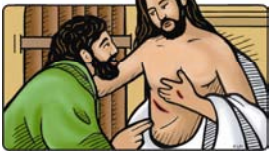


May 1, 2011: Second Sunday of Easter



Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." — Jn 20:26-27

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, May 1 (Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family (*Divine Mercy Sunday*)
10:30 am- Victor & Alma Brosch (**First Communion**)

Monday, May 2, St. Athanasius, bishop & doctor of the Church (Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8)

7:00 am- Mary Butschek
10:00 am- Mary Ann Koenig (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, May 3, Sts. Philip & James, apostles (1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14)

7:00 am- C. J. & Tootsie Zavesky

Wednesday, May 4 (Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21)

7:00 am- Alphonse & Helen Steffek, Rudy & Bernadette Konarik

8:05 am- Paul & Annie Henneke

6:15 pm- For rain (CCD Closing Mass)

Thursday, May 5 (Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36)

7:00 am- V.L. & Rose Rainosek

10:00 am- Adolph & Nettie Boenisch (Stevens)

Friday, May 6 (Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15)

7:00 am- Louis & Annie Krenek

8:05 am- Frank & Agnes Polansky

Saturday, May 7 (Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21)

5:30 pm- Ervin J. Bludau, Sr.

Sunday, May 8 (Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35)

6:30 am- Mother's Day Novena (*Mother's Day*)

8:00 am- Tyler Bludau

10:30 am- In thanksgiving for 55 years plus & in memory of Lou Kubena

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Gus & Rosa Werner, Sr. and Joe & Agnes Leopold.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Frank, Steve & Patrick Leopold.

Vigil Light: In memory of the deceased members of the Ron Ridgeway Family.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$6,346.50; Loose-\$3,357; Children-\$175; Catholic Ed.-\$2,322; Rice Bowl-\$111; Holy Land-\$2,457; Manna-\$658; Seminary Fund-\$730.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Walter Hemmi* of our parish family; *Clemence Leopold*, brother of Elrose Muenster; and, *Jerome Janca*, brother of Margaret Henneke. *May they rest in the peace of Christ.*

Anniversaries:

Andrew & Josephine Leopold	60 years	May 2
Henry Joe & Marcella Henke	52 years	May 3
Richard & Rita Donnelly	65 years	May 4
Paul & Dolores Janak	45 years	May 7

Pray for vocations to the priesthood & religious life!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 1

- First Communion, 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- Divine Mercy Holy Hour, 3:00 p.m. in church.
- Holy Rosary Mayfest, Hostyn. Polka Mass 10:00 a.m.
- Holy Family Festival, Victoria Community Center.

MONDAY, MAY 2

- Catholic Daughters to make rosaries, 8:30-11:30 am, Mary's House.
- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.
- Dave Ramsey Course, 6:30 p.m., SHCS Band Hall.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- Adult Education, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.
- Women's Acts mtg, 7pm, Queen of Peace, Sweet Home.
- K.C. General mtg., 7:30 pm, KC Hall (Rosary 7:00 pm)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

- CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30pm, Church Cry Rm.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is for *rain*.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

- Serra Club Mass, 8:30 am., Sacred Heart, Hallettsville.
-

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Marge Rehm, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Danielle Grady, John Pavliska, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, John D. Henneke, Bill Gohlke, Monica Barnes, Sterlin Ritchie, Brenda Grahmann, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Robert Butschek, Derrick Berger, Alexis Hines, Victor Steffek, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul & Leona Najvar, nursing home residents & the homebound.

Promise of Marriage: *Kristy Stiewert & Kyle Prasek* on May 7, 2011.

Welcome to the Parish: Mark & Kathryn Grahmann, & Rebecca & Stephanie; Chris & Erin Lyons; and Eugene & Maria Hernandez, & Brittney, Alexis & Jacqueline.

April Baptisms: Brittney, Alexis & Jacqueline, daughters of Eugene & Maria Hernandez; Priscilla, daughter of Juana Morales; Daniel & Saul, sons of Jose Reyes & Maria C. Hernandez; Lillie, daughter of Patrick & Katherine Blankenship.

