

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2011: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



*"When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him." — Mt 21:32*

**LITURGY**

**MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS**

**Sunday, Sept. 25 (Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32)**

8:00 am- Joseph J. & Kathryn Haas Family

10:30 am- Leroy Schindler

5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

**Monday, September 26, Sts. Cosmas & Damian, martyrs**

**(Zec 8:1-8/Lk 9:46-50)**

7:00 am- Helen M. Etzler

10:00 am- Special Intention (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, September 27, St. Vincent de Paul, priest (Zec 8:20-**

**23/Lk 9:51-56)**

7:00 am- Felix & Mary Janecek

**Wednesday, September 28, St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence**

**Ruiz & his companions, martyrs (Neh 2:1-8/Lk 9:57-62)**

7:00 am- Jerome Haas

8:05 am- Mary Ann Koenig

**Thursday, September 29, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, archangels (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51)**

7:00 am- John D. Henneke

10:00 am- Willie Holik, Bonnie Grahmann & Delores Prasek (Stevens)

**Friday, September 30, St. Jerome, priest & doctor of the Church (Bar 1:15-22/Lk 10:13-16)**

7:00 am- Henry Sitka

8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Joe & Justina Kolos Family

**Saturday, October 1, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin & doctor of the Church (Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Lk 10:17-24)**

5:30 pm- Frank & Georgie Edar

**Sunday, October 2, Respect Life Sunday (Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43)**

8:00 am- James Grahmann

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Frank V. & Rose Lee Henke by Raymond Henke.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Joseph J. & Kathryn Haas Family.

Vigil Light: Living & deceased members of Neskora & Hermes Families

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,471; Manna-\$470; Loose-\$985; Children-\$41; Bastrop Area Wildfire Relief-\$1,866.

Additional flower arrangements at the Altar of Sacrifice last week were in memory of Willard Hagendorf.

Flowers at the Altar of Sacrifice this weekend are in honor of Tom & Peggy Kostelnik's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the family of Henry J. Kostelnik, Sr.

Promise of Marriage:

Jennifer Polach & Michael Liska – October 8.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

-Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.

-St. John Church Picnic (Koerth), Sweet Home Community Center.

-St. Philip Church Picnic, K.C. Hall, El Campo.

-Sts. Peter & Paul Church Picnic, Meyersville.

-Covered dish supper after Spanish Mass, Family Center.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m., Church.

-Parish Finance Council mtg., 6:00 p.m., Mary's House.

-Parish Advisory Council mtg., 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

-Men's ACTS meeting, 7:00 p.m., Shiner Parish Hall.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

-CCD: K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

-SHCS Booster Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., K.C. Hall.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1**

-Serra Club Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph Church, Yoakum.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**

-Life Chain, 1:00-3:00pm, Hwy 77 South at the K.C. Hall.

-Queen of Holy Rosary Parish Festival, Hostyn. Polka Mass 10am. Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11am.

-Nazareth Academy Fall Festival, Victoria Community Center. Turkey & Dressing Dinner 11am.

-St. Roch Church Picnic, Mentz. Mass 10:30am. BBQ Beef, Pork & Sausage Dinner 11am.

-St. John's Church Bazaar, Hungerford. Mass 9:30am. Beef, Chicken & Sausage Dinner 10:30am.

**Among our sick:** Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa, Doug & Richard Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul Najvar, Betty Hernandez, Gene Drozd, Irene Bordovsky, Steven DeLaRosa, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Alex Drozd, Red Kahanek, Theresa (Alvin) Steffek, Donna Haas Belt, Bobby Pavliska, Betty Hemmi, Wesley Buchanek, Bill Byrd, nursing home residents & homebound.

Anniversaries:

Tom & Peggy Kostelnik 60 years Sept. 25

Andrew & Jane Pesek 40 years Sept. 25

Kenneth & Annie Mae Henneke 50 years Sept. 30

Leo & Mildred Christ 56 years Oct. 1

Gene & Trudy Janak 51 years Oct. 1

The Gabriel Project needs volunteers. If interested, please call Renae Harper, 361-208-4047. An informational meeting will be held Mon., Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m., Family Center.

