

After Jesus cries out and dies, it is the utterance by the Gentile centurion, “Truly this was the Son of God,” which captures the significance of Jesus’ passionate act of ardent love for us.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

13316 State Hwy 185, Bloomington, Texas 77951

Please join us for our

Spring Festival

Sunday, April 26th, 2020

11:00 a.m.



BBQ Brisket Plate
1/2 Lb BBQ Brisket
Potato salad, beans,
bread & dessert
\$10/Plate

In-side serving line begins at 10:30 a.m.
Plates to go at 10:00 a.m.

Pre-order whole cooked brisket \$10/lb
contact Thomas Pribyl (512) 657-1795
by April 17th.



Grand Prize
\$1000 Visa Gift Card

Raffle tickets available
from Church members, office
and on Festival day.

Tickets: 3 for \$5 or \$2 per ticket

**Live & Silent
Auction**
11:30 a.m.

Cake Walk

Children's Games

Country Store

Face Painting

Refreshments and much more!

All activities will be held in the parish hall.

For more information call (361) 897-1155, on festival day call (361) 897-1398



www.saintpatrickschurch.net



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saintpatricks@triplejreal.com



Practicing Spiritual Communion fits perfectly into Lent

It goes without saying that practicing Catholics in good standing will receive Jesus in the Precious Body and Precious Blood during the Eucharist at least on Sunday. Right?

For many, it seemed like the worst-case scenario when the Church announced that Mass would be closed to the public — an unprecedented situation, at least in this lifetime.

For just a minute it felt like falling down a rabbit hole. But after that first shock, you look up and see the sun is still shining. And there is the Church, finding new ways to reach out and minister, throwing out lifelines for those who are anxious, afraid or lonely.

We have been told, “You can make a Spiritual Communion.” The term is self-explanatory. You make Communion in spirit. Look it up and you will find many beautifully

Look Up

By Janet Jones, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse



written prayers to help you do this. It is not the same as receiving the Body and Blood physically. But with this pandemic there are sacrifices. And in those sacrifices are magnificent opportunities. It should not be lost on us that this is happening during Lent, a time to suffer a little and grow a lot before Easter.

In the Gospel of Matthew, there is a story about a woman who had suffered

a hemorrhage for a long time. She knew for spiritual or social reasons she could not touch Jesus, the man. But she desired his healing to the point that she dared to brush the hem of his garment. She believed so deeply in the power of Christ that by coming close to him without touching his flesh, she was healed. That was Spiritual Communion.

A little research tells us that Spiritual Communion involves an act of faith, an act of love, a strong desire to be united with Jesus, and an invitation for Jesus to be in our hearts. The words of the already-written prayers cover all of those things: “My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.” (from OurCatholicPrayers.com)

A wonderful thing about this is that it can be done anywhere and any time you need to call on Jesus and remind yourself that he is with you. How easy it is to fit Communion into your day, many times a day.

We can do this in our actions as well. Invite someone to pray with you at home or watch Mass on TV. Show someone you love them by sharing a meal or bringing something they need. And reach out to other members of the Body of Christ to remind them and yourself that you are united in the Sacrament.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, Director
Shannon Thomas, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org
(361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org/youth-young-adult-ministry

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St. Paul junior picked as youth leader for M.D. Anderson program

By **BOBBY HORECKA**, *Shiner Gazette Special to The Lighthouse*

SHINER — Holly H. could have probably spent last summer doing a thousand different things. But rather than relax at the pool or visit with friends, the Shiner St. Paul junior chose to fill her days working with cancer patients at Houston's renowned M.D. Anderson Medical Center.

What's more, she can't wait to do it all again this summer.

Hull, the daughter of Kerri and Chris Hull of Shiner, returns this year as one of the prestigious youth program's junior leaders. In fact, she recently joined hospital staff to interview and weigh in on the nominations of the more than 600 applicants who apply annually for the program.

Less than a tenth of those applicants are selected into the program each year.

But for someone who aspires to join the highly competitive field of physical therapy, it was something of a dream come true, Holly admits.

"I don't want to sound corny, but I need to help people," she said. "And this program fills that need in me and gives me the op-

portunity to do so every day."

Holly recently helped organize a gift drive for cancer patients at her school, collecting pillows, blankets, hats and other items to make people's day a bit brighter. That drive continues through mid-March for anyone who might be interested in contributing. Items can be dropped off at the school office.

Of course, some may say she had an inside track into the program, even though it's a track she wouldn't wish on anyone. Holly's parents — mom, Kerri, the Shiner Catholic school sec-



Holly H.

retary, and dad, Chris, a safety supervisor at Victoria's Invista plant — both battled cancer. In fact, both were patients at that very same medical center at various times of her youth.

It was that experience, watching her parents go through treatments and recover, combined with some of her own experience, dealing with baseball injuries, that instilled in her a passion for the medical field and, specifically, physical therapy.

"There are patients, many who don't even speak English, scared to death already

because of their illness, and they suddenly find themselves in someplace as big as that, with no family at all to help them along," Holly said.

That's where junior volunteers like her come into the picture. As Holly put it, "Just a friendly face in all of that can go long way to making people feel so much better."

To more about the teen volunteer opportunities with M.D. Anderson, visit their web page at <https://www.mdanderson.org/> and click on the "Donors and Volunteers" tab.



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY — St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg recently held its "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive and was able to donate \$1,280.90 to the Schulenburg Area Food Pantry. In the picture on the left, Principal Rosanne Gallia, right, makes the check presentation to Peggy Kusy of the SAFP. The school also did a "Change for Change" uniform replacement drive during Catholic Schools Week and, with donations totaling \$1,000, they gave \$800 to Turtle Wing Foundation and \$200 to the Down Syndrome Foundation of South Texas. At right, Gallia gives the check DeeAnn Hooper of Turtle Wing Foundation. (Contributed Photos)

Go to Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools on Facebook as well as Diocese of Victoria to keep up with what is happening in our area. We are also posting information at www.victoriadiocese.org.