Flowers in front of the pulpit this weekend are in memory of Linda Fishbeck.

Easter Flowers Donations: Tommy & Elsie Grahmann-\$10. *Thank you to all who donated towards the beautiful lilies gracing our church this Easter season!*

From the Desk of Father John

We welcome into the Catholic Church those who were Baptized or made their Profession of Faith at the Easter Vigil Mass last Saturday. Those received were Bill & Cindy Caraway, Courtney, Brannen and Joseph Caraway, Marty Cox and Misti Ridgeway.

Congratulations to all those who have joined us in the Catholic Church over the past years. May God bless you in your new home.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week and the Easter celebration beautiful and meaningful. The readers, choir, organists, servers, ushers, the Sacred Heart Junior Class for the Living Stations under the direction of Ruth Barton and Mike Tankersley. Also, thank you to Angela McConnell, our Director of Religious Education, for all her work with the confirmation students and their involvement; and, Dolores Renger and Karen Meyer for the soup and sandwiches afterwards.

We also thank Irene Knebel and Pat Mladenka for the material decorations behind the big crucifix and Renee Bludau for all her work with the Easter flowers.

**Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124
Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

May 4: Closing Mass & May Crowning (5th Grade youth involvement Mass).

May 22: HHS Baccalaureate, 10:30 a.m. Mass.

June 20-24: Vacation Bible School.

Sacred Heart Catholic School (Office: 798-4251)

May 15: SHCS Baccalaureate, 10:30 a.m. Mass.



**The Youth ConneXion
Greg & Kris Hermes 798-0655**



Youth news: May Fire Fall & Youth Social / Cook-out on May 15 - In Honor of our High School Graduates!

The last Fire Fall this school year will be on Sunday, May 15. The Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 5pm in the church and will be offered for the intentions of all the high school graduates of our parish from Sacred Heart School & Hallettsville High. A social and cook-out will immediately follow at the Youth House in honor of our Seniors. All youth from 8th grade through 12th grade, please come and pray for our graduates at 5pm and then stay to celebrate with our seniors at the cook-out. Please call Fr. Tommy at the rectory to **RSVP by Friday, May 13 at 4:30pm**, so we can have an accurate count for food planning.

Calendar Membership: Apr 19: Michael Grahmann, Schulenburg-\$50; **Apr 20:** Hayden Grahmann-\$100; **Apr 21:** Sandra Mullen-\$100; **Apr 22:** Michael Hemmi, Bellaire-\$100; **Apr 25:** Leona Labay-\$50; **Apr 26:** John & Charlene Pillow-\$50; **Apr 27:** Betty Woytek-\$100.

Adult Education

May 3: *There's Something About Mary: Her Titles and Feasts* – The practice of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary began with Christ Himself. Through the centuries, she has been given numerous titles and feasts which highlight her unique role in salvation history. Beginning with her original and greatest title of the Mother of God, Mary has been and continues to be for us the perfect model of Christian discipleship. Come let us honor the Blessed Virgin especially during this month of May by understanding and appreciating her role in our Christian life.

Perpetual Adoration – an adorer is needed at 3:00 a.m. on Fridays. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Catholic Daughters: Please mail your 2011 dues to Anita Steffek, 549 C R 186, Hallettsville. Make \$20 checks payable to Catholic Daughters. ***Thank you to the CDA members who baked, worked & donated to the bake sale at the Fiddlers Frolics. It was a great success!***

Every First Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of His body and Blood and of the holy priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us on Thursday, May 5 for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our Diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

– Fr. Tommy's Corner –

The "Holy Holy" – The Sanctus or "Holy Holy" that we sing right before the consecration reminds us that all of heaven is joined to earth in the great act of the offering of the Mass, the worship of God. The first line of the new translation will be: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts" instead of "God of power and might." The word "hosts" here means the "heavenly hosts" or the heavenly army of angels. (This is not a reference to the round wafers of bread that we use for Mass which we also call "hosts.") The Old Testament refers to the God of Israel, as the "God of hosts," because God is, in a sense, the "commander in chief" of the army of angels which serve him. The entire acclamation is very scriptural. The first two sentences come from the visions of the prophet Isaiah and of St. John in Revelation, both of whom saw the heavenly worship of God, with angels fluttering about God's throne exclaiming: "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts; Heaven and earth are full of your glory." The last half of this acclamation comes from what the people yelled out to Jesus as he entered the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday: "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." How appropriate it is that we would sing this right before the consecration, because in the consecration of bread and wine, they are transformed into the real Body and Blood of Jesus and therefore our Savior does literally come to us "in the name of the Lord."