We welcome Deacon Linard Harper into our parish. Deacon Harper has been a deacon for 34 years. He and his wife Dorothy (Dot) spent the last 30 years serving at St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum. They have chosen to move to Hallettsville to be with several of their children and grandchildren who are living here and close by.

Bishop Fellhauer has officially appointed him to serve as a deacon in Sacred Heart Parish and the other parishes served by Sacred Heart. He will be serving in a limited capacity in some parish ministries. Let us welcome Deacon Linard & Dot Harper.

Deacon Joey Targac continues to serve as usual. Deacon Sonny Rogers is officially retired. Mike Tankersley is in the process of preparing to be a deacon in a few years.

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

**Oct. 2:** Confirmation mini-retreat for Junior candidates & their sponsors. Jr. Sponsor forms are *way* past due!

**Oct. 9:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade youth involvement, 8:00 a.m. Mass. First Penance workshop & commissioning ceremony, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

**Oct. 15:** Sophomore confirmation cemetery clean up day, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News**  
**Office 798-4251**

**Sept. 26:** Pork BBQ Dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., KC Hall. Tickets \$7 each.

*Dear Parishioners – Thank you for your most generous response to our ministry Cross International Catholic Outreach during my weekend visit on June 25-26, 2011. Your donations of \$5,740 will have a direct impact in the lives of the poorest of the poor. May the Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support!*

*Sincerely, Father Steve Ryan*

**United for Life: Prayer at Planned Parenthood Oct. 17**

Sacred Heart Senior class would like to extend an invitation to all in the parish to join them in praying for an end to abortion on Monday, October 17. We will gather at Sacred Heart Church for Mass at 8am and after Mass promptly load the buses to travel to Planned Parenthood in Houston, TX to prayerfully witness on behalf of the unborn children whose lives are threatened daily with abortion. We will return by 3:45pm. This is a joint effort by Sacred Heart and St. Paul Senior classes and Sacred Heart and Sts. Cyril & Methodius churches. Please call Fr. Tommy to sign up to go or for more information.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Joe Patek, Jr.*, father of Terry Patek. *May he and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*



**PRAYER FOR RAIN** – Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

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

**Oct 1st: BACK TO SCHOOL BASH (Dance)**, Sacred Heart Family Center, 7:00-11:00 p.m. All Jr. High parish members are invited (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>). Come enjoy an evening of fun, food & dancing with your friends.....FREE!!

**Pro-life News: Life Chain - Sunday, October 2**

On Sunday, October 2 from 1-3pm, please join Christians throughout Lavaca County as we participate in the national "Life Chain" campaign which witnesses to the sanctity of human life from the very moment of conception. We will gather in the KC Hall parking lot and prayerfully stand along Highway 77 South holding pro-life signs while silently praying for an end to abortion. Signs will be provided. Please bring your rosary.

*Thank you Hallettsville Area Aggie Catholics! You came through with \$12,500 in support of Catholic Campus Ministry at Texas A&M! These gifts were made by 16 total donors – 4 first time donors, 3 new members of the Living Faith Society, and 1 Living Faith Society member increasing their monthly gift. Thank you for all you do for St. Mary's and the Aggie Catholics! Fr. David Konderla, St. Mary's Catholic Center ([www.aggiecatholic.org](http://www.aggiecatholic.org))*

Come join us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., Victoria as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent, celebrates Mass and healing prayer on October 1 at 10:00 a.m. If you have been touched or moved by this ministry and you would like to share or inform Father Phi, you may do so by contacting Sister Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com). She will convey your message.

**SACRED HEART QUILTING CIRCLE – In memory of Marilyn Marikle:** Kubena Funeral Home-\$20. **In memory of Helen Etzler, Olga Haas & Lucille Etzler:** Otillia Schott-\$60.

**SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAY CARE – In memory of Marilyn Marikle:** Florine Bohac-\$20; Blake & Sandra Hewett Family-\$20. **In memory of David Halata, Sr.:** Florine Bohac-\$20; R.L. & Elsie Orsak-\$15; Phillip & Evelyn Bujnoch-\$15; Virginia Warzecha-\$20; Henry & Frances Kallus-\$30; Leroy & Anita Etzler-\$20; Lorena & Jerome Kanak-\$10.

**Parish Financial Report – August, 2011**

**Church Income:**

Sunday Collections	\$ 33,658.00
Other Donations	3,249.00
Family Center Rental	640.00
Religious Articles	604.94
Interest	6,554.12
Picnic Transfer	5,000.00
Total Church Income	<u>\$ 49,706.06</u>

**School Income:**

Registration Fees PreK-12 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 31,550.00
Student Fees PreK	2,750.00
Book Fees	77,025.00
Athletic Fees	15,675.00
Bus Fees	50.00
Tuition PreK-12 <sup>th</sup>	59,300.00
Extended Care	2,300.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	785.00
Memorials	1,775.00
Shop Donations	80.00
Library	15.00
Donations-Special	21,175.04
Miscellaneous	3,720.00
Total School Income	<u>\$216,200.04</u>

**Church Expense:**

Salaries	\$ 7,223.25
Utilities	1,974.65
Church Expense	4,929.60
Rectory Expense	252.13
Office Expense	533.49
Religious Articles	873.30
Family Center Expense	393.82
Medical Insurance & Pension	3,177.00
Repairs & Maintenance	115.00
Total Church Expense	<u>\$ 19,472.24</u>

**School Expense:**

Salaries	\$ 75,993.26
Contracted Services	138.55
Diocesan Student Assessment	6,080.00
Office & Teaching Expense	3,552.49
Postage	158.21
Staff Development	89.00
Assessment Fees	400.00
Textbooks & Testing	14,963.02
Library Expense	154.00
Utilities	3,444.33
Plant Repairs	1,275.00
Custodial Supplies	609.00
Bus Expense	221.51
Payroll Taxes	5,641.69
Medical Insurance	14,870.40
Retirement	3,650.00
Student Insurance	3,840.00
Convent Expense	880.88
Capital Expenditures	20,665.38
Technology	1,334.13
Miscellaneous	504.10
Total School Expense	<u>\$158,464.95</u>

Parish Income	\$265,906.10
Parish Expense	<u>-177,937.19</u>
Parish Balance	<u>\$ 87,968.91</u>

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time –** While my father did



not have a vineyard, the parable of the two sons in this weekend's Gospel certainly applied to my brother and me. As we grew up, there were times in which we each acted as first one

and then the other son from the parable. Sometimes I was the one who said, "No," and then changed my mind, and other times it was my brother who acted in that way. As we grew older, we came to see how our parents had guided us as we matured, and recognized that our father's will for us was to have a wholesome life, in which caring for others and helping those in need played a big part. It was something that our father had learned from his own father, a gift I now realize that was passed down from one generation to the next.

It was only later in life that I began to hear the stories of how my grandfather had helped the poor in the city, and the ways his own mother had given away food from the family run store during the years of the Great Depression. Such family history goes a long way toward melting away any residual selfishness that may exist in one's heart.

The parable in this weekend's Gospel is about faith. Jesus cautions the chief priests and elders. He indicates that they should be careful about whom they judge, since tax collectors and prostitutes (i.e., sinners) are seeking conversion, but they are not. Jesus' words could well apply to us. Before we begin judging those who may not show up every Sunday, or who may be living in challenging circumstances, we might want to look at our own lives. A charitable heart and a kind word might go a long way toward helping someone become more faithful. What act of kindness on our part will help someone draw closer to Christ?

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**Flatonia**—Day of Prayer at Raphael's Refuge for the Feast Day of the Archangels, Thursday, September 29. Rosary, Litany of St. Raphael and Holy Mass at 9 a.m.; Rosary and Litany of St. Gabriel at noon; Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and confessions at 3 p.m.; and Holy Hour and Chaplet of St. Michael at 6 p.m. Make your pilgrimage to the Chapel of Holy Innocents, 2715 W. Hwy. 90, Flatonia to remember, to pray, and to heal the loss of your baby. More information: [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org); 361-865-3812 or 361-258-1514.