Student excels in GeoBee contest

VICTORIA — Our Lady of Victory Catholic School fifth-grader Mandeep J. was advanced to National Geographic's 2020 GeoBee Texas State Competition. It was set to take place March 27, but was canceled due to the corona virus precautions. This was the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition.



Mandeep J.

GeoBee competitions were held in schools throughout the state with students in the fourth through eighth grades. School champions took an online qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society.

Up to 100 of the top-scoring students advanced to the state competition.

State winners were to go to the 2020 National Championship to be held on May 18-21 at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C., which also has been canceled.

Mandeep is the son of Dr. Arun and Mrs. Naveen J.



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY — Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass during which Girl Scouts were given religious medals. Brooklyn S. and Adizen N. received the "God is Love" award; Brianna S. received "The Spirit is Alive" award; Taylor C. received the "God and Me" award; Madison C. received the "God and Church" award, and the Rev. Cheryl Kester-Schmidt received a counselor medal. Also attending were Girl Scouts Kristin R. and Emily M., and adult leaders Francis Cervantes, Sandra Munoz, Barbara Wilcox and Terry Blevins. (Photo by Regina Janak, *The Catholic Lighthouse*)

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Screen time: How much is too much?

With the latest CDC guidelines limiting our time outside the home, it's easy to just put ourselves and our children in front of a screen for hours on end. Is this bad? Actually, not all of it is, but moderation is key. For ages 2 to 5, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends limiting screen time to one hour per day of high-quality programming. Just make sure to preview what your child watches for quality and appropriateness, and watch with them whenever possible so you can help them understand what they're seeing. What about the very little ones under 2? The AAP discourages all media use for children younger than 18 to 24 months, except for video chatting.

So what do we do with all of this other time not being spent on the phone? How can we possibly entertain our children for that long?

Believe me, as a parent of three children under 5, I empathize with you. Children have energy that never seems to run out, which is an enormous blessing, but can also wear parents out. Here are a few suggestions of how to spend time together not in front of a screen:

1. **Prayer.** Yes, small children can pray, too. How can they pray? Just like you. Open up the Bible and read a short passage to them, then ask them what they think about it. Or, even introduce them to something like the rosary. I thought we would have to wait until my 4-year-old was at least 7 or 8 until we tried the rosary, but, with the encouragement of some friends, we decided to try now. I've been blown away with the results. Not only can he pray the rosary, he gets upset if anyone else tries to lead it. Don't underestimate the spirituality of your children.

2. **Read books.** Did you know one of

On the Table

By Justin Reyes



the primary indicators of children being successful when they grow up is if their parents read stories to them? Don't be afraid to crack open that old classic you loved growing up, or to make up your own stories with your kids. We often amaze ourselves with our own creativity.

3. **Play games.** Make up your own games. My wife made up this crazy board game with my kids the other week and they loved it. It was a lot like Candy Land, where you simply roll dice and move spaces based on that. But my kids would've made you think it was the most exciting game ever created. What about older kids? Bust out the Monopoly, Battleship or Guess Who? These games we loved growing up will surely entertain our own children and show them that the most fun can be found outside of a screen or handheld device.

So fear not. We can entertain our children for hours on end. God has given us everything we need. But don't feel bad if you need to take a break and play a movie every now and then.

Until next time, I hope you can discuss this topic at your own table with family and friends. And if you ever want to chat with me about what I've written, or anything else, please call me at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265.

God bless!

— Justin Reyes is the director of the Office of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria. Contact him at 361-573-0828, Ext. 2265, or jreyes@victoriadiocese.org.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS — A Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of current parish church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Ganado was held on Sunday, Feb. 23, followed by a reception. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass with Father Kirby Hlavty, pastor, concelebrating. Vocations from the parish Sister Magdalen Carpenter, Sister Laura Toman, and Sister Edwardine Lesak returned to their home parish to celebrate in this occasion along with other Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters.

St. Michael Catholic Church Weimar, Texas

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Sunday, April 26, 2020

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Peace comes through repentance, reconciliation

The following is a sermon Father Charles Kram wrote for Palm/Passion Sunday.

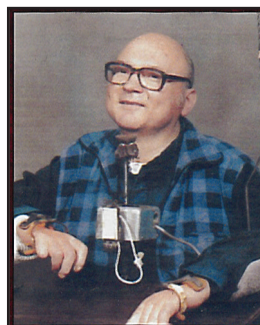
During this Holy Week, we commemorate the saddest events of all history – for this is the week we recall how He who is the Greatest and the Best endured his ordeal of suffering and shame.

These are the saddest events that ever happened since the foundation of the world, yet they have brought us the greatest blessings that have ever befallen the human race since the fall of Adam.

According to God's plan of redemption, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness, for blood means life, and the shedding of blood means sacrifice. It is through the sacrificial shedding of blood that we have been reconciled with God.

It was not the innocent blood of Abel, slain by his brother Cain. It was not the blood of sheep and bullocks shed on the ancient altars of sacrifice. Nor was it the heroic blood of martyrs shed for their faith. But it was the blood of the innocent Lamb of God, the Father's own dearly beloved Son, who takes away the sins of the world. The blood of which a single drop could cleanse the world of all its guilt.

If the crowds who had shouted their "Hosannas" and waved their palm branches during Jesus' triumphal ride through the city had been told that very soon they would be clamoring for his crucifixion, they would



1929-2000

Father Charles Kram Corner

never have believed it.

If the apostles, who had been with Jesus for three years and who had seen his miracles, had been told they would all abandon him in his greatest need, and that one of their number would sell their master for 30 pieces of silver and then hang himself in despair, they would have been utterly horrified.

It was a tragic testimony to the fickleness of human nature, a stark evidence of the harm our sins can do, and the ultimate proof of our great need for God's mercy.

