

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

MAY 3, 2020



400 East Fifth Street
P. O. Drawer H
Hallettsville, TX 77964
Rectory: (361) 798-5888
E-Mail Address:
rectory@shcatholicchurch.org
Convent: (361) 798-5069

PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters, V.G.

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Rev. Scott J. Hill
Email: shill@victoriadiocese.org

DEACONS: Rev. Mr. Joseph (Joey) Targac
Rev. Mr. Linard Harper
Rev. Mr. Michael Tankersley

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS:
Dorothy A. Jansky, Phyllis Steffek, Rita Chase, and Jackie Pettus

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS:

Saturday: Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

SPANISH MASS:

Last Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

WEEKDAYS:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday and Friday – 7:00 a.m. and 8:05 a.m.

NURSING HOME MASSES:

Hallettsville Rehab. – 10:00 a.m., every Monday
Stevens – 10:00 a.m., every Thursday

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Confessions are heard on Saturdays beginning at 4:30 p.m. and by appointment at any time.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE & BAPTISM

Contact the Rectory well in advance of anticipated date.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES

4th Sunday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Center. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. and continues through Friday at 6:00 p.m.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our parish family. Please stop by the Rectory or call to register.

RIGHT TO LIFE CONTACT NUMBER: (888) 735-3448

EWTV – Cable Channel 71 or Dish Channel 261; Direct TV Channel 370.

RADIO STATIONS: 99.9 FM and 94.3 FM

PASTORAL COUNCIL

CATHOLIC ACTION: Denise Barton, Amy Amsden, Cori Chovanetz

CEMETERY: Ronnie Sevcik, Nathan Etzler

EDUCATION: Robert Klekar, Donald Shimek

LITURGY: Mary Hall, Sharon Bludau

MAINTENANCE: Randy L. Fojt, Michael Janak

FINANCE: John Henke, Jr.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

John Henke, Jr., Dennis Matula, Roman Shimek, Debra Technik & Debbie Wagner

SACRED HEART SCHOOL (798-4251)

Grades Pre-K3 - 12, fully accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and the Texas Education Agency.

Principal: Kevin Haas; Secretary: Kathy Haas

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Lisa Dworsky, Allen Machicek, Chuck Pavliska, Katie Steffek, Michele Etzler, Brian Popp

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) (798-3124)

Grades K-12, Sacramental Programs, Adult Education. For information, call Angela McConnell (798-3124 or 741-8730) or the Rectory. Classes for Grades K-12 are on Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m. Like us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/SacredHeartReligiousEducation

YOUTH MINISTRY:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Notify the Rectory for address or other changes.

PARISH WEBSITES:

Parish: www.shcatholicchurch.org

School: www.shschool.org

Cemetery: www.victoriadiocese.org

Safe Environment: www.victoriadiocese.org

ADORATION CHAPEL:

Charlene Bradbury (798-3224)

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Tuesdays by noon.

MAY 3, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the gate.
Whoever enters
through me will be
saved, and will come in and go
out and find pasture.” (Jn 10:9)



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sunday, May 3, Fourth Sunday of Easter, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

8:00 a.m.-Karen Steffek

10:30 a.m.-For Our Parish

6:00 p.m.-Thanksgiving for Hallettsville Businesses

Monday, May 4, Easter Weekday, Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18

7:00 a.m.-Alphonse & Helen Steffek and Rudy & Bernadette Konarik

No Mass at Nursing Home

Tuesday, May 5, Easter Weekday, Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

7:00 a.m.-John & Evelyn Pavliska

Wednesday, May 6, Easter Weekday, Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

7:00 a.m.-Anton Sr., Emma and David Bujnoch

Thursday, May 7, Easter Weekday, Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

7:00 a.m.-Newton & Frieda Renken

No Mass at Nursing Home

Friday, May 8, Easter Weekday, Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

7:00 a.m.-William “Bill” Bludau

8:05 a.m.-Rudy & Mary Opela

Saturday, May 9, Easter Weekday, Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

5:30 p.m.-Rudy & Dorothy Petru

First Communion for Sacred Heart Catholic School

Sunday, May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter, Mother’s Day, Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

8:00 a.m.-Ervin Bludau, Sr.