Our Spring Picnic is just around the corner. If you have cattle or any interesting items to donate to the auction, please call the Rectory as soon as possible so that we may begin advertising. Raffle books will be mailed out this week. Please buy or sell as many of the books as you are able. Thank you for supporting our Spring Picnic on May 29th!!

Prayer for Rain: Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear then, this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all who seek it, the gift of bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of Your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Parish Financial Report – March, 2011

Parish Income:

Sunday Collections	\$ 27,062.00
Other Donations	3,260.00
Family Center Rental	560.00
Interest	42.19
Japan Earth Quake Victims	3,635.00
Rice Bag Collections	3,052.00
Church in Eastern Europe	1,220.00
Religious Articles	807.00
Picnic Transfer	<u>19,000.00</u>
Total Parish Income	<u>\$ 58,638.19</u>

School Income:

Student Fees	\$ 1,096.00
PreK-12 th Grade Tuition	56,940.00
Extended Care	2,245.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	2,364.00
Friends for Catholic Education	6,695.00
Memorials	510.00
Ag Shop Donations	30.00
Athletics & Band	5,000.00
Extravaganza	1,057.00
Library	15.00
Knights of Columbus General	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	290.00
Magazine Drive	<u>12,150.06</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$ 91,392.06</u>

Parish Expenses:

Salaries	\$ 7,291.40
Utilities	1,787.86
Church Expense	2,125.89
Rectory Expense	401.47
Office Expense	1,022.82
Religious Articles	526.16
Building Insurance	1,719.97
Family Center Expense	357.05

Special Collections	7,907.00
Medical Insurance & Pension	2,946.00
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>931.88</u>
Total Parish Expenses	<u>\$ 27,017.50</u>

School Expenses:

Salaries	\$ 77,246.54
Extravaganza Bonuses	28,110.00
Contracted Services	683.00
Office & Teaching Expense	441.67
Extended Care	90.06
Postage	223.51
Public Relations	628.50
Library Expense	910.24
Utilities	4,439.97
Plant Repairs & Maintenance	950.91
Custodial Supplies	660.90
Bus & Vehicle Expense	2,181.43
Payroll Taxes	7,862.14
Medical Insurance & Pension	17,522.90
Convent Expense	550.96
Acquisition of Equipment	44,593.68
Miscellaneous	1,041.64
Technology	421.84
Magazine Drive Expense	590.30
Extravaganza Expense	<u>671.52</u>
Total School Expenses	<u>\$189,821.71</u>

Parish Income **\$150,030.25**

Parish Expenses **-216,839.21**

Parish Deficit **\$ (66,808.96)**

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND

In memory of Lou Kubena:

Franklin Billimek	25.00
Glenn & LaNelle Blahuta	25.00
Hilbert & Kathy Bludau	20.00
Margaret & Sharon Bludau	20.00
John & Frances Bock	30.00
James & Antonia Brooks	10.00
Gilbert & Bea Butschek	15.00
Bill & Fran Byrd	20.00
Alfred & Marilyn Chovanetz	40.00
Fred & LaVerne Chovanetz	20.00
City of Hallettsville	25.00
Gladys Devall	20.00
Tom & Linda Donnelly	25.00
Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	20.00
Wayne & LeeAnn Freytag	30.00
Sherry Hale	10.00
Doyle Henigan	100.00
Leo & Evelyn Hoffer	25.00
Nancy Etzler Homeyer	25.00
Bill & Sweet Hrcir	25.00
Col. Oran T. Hrcir	100.00
Fred & Debra Huser	10.00
Jim & Melba Hynes	20.00
Harvey & Vivian Janak	20.00
Mark & Karen Janak	15.00
Roger & Beverly Janak	20.00
Glenn & Mary Ann Janca	15.00
Victor & Katherine Kahanek	25.00
A.J. & Alice Kallus	50.00
Jerry & Margaret Kallus	20.00
Mrs. George F. Kallus	25.00