Jesus paid a debt he did not owe so that we might be freed from debt we could not pay. What clearer manifestation could there be of the unconditional love that our Heavenly Father has for us, his children?

Just as without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness, so too without repentance there is no forgiveness. Repentance was at the center of the preaching of John the

Baptist; so, too, it belongs to the essence of the Christian faith.

We can spend a fortune dodging our responsibilities and shifting the blame and explaining our guilt away, yet, to be forgiven, we must repent.

So often we hear, "My addiction did it; it wasn't me," "I was temporarily insane, so send me for treatment," "I did it because my parents mistreated me as a child."

It is so easy to play make believe, to substitute sickness for sin, to lay the blame on others, but where do the Scriptures ever say, "Blessed are the crybabies, for they shall escape their responsibilities."

Just recently a girl told me, "I once broke my neck, and, boy, did it change my life."

We must not wait for some tragedy to open our eyes. We must not despair like Judas did, and perish. We had better weep for our sins in time like Peter did and be forgiven.

I often think how blest we are in having that much-needed, much-neglected sacrament, the sacrament of reconciliation – for me the surest way to pardon and peace and to a deep assurance of forgiveness. The most consoling words I know are the words of absolution spoken over me by a fellow priest, "I absolve you from your sins."

I could never say, as one lady once said to me, "There are some things I did that I wouldn't admit to nobody," and another, "I'm still a Catholic, but I haven't been to confession for so long. I don't believe in it anymore," and a third, "It's too late for me to start over now."

But now is the time of grace, the time to learn from our mistakes, the time to make definite plans for improvement.

So today, as we wave our palm branches and sing hosannas to the Son of David, we grieve for our sins and make final preparations for the celebration of the Resurrection – Christ's greatest miracles and his Father's final seal of approval on his mission as our Messiah – our promise of eternal life.

Lord Jesus, Thank you for this blessed season of reform and reconciliation. Help us to begin life all over again while there is still time. Grant that the blood you once shed for our redemption may wash us clean of every stain so that we can belong to you completely. Amen.

If you can't go to confession, take your sorrow directly to God, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People who cannot get to confession because of the coronavirus lockdown or another serious reason can go to God directly, be specific about their sins, request pardon and experience God's loving forgiveness, Pope Francis said.

"This is the right time, the opportune moment. An act of contrition done well, and our souls will become white like the snow," the pope said March 20 during his live streamed morning Mass.

Pope Francis began the Mass by praying again for doctors, especially in northern Italy, where the COVID-19 pandemic still is infecting thousands and leading to the deaths of hundreds of people each day.

The Italian health ministry announced late March 19 that the number of deaths in Italy had reached 3,407, surpassing by 277 the number of people who had died in China

because of the virus.

Italy began a nationwide lockdown March 10 in an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Churches are open for private prayer and priests can hear confessions if they are wearing a mask and gloves and stay more than 3 feet away from the penitent. But people are being encouraged not to leave their homes at all.

The first reading at Mass March 20 was from Hosea, and it encourages people to return to the Lord with all their hearts, recognizing their sins and letting God forgive them, the pope said in his homily.



"Return to your father who is waiting for you," the pope said. "The God of tenderness will heal us; he will heal us of the many, many wounds of life and the many ugly things we have done. Each of us has our own!"

God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms, he said. "It's like going home."

Lent is a special time "to let God wash us, purify us, to let God embrace us," the pope said, and the best place for that is the confessional.

"But many people today would tell me, 'Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because I can't leave the house? And I want

to make peace with the Lord, I want him to embrace me, I want the Father's embrace.'"

The pope said his response would be, "Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church) says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart."

Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now." And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says: "When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called 'perfect' – contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible."

(CNS photo/Chaz Muth)



Rite of Election

PREPARING FOR FULL COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH

The Rite of Election was celebrated March 1 in the Diocese of Victoria with 18 parishes represented at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Bishop Brendan Cahill is shown with the catechumens (top), and the candidates (bottom) seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. Following the Rite of Election, they were welcomed to a reception and tour of the chancery.

Photos by Janet Jones





HOW TO PRAY THE TV MASS FROM HOME

Creating a sacred space to reverently watch the mass in your home

Create a prayer altar under your TV or streaming device. Consider setting a crucifix or other sacred art in the prayer space.

Open your bible to the gospel of the day and place it on your "home altar" to remind you that the Word of God is among you.

Light a candle to symbolize the beautiful light that shines in the darkness and to help your home resemble the Church.

Set up chairs like a pew to help you engage in the mass and keep you from passively watching from the couch.

Get dressed as you normally would when attending mass. Keeping this routine is especially helpful for children.

If you have holy water at home, bless yourself and your family before you begin the mass.

Take a few moments of silence to transition from the busyness of your home to the sacredness of the mass.

Fully participate by standing, kneeling, sitting and responding according to the rubrics of the mass.

Engage in community by having coffee and breakfast with your family after mass or by calling your loved ones to connect.

Presidio La Bahia

For information, visit their Facebook page at Presidio La Bahia - Goliad, Texas.

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3.50 for military personnel, \$2 for children 6-11, and under 6 are free. Group rates available when reservations are made in advance. Guided tours available to large groups and schools. Please confirm in advance. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information, call 361-645-3752.



Join in listening to Bishop Brendan Cahill every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 a.m. on *Relevant Radio Morning Air with John Harper*. Listeners can call in with questions or comments. You can listen to past podcastS online.

Relevant Radio® has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The Relevant Radio network is currently serving the Church with 127 stations reaching 39 states, with a potential listening audience of 133 million people. Programming can be heard worldwide via streaming audio at relevantradio.com and on the mobile app.