10:30 a.m.-Mother’s Day Novena

Sacred Heart Catholic School Baccalaureate

6:00 p.m.-Robert (Bob) Janak

Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of Alfonse, Dorothy, Evelyn, Ervin and Leroy Grahmann by the Family

Radio Sponsor and Vigil Sponsor: In Memory of John & Evelyn Pavliska by the Family

Calendar Membership: **April 23:** A. J. Kallus-\$100; **April 24:** Paul J. Janak, Yoakum, Texas-\$100; **April 27:** Dorothy Bujnoch -\$50; **April 28:** Gail Kallus-\$50; **April 29:** Michelle Steffek and Amanda Steffek-\$50

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$6,250; Rice Bag Collection-\$214, Seminarian Collection-\$853; Good Friday-\$490, Manna Food Pantry-\$1,619

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 5 – KC Meeting Cancelled

May 9 – 5:30 p.m. Mass – First Communion Sacred Heart School Students

May 10 – 10:30 a.m. Mass – Sacred Heart Catholic School Baccalaureate

May 16 – 5:30 p.m. Mass – First Communion Sacred Heart CCD Students

May 17 – 10:30 a.m. Mass – Hallettsville High School Baccalaureate

Among Our Sick: Ryan Janak, Harvey Drozd, Cynthia Spanihel, Kimberly Jalufka, Wilton Hrcir, Alma (Sweet) Hrcir, Gloria Juarez, Emil Doubrava, Marcella Henke, Laura Berlin, Brian Wisnoski, Cole Ohrt, Geraldine Taylor, Carolyn Strauss, Robert Drozd, Emma Henke, Lena Partida, Mary Kaiser, Albert Orosco, Kate Miles, Jeffery Evans, Bea Butschek, Jennifer Lackey, Kimberly Montz, Dawson Kutac, Buddy Boehm, Martha Sitka, Margaret Henneke, Eugene Garza, Victor Smajstrla, Cassin Leopold, Richard Grahmann, Ella Mae Bludau, Donna Nevlud, Linda Wischnewsky, Debbie Fishbeck, Andrew Pesek, Alfred Janak, JoAnn Zapalac, Kenneth Renger, Michelle Brown, Anthony Corte, Mary Ann Appelt Kizer, Steve Kossa, Jane Pesek, Joylyn Gunn, Barbara Schindler, Judy Aulick, Bernadette Bludau, Charleigh Rainosek, Ken Petty, Angie Wagner, Donald Horton, Jr.; Shannon Grahmann, Hubbard Wyatt, Jeremy Henke, Michael Bennett, Alton Grahmann, Eleanora Schaefer, Sally Janak, Laddie Kurtz, and nursing home residents & the homebound.

SCHOOL NEWS

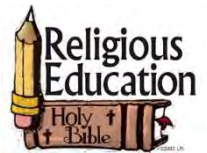


School has been suspended for rest of school year. (2019-2020). Students will still have assignments given until end of school year.

May 9 – 5:30 p.m. Mass – First Communion Sacred Heart Students

May 10 – 10:30 a.m. Mass – Sacred Heart Catholic School Baccalaureate

CCD Info:



Cancelled for the rest of the school year. (2019-2020).