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY*

Acts 2:42–47
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31

MONDAY

John 3:1–8

“... no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

TUESDAY**

John 14:6–14

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

WEDNESDAY

John 3:16–21

“... God did not send the Son into the world to condemn...”

THURSDAY

John 3:31–36

“... he gives the Spirit without measure.”

FRIDAY

John 6:1–15

“Gather up the fragments... so that nothing may be lost.”

SATURDAY

John 6:16–21

“It is I; do not be afraid.”

Coincidence and the Holy Spirit

Edwin Booth was one of the greatest actors of the American theater. Yet, despite his fame, he lived his life with the dishonor that his younger brother, John Wilkes Booth, had assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

One day, late in his life, Edwin Booth was waiting for a train in Jersey City. There was a disturbance on the platform, and Booth saw that a tall, young man was being shoved by the crowd onto the tracks just as a train was approaching. Booth dropped his suitcase and ran immediately to pull the man away from the train, certainly saving his life. As the two men began to talk, Booth found to his amazement that the young man whose life he had just saved was Robert Todd Lincoln, the eldest son of Abraham Lincoln.

Events whose probability are a million to one are often called coincidences. They are attributed to random chance.



People of faith, however, are able to see them from another perspective.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, breathes on the disciples, and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The Spirit is Jesus' promise that he will remain with us, that God's power will be active in our lives and in our world. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a force, a power, alive among us. God, the Holy Spirit moves us toward reconciliation, life, and salvation. The action of God, the Holy Spirit, may appear as coincidence, however we as believers can recognize in startling convergences the action of God in our lives.



The Faith of the Church

The bishops of the Second Vatican Council confessed that God's people were led by the Spirit of the Lord. Moreover, they insisted that people of faith are called to decipher authentic signs of God's presence and purpose in the events, needs, and desires of their lives and the lives of others (Cf. *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 11).



Questions of the Week

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” We recognize Christ's presence in the signs around us, since we cannot see him directly.

Adults

In what events in the last week am I able to recognize the presence of God's Spirit in my life? How is the Spirit leading me?

Children

Do I realize that the Spirit of Jesus is always with me? Do I take time to listen to what the Spirit is asking me to do?

*Divine Mercy Sunday

**Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James

Responding to God's Word . . .

We can all recall events in our life that look like coincidence. How we interpret these events is up to us.

Was it coincidence one Saturday night when you finally gave in to your friends' peer-pressure and went out to a party where you met the person you were going to marry? Was it coincidence that you were in an automobile accident and that shock led you to take steps to deal with your drinking problem? Was it coincidence that you met someone you had hurt in the supermarket and found the courage to apologize and thus take a step toward reconciliation? Christians are less likely to claim coincidence

because we know that the Spirit of God is directing our lives.

Recognizing the presence of Spirit changes us. It makes us more optimistic. If God is active, there is always reason for hope. It also makes us more generous, because we believe that whatever time or talent we offer will be used by God for a good purpose.

What kind of person do you want to be? It depends on what you believe. If you want to be an optimistic and generous person, be wary of coincidence and believe in the Spirit of God.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Think of one person in your family who has reflected God's presence to you this week. Tell him or her of how you have been affected.

In the workplace or in school. Identify someone who is for you a sign of hope. Thank him or her for that particular gift.

In the community. Recognize a problem or disagreement in your church or neighborhood. Reflect on whether this issue is being used by God's Spirit to call you into action.



Meditation Moment

"Pigeon Feathers" is a story about a boy who begins to have doubts about Jesus. One night in bed, the boy decides upon an experiment. He lifts his hand above his head and asks Jesus to touch it. Then he waits. After a while he puts his hands down again, not sure if Jesus touched him or not.