Justin Reyes, Director of Family Evangelization, is one of only four people physically at the Mass for the March 21 men's conference, celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill with Father Gary Janak concelebrating. The event had to go to a virtual format almost overnight. (Photo by Janet Jones)



Men's conference succeeds, despite the devil in the details

JANET JONES, Editor
The Catholic Lighthouse

When Justin Reyes took the directorship of the new Office of Family Evangelization for the Diocese of Victoria in October, he made the decision to start with the men, the traditional heads of the household and expected leaders of the family.

If "the enemy" wants to destroy the family, he will start with the men, Reyes said.

"The enemy" was working extra hard to derail Reyes' much-anticipated "Get in the Game!" Men's Gathering. Great plans were made, great promotions went out and excitement was palpable among those who were working on this event.

And then COVID-19 happened. There would not be a cathedral packed with men after all.

But Reyes rolled with the punches, the same day making the decision to try and go virtual with the event. In the hustle and bustle, several things went wrong and he held his breath waiting for this and that to work properly.

Also, he said, there were several people who were skeptical about a "virtual" conference succeeding in this market.

But finally, the afternoon before, it was a go.

"It was insane, the different road blocks along the way," Reyes said. "I've never experienced spiritual warfare like that."

But on Saturday morning, March 21, 109 men came together remotely for a rosary, Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill and to hear a powerful message from Damon West, former college football player who went to prison, had a complete change of heart, and came out clean and sober with a network of good men he'd met in a prison ACTS retreat.

The overall message to the men was that growing in faith in a "team sport." You need to have a "band of brothers," as described in a Knights of Columbus video presented during the gathering.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill who celebrated Mass at the beginning of the event, also

spoke to the men and offered ways for them to encourage other men. He said building a strong network of men can be as easy as calling some old friends on the phone to see how they are doing. "Imagine if 100 people called five friends a day, for a week?" he said.

One of the results of the conference is that several men expressed the desire to join a men's group of some sort and others replied that they wanted to start one.

Frank Tilley, a member of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria who will become a permanent deacon later this year, said the conference gave some new energy to an idea he's had about starting a men's group in his parish.

Tilley has had the idea for a while, but, he said, for a variety of reasons he "hasn't pulled the trigger" on it. Tilley has in the past been active in ACTS and in prison ministry. Now that there's a lot of quiet time and no public gathering, the idea of finding a new way to bring about a men's group is able to grow a little. The diocese men's conference came up at the right time, he said.

"If ever there was going to be a time to do this, now is the time," I guess.

Reyes had a team of men from the Diocese of Victoria who already were involved in men's ministries and made themselves available to make the conference a success and offer encouragement for men and men's ministry. His team included Cody Horton of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Philip Leopold of St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; Rick Jahn of St. Joseph, Yoakum; David Schmidt of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner; David Zapalac of La Grange; Eamon McCourt of St. Rose, Schulenburg; and Deacon Walley Rodriguez of Holy Cross, Bay City.

One more good thing that came out of the conference was money raised for a chosen charity – CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), which trains volunteers to be a voice for children in the foster care system, advocating for the child in court. CASA is planning a workshop on engaging fathers, Reyes said.



Amor Meus Spirituality Center to host workshop on dreams

VICTORIA — Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to “Dreams and Your Call to Be Fully Alive,” a workshop on dreams at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St., on Saturday, April 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“Dreams, in the Judeo-Christian tradition, are an ever-present inner call to wholeness and holiness, an invitation to relate to God and to our deepest inner self, and a gift to the individual dreamer as well as the community,” says Sister Dorothy Batto, CCVI, who will lead the discussion.

This workshop will offer “a deeper understanding and appreciation of dreams and ways to explore hidden mysteries contained in them” as well as ways to remember your dreams. It will offer an understanding of “the vital role that dreams can play in furthering



Sister Dorothy
Batto, CCVI

growth — physically, psychologically, spiritually, socially, and culturally.”

Sister Dorothy has 50 years of experience in educational, spiritual and pastoral ministries, a bachelor of arts degree from the University of the Incarnate Word; a master’s degree in religious studies from St. Louis University; a master’s in transpersonal studies from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology; and spiritual direction training from Mercy Institute.

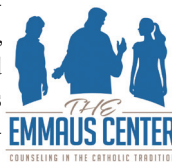
She is the director of The Sacred Garden ministry centered in Bandera. It has several satellite programs in surrounding rural communities. This ministry is dedicated to the psychological and spiritual growth of all who desire to live a more dynamic and meaningful life. She is also a spiritual director and retreat director in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, a team member of the international Ministry to Ministers sabbatical program at Oblate School of Theology, and Formation Team member for her religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio.

We no longer purchase lunches, so please bring your own lunch. A love offering for the workshop will be accepted.

• Submitted by Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS

The Emmaus Center

The Emmaus Center provides individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups from a Catholic perspective. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (361) 212-0830.



Sunday Readings from April 7 - May 10

April 7 ~ Chrism Mass
Isaiah 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9
Psalms 89:21-22, 25, 27
Revelations 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21

April 9 ~ Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

April 10 ~ Good Friday
of the Lord’s Passion
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

April 11 ~ Holy Saturday
At the Easter Vigil in the
Holy Night of Easter
Reading 1: Genesis 1:1—2:2
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35
Reading 2: Genesis 22:1-18
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Reading 3: Exodus 14:15—15:1
Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18
Reading 4: Isaiah 54:5-14
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
Reading 5: Isaiah 55:1-11
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Reading 6: Baruch 3:9-15, 32--4:4
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Reading 7: Ezekiel 36:16-17A, 18-28

Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4
Epistle: Romans 6:3-11
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 ~ Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34A, 37-43
Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-9

April 19 ~ Sunday of Divine Mercy
Acts 2:42-47
Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26 ~ Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

May 3 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14A, 36-41
Psalms 23: 1-3A, 3B4, 5, 6
1 Peter 2:20B-25
John 10:1-10

May 10 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-7
Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video,
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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Safe Environment

Reporting Procedures for Suspected or Known Sexual Abuse of a Minor (person under 18 years of age) or Vulnerable Adult by a Member of the Clergy