May 16 – 5:30 p.m. Mass – First Communion Sacred Heart CCD Students

From the Desk of Msgr. John

DIOCESE STIPULATIONS FOR GATHERING AT CHURCH AND MASSES

Parishes can return to celebrating Mass with a Congregation. We need to be careful to follow the safety guidelines proposed by our local officials. Here are some things to consider:

- + **People over the age of 65 should be encouraged to continue participating from home.**
- + **People with a heart condition or diabetes, or have other underlying at-risk conditions, should be encouraged to continue participating from home.**
- + **Dispensation from Sunday obligation to attend in person is extended through May, especially with respect to people who may be considered physically well to attend, yet believe it best to stay at home.**
- + Parishioners should take their temperatures before coming to Mass and should not attend if exhibiting any signs of sickness.
- + Those unable to attend the Mass could make an appointment with the priest to receive communion at the church office during the week or attend Mass during the week.
- + Concerning the celebration of Sunday Mass, consider the following:
 - ❖ Weddings and Funerals are permitted, utilizing size consideration and social distancing protocols.
 - ❖ In order to accommodate social distancing protocols, pastors are to allow in their churches **no more than 25% of the mandated fire code seating capacity of the building.**
 - ❖ Those of the same household can be seated together in a pew.
 - ❖ An usher or team of ushers should be trained to make sure the church doesn't exceed attendance limitations and people follow social distancing protocols.
 - ❖ Ushers/greeters are encouraged to wear gloves and masks, and to open and close doors for parishioners upon their arrival and departure.
 - ❖ Parishioners should be careful not to gather too closely when entering or leaving the church, or stand too close in the communion line.
 - ❖ Priests, usher and parishioners should wear masks.
 - ❖ **Pews should be sanitized thoroughly between Masses. Please bring wipes to clean the seats and pews in front of your row.**
 - ❖ Bathrooms should be sanitized thoroughly between Masses.
 - ❖ Missalettes and hymnals should be removed from the pews and not utilized during sacramental and liturgical celebrations.
 - ❖ Liturgical ministries should be limited in number – possibly celebrating Masses with one altar server and only one lector.
 - ❖ Collection should be done in such a way that no one is required to touch the basket, for example **have the basket at church entrance and ask people to make contributions when entering or exiting.**
 - ❖ Priests and Eucharistic Ministers should wear masks during distribution of communion.
 - ❖ The distribution of Communion is an especially sensitive time. The person receiving communion should be encouraged to receive in the hand. When communion has concluded the presiding priest should combine the consecrated hosts at the Tabernacle.
- * Pastors can celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for the Catechumens and Candidates at a time when it seems possible to do so safely and with reverence.
- * Bishops Cahill and Fellhauer have postponed Confirmations through May 18. We will need to consider what to do for re-scheduling.
- * Parish meetings and gatherings of a smaller size on parish grounds may be resumed, while utilizing established protocols for social distancing and other safety measures.

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill
Bishop of Victoria in Texas
Issued April 27, 2020

PS: For Sacred Heart: Enter only through front door of Church (North Entrance).

This is experimental for this week. We will see how it goes and see if we need to make any changes

MASSES THIS WEEKEND: MAY 2 AND 3, 2020

Saturday	May 2, 2020	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary
Saturday	May 2, 2020	5:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart
Saturday	May 2, 2020	6:00 p.m.	Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia)
Sunday	May 3, 2020	8:00 a.m.	Sacred Heart
Sunday	May 3, 2020	9:15 a.m.	St. Mary
Sunday	May 3, 2020	9:30 a.m.	St. John the Baptist
Sunday	May 3, 2020	10:30 a.m.	Sacred Heart
Sunday	May 3, 2020	6:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart

SEATING FOR CHURCHES

Sacred Heart can seat 140 people at one Mass.

St. Mary can seat 75 people at one Mass.

St. John the Baptist can seat 40 people at one Mass.

Ascension of Our Lord can seat 47 people at one Mass.

Please come early.

If we reach the number and there are still people waiting, you will not be able to come in.

You may want to come to the next Mass.

Weekday Masses

Sacred Heart –(Weekday Masses) Monday-Friday--7:00 a.m. **and** Friday—8:05 a.m. (Friday will have two (2) Masses.

Confessions

Sacred Heart – 10:00 a.m.- Saturday

Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters

Rev. Scott J. Hill

Please pray for the Veterans who have served Our Country and have sacrificed and given so much for our freedom.

Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Our Church directories have been proofed but there is a delay with the printing since the company closed due to the coronavirus. We hope to receive the directories once the company resumes full operation. Thank you for your patience.

Youth Group News: Our Youth Group is very active online with challenges and live events, open to all parishioners in grades 8-12. Come join for fellowship, faith formation and fun. To receive notices, text the message @9k8bf2 to the number 81010

All for the greater Glory of God!
Bruce & Angela McConnell

Blood Drive

The Blood Drive for May 24, 2020, has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2020 at Sacred Heart Gym Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please Give Blood! It's Free! For further information, please contact

Gerardette Haas at 361-798-2910.

https://donor.southtexasblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/118435



SPRING PICNIC 2020

Attention All Parishioners:

The Spring Picnic 2020 has been cancelled. Raffle tickets have been mailed out. The drawing will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2020. The Kawasaki 400 Mule tickets will continue to be sold for the Fall Picnic on September 6. We will still be accepting No Picnic Picnic Donations. This can be sent to the Church if you are able.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

SACRED HEART PARISH SPRING PICNIC RAFFLE
Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020-\$1.00 DONATION PER TICKET

Prizes

Donated By

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. \$500 Cash Certificate | Bob Kubena |
| 2. \$500 Cash Certificate | Chris and Julie Kubena |
| 3. \$500 Cash Certificate | Evelyn Hoffer |
| 4. \$500 Cash Certificate | Sacred Heart Credit Union |
| 5. \$500 Cash Certificate | Charlie & Kathy Haas |
| 6. \$500 Cash Certificate | James & Marsha Steffek |
| 7. \$500 Cash Certificate | Phillip & Phyllis Steffek |
| 8. \$300 Cash Certificate | David & Carol Bohuslav |
| 9. \$300 Cash Certificate | Rainosek's True Value –
Don & Barbara Rainosek |
| 10. \$300 Cash Certificate | John & LaVerne Trojcek |
| 11. \$300 Cash Certificate | George & Irene Knebel |
| 12. \$250 Cash Certificate | Catholic Life Insurance, Branch #22 |
| 13. \$250 Cash Certificate | KJZT Society #2 |
| 14. \$200 Cash Certificate | Bohuslav Feed Mill |
| 15. \$200 Cash Certificate | Kenneth & Dolores Renger |
| 16. \$200 Cash Certificate | Eddie & Agnes Kosh |
| 17. \$200 Cash Certificate | Ella Mae Bludau |
| 18. \$200 Cash Certificate | Frank Zaruba |
| 19. \$200 Cash Certificate | Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler |
| 20. \$200 Cash Certificate | Jerry & Mary Jo Janak |
| 21. \$200 Cash Certificate | Catholic Daughters #797 |
| 22. \$200 Cash Certificate | Roy & Loretta Hardcastle |
| 23. \$200 Cash Certificate | Charlene & John Pillow |
| 24. \$100 Cash Certificate | Ann Kostelnik |
| 25. \$100 Cash Certificate | Tommy & Elsie Grahmann, Sr |
| 26. \$100 Cash Certificate | Paul & Theresa Voelkel |

Presence Not Necessary to Win • Donation Not Required to Enter

For Information call: (361) 798-5888

Raffle Tickets may be mailed to:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

P. O. Drawer H

Hallettsville, TX 77964

DRAWING ON SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020, AT 5:00 p.m.

AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

And I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment 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.

CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System Service—An authentic Language of a Women's Health and Fertility Introductory Sessions 2020 Group Introductory Sessions:

May 11	June 22
July 20	August 24
September 21	October 19
November 16	December 14

Mary's House, 300 South Dowling, Hallettsville,
Texas--6:00 p.m. or call to make an appointment for
a private introductory session.