For reflection . . .

We all crave assurance of our faith. In the end, however, faith is saying to Jesus, "I trust you!" Why do I find it hard to trust Jesus?

SORROW LOOKS BACK, WORRY LOOKS AROUND, FAITH LOOKS UP.

ANONYMOUS

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

A Prayer for Deeper Vision

Spirit of God,
each day I greet friends
and meet strangers, receive love
and accept criticism, share meals
and collaborate in work. I am challenged
and comforted, bored and surprised,
burdened and entertained. Help me
not only to touch the surface of
these events, but to perceive
your presence in them,
guiding me to life.
Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Profile in Faith

Naaman of Aram
(2 Kings 5:1-27)

Naaman was the commander of the army of the King of Aram. He was also a leper. The prophet Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan. He did so and was cleansed. Naaman recognized in that washing not only a healing but the divine presence. From that time forward he worshipped the God of Israel.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
January 26, 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that the material reviewed is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those granting the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Author: George M. Smiga

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Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

A human heart

Although we can't see his face, Jesus isn't remote or distant "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15-16). Knowing this can give us confidence to approach him in prayer.

Look different

No one wants to be taken advantage of or to appear weak. Yet as Christians, we have to be the ones to make peace. "Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... If possible, on your part, live at peace with all" (Romans 12:17-18). Our solutions must be biblical, not societal.

Be happy

Instead of worrying, trust God. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).



Mary brings us to her Son

Mary's life on Earth was dedicated to bringing the Savior to humanity. Now that she is in Heaven, she continues to bring our concerns to her Son. Praying the "Hail Mary" is a wonderful way to honor our Heavenly Mother.

Hail Mary, full of grace: Conceived without Original Sin, Mary's will and intellect were predisposed to holiness. Grace helped her to live a difficult life without sinning.

The Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women: Mary was honored to be chosen as Jesus' mother.

Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Mary knew how great Jesus would be but she also knew what the prophets wrote about how he would suffer and

die. As his mother, she wanted to share his joy and his sorrow.

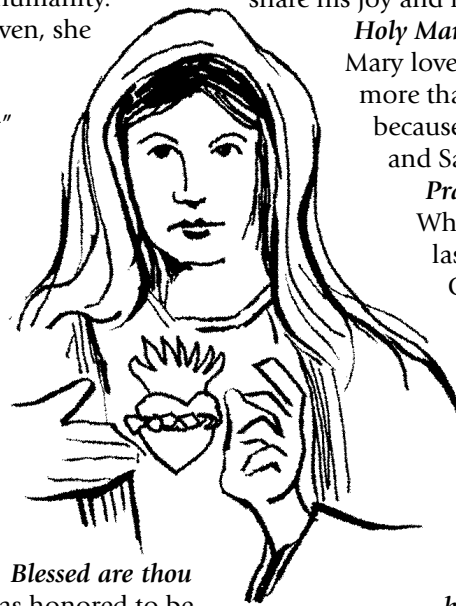
Holy Mary, Mother of God. Mary loved her child even more than most parents because he was her Lord and Savior, too.

Pray for us sinners. When Jesus took his last breaths on the Cross, Mary's job of being Mother of the Savior broadened to becoming Mother of the world. Now she cares for us.

Now and at the hour of death. On

Earth, Mary brought her Son to us. Now she brings us to the heart of her Son. She prays for us always because that's what a mother does.

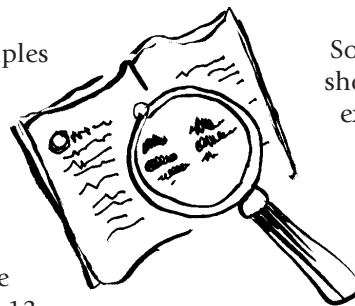
Amen.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why is our "Our Father" different than the Protestant version?