Contact:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, within **48 hours**, at (800) 252-5400, www.txabusehotline.org, or local police department. **If person is in immediate danger call 911.**

and

- Vicki Pyatt, LMSW, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Outreach, Diocese of Victoria, (361) 827-7186, pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.

or

- Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria, (361) 573-0828
Written allegations can be mailed to
Office of the Bishop
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Victoria, TX 77903
marked "Personal and Confidential"

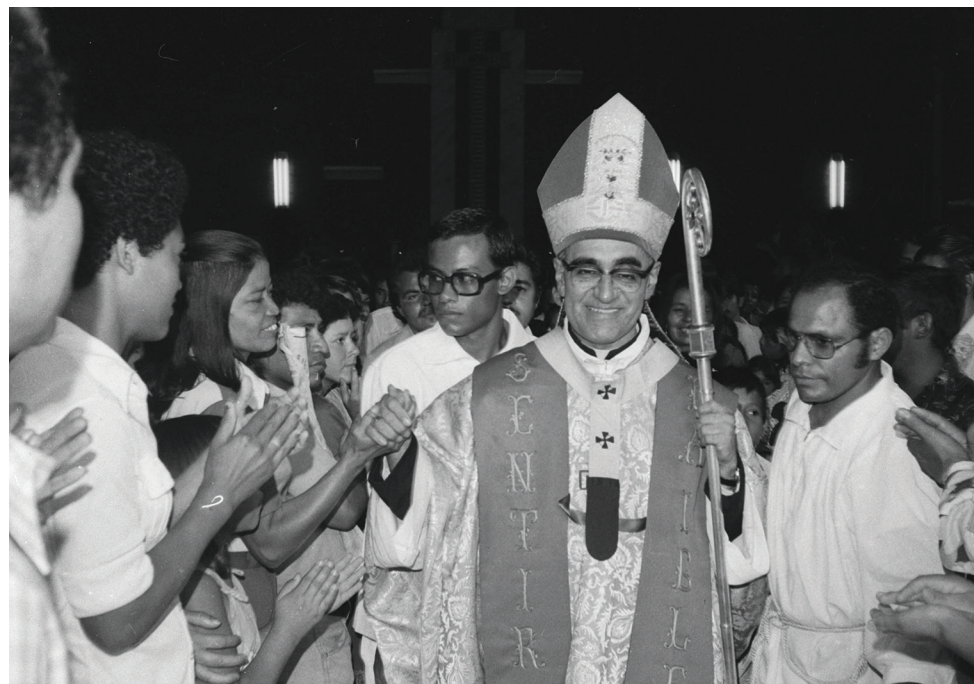
If sexual abuse by a member of clergy has occurred in another diocese, the Diocese of Victoria will help bring your concerns to church officials. For assistance contact Vicki Pyatt at (361) 827-7186 or pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org.



Tras 40 años de su martirio, san Romero influye a la iglesia estadounidense

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — San Óscar Arnulfo Romero de El Salvador siempre mantuvo una línea abierta de comunicación con la iglesia en los Estados Unidos, cuyos líderes y laicos a menudo apoyaban al arzobispo de San Salvador cuando se oponía a la ayuda militar o al entrenamiento soldados de su país pagados con dinero de Estados Unidos. Incluso después de su martirio el 24 de marzo de 1980, su ejemplo y legado de solidaridad con los pobres siguió siendo una misión para la iglesia de Estados Unidos, cuyos miembros presionaron durante mucho tiempo al Congreso contra el dinero que se usaba para hacer daño al pueblo salvadoreño. San Romero continúa hasta este día influenciando a los miembros de la iglesia de Estados Unidos, desde los laicos hasta los obispos de los Estados Unidos, algunos quienes buscan su figura como modelo de seguir la enseñanza de la iglesia, de defender a los vulnerables y proteger los derechos humanos de los pobres.



San Óscar Romero aparece en esta foto sin fecha saludando a fieles en San Salvador, El Salvador. San Romero continúa hasta este día influenciando a los miembros de la iglesia de Estados Unidos, desde los laicos hasta los obispos de los Estados Unidos, algunos quienes buscan su figura como modelo de seguir la enseñanza de la iglesia, de defender a los vulnerables y proteger los derechos humanos de los pobres. (Foto CNS-Octavio Duran)

Papa reza por personas con dificultades económicas debido a la pandemia

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco ofreció oraciones por todos aquellos, especialmente por familias que enfrentan dificultades económicas a causa de la pandemia del coronavirus.

“Oremos por las personas que están empujando a sufrir problemas económicos porque no pueden trabajar debido a la pandemia, y todo esto recae sobre la familia”, dijo al principio de la misa el 23 de marzo.

Casi 25 millones de trabajos se perderán en todo el mundo debido a COVID-19, calculó la Organización Laboral Internacional en un informe preliminar de evaluación publicado el 18 de marzo. Sin embargo, se

dice que el impacto sobre el empleo podría ser menor si hubiera una respuesta de políticas coordinadas internacionalmente, parecida a la que se dio durante la crisis financiera global de 2008.

Durante la misa retransmitida de la mañana, el papa reflexionó sobre lo que requiere la oración verdadera.

Muchas veces la oración puede ser simplemente una costumbre de recitar una serie de palabras, dijo en su homilía.

Pero la oración verdadera brota de un corazón lleno de fe, dijo.

“Tengamos cuidado durante la oración de no caer en la rutina, sin la consciencia de

que el Señor está ahí, de que estoy hablando con el Señor y de que él puede resolver el problema”, dijo el papa.

Lo segundo que se necesita es perseverancia, dijo.

Algunas personas pueden orar, pero no se reciben las gracias “porque no tienen esta perseverancia, porque en el fondo no se sienten necesitados, o no tienen fe”.