Catholic School Sweepstakes for Catholic Education – help support Sacred Heart School by purchasing a \$5 raffle ticket. All monies from the sale of tickets go immediately to our school. Grand Prize: 2012 Ford F150 truck or 2012 Ford Fusion Sedan or prepaid \$20,000 Visa credit card. Other Prizes: (4) prepaid \$2,500 & (10) prepaid \$1,000 Visa credit cards. Drawing: January 28, 2012. For tickets, call Joyce Smolik 798-5349 or Kathy Haas 798-4251. Sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance.

## FALL PICNIC REPORT - SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

<u>PICNIC COMMITTEE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>PROFIT</u>
Auction	\$ 80,545.00	\$ (2,618.64)	\$ 77,926.36
Bar & Biergarten Sales	7,778.00	(5,055.70)	2,722.30
Bingo / Pull Tabs	4,047.95	(110.00)	3,937.95
Cake Walk	1,981.25	0.00	1,981.25
Cash Donations	7,825.00	0.00	7,825.00
Country Store	1,673.00	0.00	1,673.00
Dinner Sales	27,253.75	(13,014.17)	14,239.58
French Fries / Funnel Cakes	656.00	(237.72)	418.28
Hamburgers	3,852.00	(2,066.15)	1,785.85
Kiddy Rides	2,212.00	(2,883.32)	(671.32)
Raffle	13,526.00	(4,791.49)	8,734.51
Religious Articles	100.00	0.00	100.00
Snow Cones / Pop Corn	306.50	(139.88)	166.62
Soda Water Stand	1,427.00	(927.55)	499.45
Washers Tournament	340.00	(110.00)	230.00
General Expense	(3,454.33)	0.00	(3,454.33)
Total	<u>\$ 150,069.12</u>	<u>\$ (31,954.62)</u>	<u>\$ 118,114.50</u>

Included in the Auction: Fr. John's Cake-\$22,155, BBQ Calf Group-\$3,730 & Cattle-\$11,700.

General Expenses includes advertising, bands, hall rent and miscellaneous operating expenses.

### YOUTH PICNIC REPORT:

Parrot Plop!	\$ 1,000.00
Nachos / Lemonade / T-Shirt	446.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,446.00</u>

***Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and put in such long hours to make this picnic a success, and to those who came out and supported our picnic.  
Thank you, everyone!***

## 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

**Ezekiel 18:25–28**  
**Philippians 2:1–11**  
**Matthew 21:28–32**

### MONDAY

**Luke 9:46–50**

*"... whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."*

### TUESDAY

**Luke 9:51–56**

*"... he turned and rebuked them."*

### WEDNESDAY

**Luke 9:57–62**

*"Follow me."*

### THURSDAY\*

**John 1:47–51**

*"You will see greater things than these."*

### FRIDAY

**Luke 10:13–16**

*"... whoever rejects you rejects me ..."*

### SATURDAY

**Luke 10:17–24**

*"... rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

\* Feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael

## Free to Change and to Be Changed

A real change of heart, a complete conversion, is no simple matter. Many things conspire to keep us from changing or accepting change. Today's readings grapple with the most fundamental changes of our lives—from sinners to forgiven sons and daughters, from ego-centered and self-absorbed creatures to Christ-centered people with generous hearts.

When Ezekiel challenges the people of his time to true change and conversion of heart, he identifies their resistance with their own frozen judgments, "The way of the Lord is unfair!" Perhaps their comparative lens on life never allowed them to see themselves and their own need to change or the mercy of God in providing them the opportunity to be changed.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus issues a similar but somewhat different

challenge to the religious leaders of his time. Absorbed and caught up in their own presuppositions about good and bad, right and wrong, they, too, are frozen in their positions and unable to recognize their need to change and be changed. The great public sinners of the time—tax collectors and prostitutes—are more open to acknowledging their need for a change of heart.