In teaching the disciples to pray, Jesus used the basic wording that became the prayer we pray during Mass and in other devotions. Two very similar versions can be found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

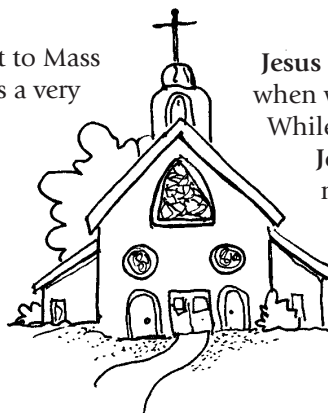


Some Protestants add a short, hymn-like verse which exalts the glory of God, "For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever." Such a verse is called a doxology. However, it isn't found in Scripture so we don't use it.

What's so special about Mass this Sunday?

Life gets so busy that it can be hard to get to Mass every Sunday. The good news is that there is a very compelling reason to attend Mass this very weekend. **Jesus is coming to your church.**

Jesus will be there in the flesh just like he always is whenever Mass is celebrated. This isn't a symbolic visit. He's not just being represented by the priest or present in those around you. While that is true, there's more.



Jesus will be there in the flesh. He's not just remembered when we sing the songs, read Scripture, or pray the prayers. While that is true, there's more.

Jesus will be there in the flesh. He wasn't speaking metaphorically when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). That was a direct instruction.

Jesus wants us to go to Mass every weekend without fail. And when Jesus tells us to do something, it's best to do it. His Father said to do it, too (Exodus 20:8). And that's enough.

from Scripture

**John 14:15-21;
I will not leave you.**

In this, one of his farewell speeches to his disciples, Jesus was laying the foundation for them to become his Church. He was preparing them to become the people who brought him to the rest of the world.

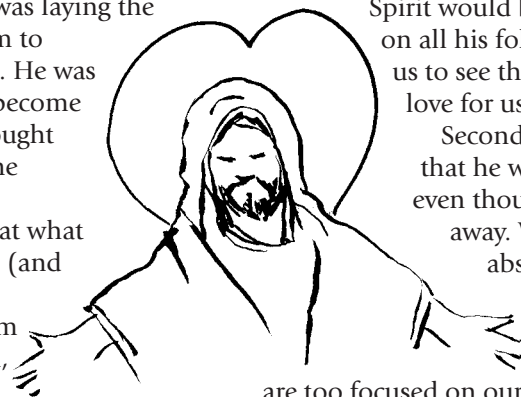
But Jesus knew that what he was asking them (and us) to do would be difficult without him there to guide them, so he made two powerful promises.

First, he promised to send an Advocate – the Holy Spirit – who would always

be with us. The gift of the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all his followers and help us to see the truth of God's love for us.

Second, he promised that he wouldn't leave us even though he was going away. When we are absorbed by the world, we can't "see" Jesus because we

are too focused on ourselves. Yet, when we live our love for God by obeying his commandments and loving others, we show Jesus to the world.



Q Does Original & Sin mean anything to us?

When God created Adam and Eve, he gave them an inclination to holiness so that they would be suited for life in the Garden of Eden.



When they disobeyed him and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they committed the first sin (called "Original Sin"). They changed their nature forever and lost that special life of grace. Sin infected their souls and was passed down to their descendants -- us.

Thanks to Original Sin, we wage a battle with our own passions and emotions to keep them under control. It's why we can sometimes have trouble thinking clearly when we are under stress. Or, it's why we can lack resolve or perseverance. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Chalk it up to concupiscence: "Human appetites or desires which remain disordered due to the temporal consequences of Original Sin, which remain even after Baptism, and which produce an inclination to sin" (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

If it weren't for Original Sin, we wouldn't have to fight our own natures to achieve holiness.

Feasts & Celebrations

In May we celebrate our mothers and honor the mother of all, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Three ways to grow closer to Mary include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker. Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima (1917). The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children near Fatima, Portugal. Mary asked the

children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia.

May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia (1457). Unwillingly married off to a cruel husband at the age of twelve, St. Rita spent eighteen unhappy years before being widowed. She became an Augustinian nun and was known for her devotion to prayer and charity.



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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)