“Si tienes fe, estás seguro de que el Señor te dará lo que pides. Y si el Señor te hace esperar, llamas y llamas y llamas hasta que concede la gracia”.

Si parece que Dios no responde a las oraciones, hay una razón, dijo el papa. “Lo está haciendo por nuestro propio bien, para que lo tomemos en serio, para que tomemos en serio la oración” y estemos más firmemente arraigados en la fe, y no sólo repitiendo palabras como cotorras.

“Lo tercero que quiere Dios en la oración es valor”, dijo. El valor de seguir orando y a veces de argumentarle a Dios, como Moisés, que defendió a su pueblo contra el deseo de Dios de golpearlos por sus pecados.

“En estos días, es necesario orar, orar más” y orar con perseverancia, valentía y la fe en que Dios puede intervenir, dijo.

“El Señor no defrauda”, dijo el papa Francisco. “Nos hace esperar, se toma su tiempo, pero no defrauda”.

Buscas Misa y Adoracion?

“Durante este tiempo extraordinario en el que las personas en todo el mundo están experimentando tanto miedo y ansiedad, invitamos a católicos y personales de todo el mundo a sintonizar EWTN para transmisiones en vivo de la Misa a las 8 a.m. ET (7 a.m. CT) todos los días desde la Capilla de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles en Irondale, Alabama,” dijo el presidente y director ejecutivo de EWTN.

También ir a:

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www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas



Study Mass, return in awe

Continued
from pg. 1

pose: “to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.” (Luke 4:43)

If you were one of Jesus’s apostles, with him day and night for three years, what kind of things did you see? In Matthew 11:5-6, we read, “... the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

After his Resurrection and before being assumed into heaven, what does Jesus teach his apostles? Go to Acts 1:3 for the answer. “He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”

In 2002, St. John Paul II gave us the Luminous Mysteries. The third mystery is Proclamation of the Kingdom. If we are “sent” into the world to proclaim the Kingdom of God, where does this power come from? Through baptism the lay faithful are made one body with Christ and are established among the People of God. We are made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ.

St. John Paul II, in Christifideles Laici, said, “A new state of affairs today both in the Church and in social, economic, political and cultural life, calls with a particular urgency for the action of the lay faithful. It is not permissible for anyone

to remain idle.”

Do you see why it is important to stay until the end of Mass and receive the final blessing? All of us are given the same mission, to proclaim the kingdom of God every day, and realize it is only for one week. We will come back to Mass.

What is our source of unity in the Catholic Church? Of course, it is the Eucharist.

If we know this, then why do some people hold hands during the “Our Father?” The consecrated Host is on the altar, and the priest invites us to pray the “Our Father,” and then it happens. People start holding hands, and even crossing the aisles. Why?

Could it be that we have lost our sense of unity? Or is it because we no longer believe that Jesus is really present?

Just after this is the Rite of Peace. Remember it is “rite,” and so we must follow certain guidelines.

What we see now in church at the exchange of the sign of peace seems to have little to do with its liturgical purpose. It is “the” sign of peace, and not “a” sign of peace. People move from their seats to search out friends and family in other parts of the church. It becomes one great feel-good moment; a group hug; a love-in. From a liturgical point of view, it is most awkward.

We should be getting ready and focusing our attention on the breaking of bread. We say, “Lamb of God...” when the priest breaks the bread. The Lamb of God is not simply a hymn we sing around this time during the Mass. It should be sung precisely at the moment of the breaking of the bread, because we echo Luke 24:35, “Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he [Jesus] was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

This is a sublime moment of Communion.

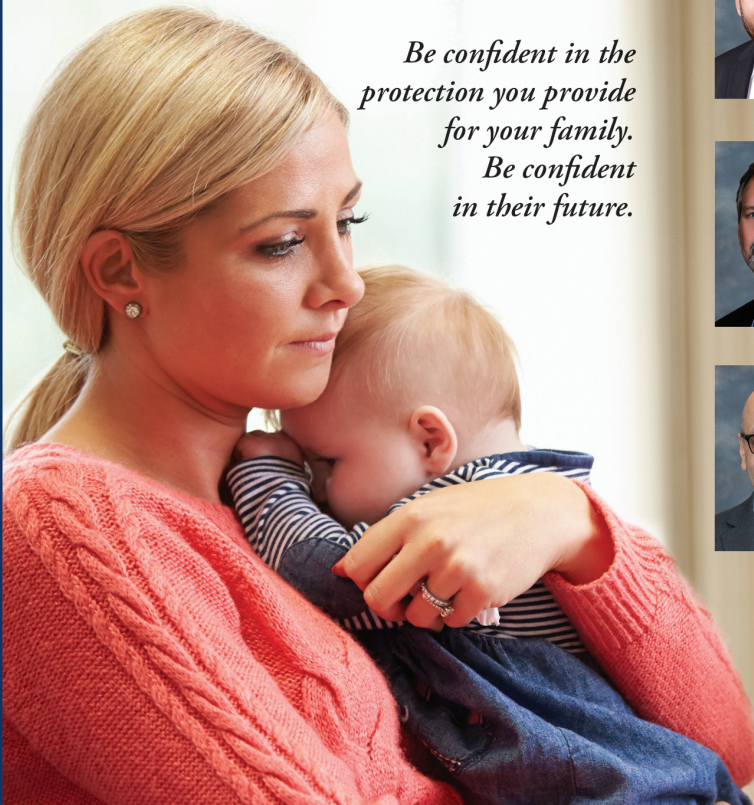
On a good day, most people will have refocused and begun singing along by the second of the three invocations in the Lamb of God. In 1977, the Bishop’s Committee on Liturgy stated, “The sign of peace is not a ‘meet and greet’ but rather it symbolizes the communion and peace of the whole Church in Christ.”

Once we come to a better understanding of all the parts of the Mass in this same manner, our faith comes alive, and we can begin to actively participate in our public form of worship.