In the second reading, Paul offers an earnest plea to the Philippians to let go and be free of self-interest in order to change and live in an entirely new way—the way of Jesus' self-emptying.

In various ways, today's word of God captures our fundamental resistance to a change or conversion of heart. It is often affected by our being too caught up with ourselves. Letting go of self-concern frees us to change and be changed by God's grace and power.



### The Faith of the Church

All followers of Jesus are called to a perfect holiness of life, something that only God can accomplish in us. Still, for our part, we need to cooperate with God's grace by being open to change and grow in the life that Christ offers us. This kind of availability to what God has to offer is the hallmark of the lives of the saints (Cf. the Second Vatican Council, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, n. 40).



### Questions of the Week

It is notoriously difficult for us to determine what holds us bound. And yet we must identify those things that contribute to our lack of freedom. Only when they are identified can we let them go and be free to embrace what Christ wants of us.

#### Adults

*How can I identify the things that keep me bound to an old way of living and cut me off from embracing a full and complete change of heart by God's grace?*

#### Children

*How can I let God know that I want to do what he wants me to do?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

Our intellects enable us to know and understand ourselves and the world around us. Our wills enable us to make decisions and take action. Today's word gives special attention to our will and our process of making decisions, especially important decisions that give direction to our lives.

We can live *willfully*, that is, determined to exercise control and have things our way. Alternately, we can live *willingly*, that is, in a way that makes us open and available, especially to what God calls us to be and to do.

We could easily be living among the people of Ezekiel's time or the

Philippians to whom Paul wrote or with those who heard the teaching of Jesus. It is and has always been a universal spiritual challenge to let our wills, our capacity to decide and choose, be pliable and ready to move with the direction God gives us—God's will.

The effects of sin and our inclination to ego-centeredness dispose us to be willful. First, we must recognize how that plays out in our lives. Then, with God's grace and in the supportive environment of a community of faith, we can embrace a different way, the way of willingness.



### Meditation Moment

A man turned to drink. He also turned from God and his family. One day while walking along, repenting how his life turned out, he saw a bent, rusty nail in the gutter. It reminded him of himself and his life. So he picked it up and took it home. Placing the nail on an anvil, he began to straighten it out and clean it up. An hour later, it looked almost new again. Then it occurred to him. He could straighten out and clean up his own life in the same way. That thought triggered his conversion. He turned away from drink and back to God and to his family. Today, he keeps that nail, straightened and cleaned, in his wallet.

#### For reflection . . .

*Was there a time when I was almost like that bent, rusty nail? What changed me?*

WHO REPENTS SIN IS ALMOST INNOCENT.

SENECA

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

### Reshape My Uncertain Heart

Jesus,  
as I watch you  
in your temptations and  
in the struggles of your earthly  
ministry and in the garden of  
Gethsemane and on the cross of  
Calvary, I know your only focus  
is doing your Father's will.  
Reshape my own uncertain  
heart so often caught in my own  
will and my own plans.  
Conform my heart to yours,  
so that I may be  
finally and fully free to  
embrace the holy will  
of God. Amen.

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

When we focus on doing our own will or accomplishing only our own goals, we do not move beyond ourselves. When we are open and available to doing God's will, a universe of infinite possibility opens up for us.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Strategically place a card with the words from the Lord's Prayer "thy will be done" as a reminder to live in a willing way.

**In the workplace or in school.** Decide to do something that reflects the will of others rather than your own. Reflect and pray on that action.

**In the community.** Identify advertising that appeals to the possibility of controlling life and arranging various outcomes. Reflect on the message.

### Profile in Faith

**Matt Talbot** (?–1925), an Irish laborer, has been named "venerable" by the Church. In his early years, he suffered from alcoholism and stole to support his drinking. He gave up alcohol and devoted himself entirely to a life of prayer and reparation. He moved from doing his will to doing God's will.

NIHIL OBSTAT  
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum  
IMPRIMATUR  
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
May 23, 2011

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