• *Chris Kallus is a longtime parish educator for Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. In 2013 he developed and implemented the adult faith formation program, Becoming a Credible Witness. “Itta Missa Est” is one of many classes he teaches each year at OLV.*

Peace of mind

*Be confident in the
protection you provide
for your family.
Be confident
in their future.*



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Note: All Events Are Subject To Cancellation Or Rescheduling



GAMES PARTY — The Altar Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Victoria is planning a Games Party from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 28 in the parish hall. There will be lunch, door prizes and more. Cost is \$8. This event, like others, is subject to being canceled or postponed based on the coronavirus pandemic precautionary measures. Please call Dorothy at 361-573-3569 or Eunice at 576-1856 to make reservations or check on the status of the event. Pictured clockwise from left are Shirley Kloesel, Fred Kloesel, Dorothy Bomba and Pattie Stevens.

Meals • Picnics and More

April

Bloomington — St. Patrick's Spring Festival will be April 26, featuring barbecue brisket plates for \$10 each. To-go plates will be ready at 9 a.m., and dine in begins at 11 a.m. Live auction begins at 11:30. There also will be a silent auction, raffle, country store, cakewalk and games for children.

Weimar — St. Michael Spring Picnic will be April 26. A fried chicken and sausage dinner for \$10 p/p. Polka Mass at 10:30 a.m. See ad on pg. 8.

Yorktown — San Luis Church, 502 E. 2nd St., will host its annual Jamaica on April 26. Mass begins at 8 a.m. at the church. At 11 a.m. a carne guisada dinner with rice and beans will be served for \$10 a plate, dine in or take out. There will be live music all day, children's bounce houses opening at noon, horseshoe and washer tournaments beginning at 1 (registration at noon), and food booths and cakewalk will begin at 2 p.m. The live auction will begin at 3. Those interested in the auction are encouraged to sign up early. There will be a raffle drawing at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

May

Victoria—Holy Family Festival, May 3

Cuero—St. Michael Spring Festival, May 17

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 24

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 24

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

ACTS Retreats—Anyone needing any information regarding ACTS Retreats in the diocese should email dovactschapter@victoriadiocese.org.

Catholic Family Services —To find Catholic organizations that focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org>.

Courage — Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For information, visit <http://www.couragerc.net>.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria — A sister organization to the Gabriel Project staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free pregnancy tests offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. New volunteers are welcome. For information call 361-575-6171.

Emmaus Center — Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling, as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available if requested. To make an appointment, call 361-212-0830. For information, see Page 12.

Engaged Encounter 2020 Dates — April 17-19, June 5-7, Sept. 18-20, and Nov. 13-15. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For information, call 361-573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project — Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion. Victoria: Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer 361-676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; DeWitt County: Meetings are the third Monday of each month during the school year at 5:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Public Library, 103 W. Main St. Coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith 361-491-0067; Lavaca County: Meets 6 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at 361-798-3579 for dates and location. See ad, Page 5.

Grief Ministry — An ongoing Grief Group meets at the Holy Family Church conference room in Victoria at 7 p.m., on the first and third Thursdays each month. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one may attend (after three months have passed). Call Sharon at 361-578-7572 before attending.

i.d.9:16 Ministry — For adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married. Held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with 6 p.m. Mass followed by dinner and a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan and fellowship. Childcare available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For information, or to RSVP for events, e-mail id916victoria@gmail.com.

Incarnate Word Prayer Group — Praise and worship 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays in the auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. For information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at 361-575-7111 or amormeus@yahoo.com.

Mothers of Grace — A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For information, contact Jennifer Ruiz at book.leslie@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Mothersofgraceolv/.

Natural Family Planning — NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at 505-710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com. Also in the Cuero area contact, Ashley Rodriguez at 361-293-0700 or ashleyfay09@gmail.com.

Raphael's Refuge — To build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death or abortion. For information, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021, 361-258-1514, or visit www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Retrouvaille — Retrouvaille, meaning "rediscovery," is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or 361-580-2770; or call 800-470-2230; or visit www.helpourmarriage.org or www.retrouvaille.org.

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Digna Vela
(361) 575-7111 / e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
Web site: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

See page 12 for Amor Meus Events for April.

God's Embrace

For more information call (979) 561-8883
e-mail: info@godsembrace.org
website: www.godsembrace.com

Upcoming Events: Weekly Prayer: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Adoration in GEM Chapel, Tuesdays, noon-3:00 p.m.

Pilgrimages

For more pilgrimages, see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 12.

Do you have any calendar of events for the Lighthouse?

Submit to
lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org



Isolation becomes ‘a blessed space’

Editor's Note: The following is from the Carmelite Sisters of Mary Ever Virgin in Meyersville, a cloistered order whose members choose this quiet, prayerful life.

We ... have put together some thoughts, culled from our years of life in the cloister. We offer them in hope that you may find some small help in them. Most of all we offer our prayers – which remain uninterrupted in this time of uncertainty – for all those affected by the pandemic, that is, for us all.

Prayerfully, in Christ, Sister Maria of Divine Mercy, O.Carm.

Withdrawal from the world, in order to draw closer to God, characterizes the life of a cloistered nun. What she lives every day, moment to moment, ought to be a small part of the life of every Christian. But now a great deal of isolation is being imposed on many, due to the recent pandemic crisis.

There is a difference between withdrawal from the world and isolation. Isolation means you are alone. But the Christian is never alone. God is always with us, dwelling within us by His grace. He is always there, waiting for us to turn to Him, to admit our helplessness and our need for Him, to trust in His amazing love for us, which Our Lord made so manifest on the Cross.

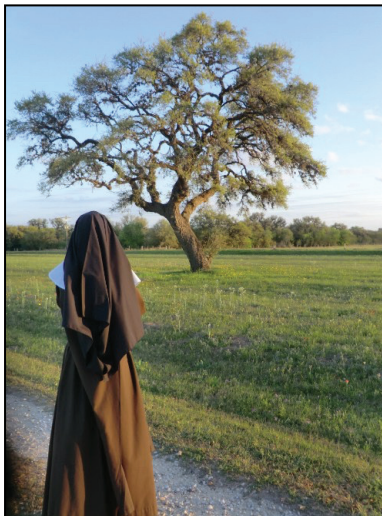
The key to living withdrawal from the world fruitfully, rather than living in isolation, is faith. Holy Mother Church has given us the gift of faith at Baptism. When our faith is tested – as it necessarily must be when life as we know it turns upside down – we can say, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” When our world is turned upside down, the truths and practices of our faith keep us anchored in the spiritual

realities, which we otherwise sometimes forget, and keep the turmoil from overwhelming us.

If we are willing to let the silence be, if we refrain from trying to fill it with noise, with the world “out there,” then this time of withdrawal can be an opportunity to deepen the most meaningful relationship of our lives, a relationship that will not end after the crisis is over, or ever end. It will only grow and come to full blossom eternally in Heaven. This can be a time to renew our awareness of Him Who loved us into being and sustains us in His love.

We can deepen our love for Christ by taking time to read the Gospels slowly, opening our hearts to Him and speaking with Him in prayer.

The Christian is never alone; he is in Christ. This time can remind us that we are members of the communion of saints in the Mystical Body of Christ. It is an opportunity to get to know the saints in Heaven by praying to them, reading about their lives, asking their help. They are our brothers and sisters and want to help us in our needs and are waiting for us to ask. And let us remember that on the Cross Our Lord gave us His own mother, the Queen of all the Saints, to be our mother. Like a true mother, she loves us and is there for us when we need her.



We can draw near to her especially through praying the rosary.

This time can also remind us that no suffering is meaningless. Though we may be separated from others temporarily, we are not severed from the Mystical Body of Christ. Thus, we can unite our sufferings of body or spirit with Our Lord's sufferings, sharing in His merits. Gazing upon a crucifix or meditating upon the Way of the Cross, even though we cannot physically make the stations, can help us to unite our sufferings to Jesus, offering them for graces for ourselves, for others and for the Holy Souls who have gone to God before us. Our awareness of the bonds of the communion of saints and of our sharing of spiritual goods grows as we come to each other's aid in this way. And we further realize that we are never alone.

This awareness of others, praying for others, helps to lift us out of our own concerns and to grow in love for our neighbor.

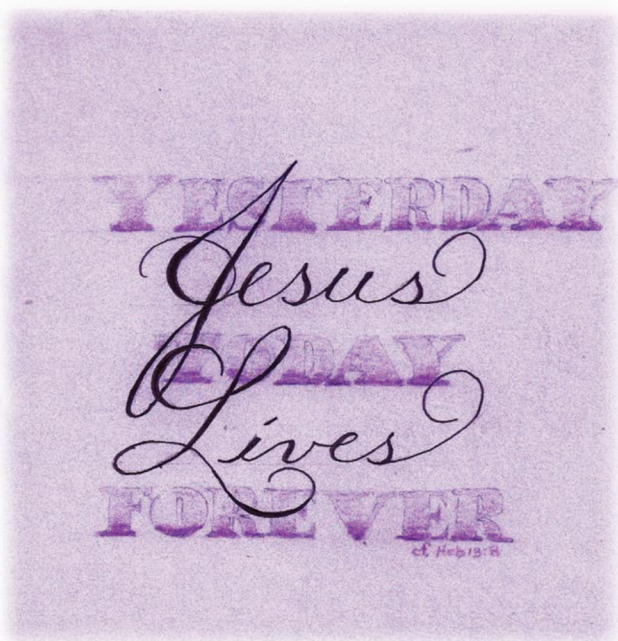
On a more natural level, when our contacts with other people are limited to a few of the same people, and sometimes not of our own choosing, it is an opportunity to come to know each other on a deeper level, to look beyond the surface and to see in them the beauty of each unique person, made in God's image. We come to see Christ in them and we ourselves become Christ to others.

With the help of God's grace, imposed isolation can be transformed into a blessed space. In that place we can slow down and appreciate the little things which we so easily overlook in our busy pace of life and which often carry great gifts from the Lord if we but stop, look, and listen: in nature, in a simple gesture, in a moment of silence filled with the voice of God.

This time of crisis is unsettling the world, but it is a time to remember that it is God's world and that He “makes all things work to the good of those who love Him.” And after His Resurrection, Our Lord told His disciples, “Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of time.”

Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin

Easter Octave of Prayer



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

Jesus – Who, suffered, died, and rose from the dead;

Jesus – Who is the Living One present among us;

Jesus – Who leads us to the end of time
where we will reign with Him forever;

The Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin honor the triumph of His Resurrection in their Easter Octave of Prayer, April 12 – 19th. During those days, they will be celebrating Easter Vespers according to Ancient Carmelite custom and will offer to the Lord of life and death any intentions you wish to be included in this holiest week of prayer and praise.

Prayer intentions may be mailed to the Sisters, dropped in the Prayer Request box at the Sisters' residence, or submitted through the prayer request form on their website:

Carmelites of Mary Ever Virgin, 11220 FM 237, Meyersville, Texas 77974
www.MaryEverVirgin.org

Online Resources

Live Streamed Masses:

Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory:
<http://ourladyofvictory.sermon.net/>

There are many DOV parishes on Facebook with daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, and Reflections

CatholicTV Network:
www.watchthemass.com/

Word on Fire: see below and at
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/

Websites:

- Magnificat is providing FREE access to their online version to help people pray from home
- CatholicBrain is offering free access through Divine Mercy Sunday 4/19 - great for kids!
- Find and start a Novena!
- Start a free trial of formed.org which offers various types of Catholic media
- Parents of young children here is a website that you might find useful catholicmom.com and Facebook at www.facebook.com/CatholicMomCommunity/