Lara Haas, FCPI

361-772-1410

Larahaas.fertilitycare@gmail.com

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
To God the Father almighty,
That He may extend His hand in mercy
To all those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty ever-living God,
Heal those who are ill,
Grant happy repose to those who have died,
Comfort those who mourn,
Give solace to all who are afraid and alone,
And protect those who are providing medical care.
Make us instruments of your peace
Among our brothers and sisters.
In your mercy, alleviate our fears
And eliminate this scourge,
So that we may come together again
To give you praise and to build your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen



FORTY-CANS OF LENT EXTENDED THROUGH THE END OF MAY



“**FORTY CANS FOR LENT**”, a successful program promoted by the Knights of Columbus Council #2433 will be continued for the **2020 Lenten Season Pantry** to help those in need. Drop off your food products at the K of C Hall during business hours or at Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, or Ascension of Our Lord--Moravia Churches. Look for drop boxes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. If giving a check, make it out to the K of C #2433. Praise God for our giving community.

Michael Wick, Chairman

Please donate only canned goods or non-perishables as stated on available flyers.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS are available at the entrances of the Church.



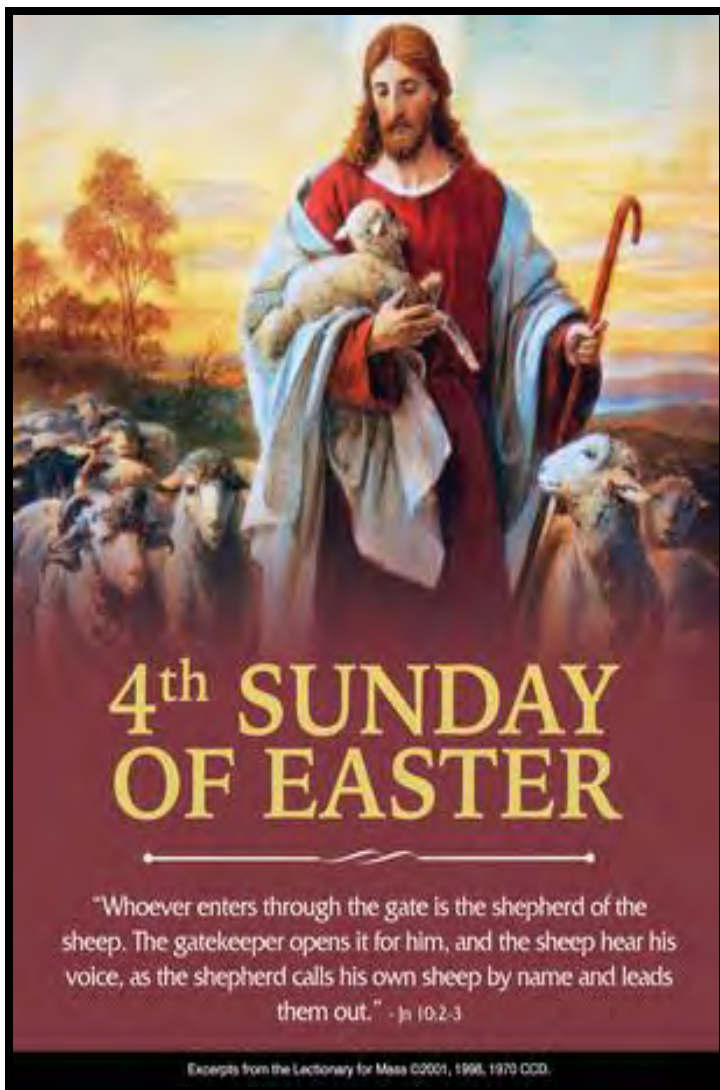
GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

©LPi



Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2020

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St.

Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.



Honor Mary

Jesus performed his first public miracle because his Mother asked. He said "no" at first, but his mother asked for help. The Bible is clear—Jesus listens to his Mother.

"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)



Why does God let us suffer?

When we watch a loved one suffer – or suffer ourselves – hearing "it's God's will," can feel unsatisfying. The implication is that God directs us like chess pieces, and bad things result. In fact, germs, atmospheric conditions, human error, or just plain chance account for what is often outside of our control. It helps

to remember that God is always present, he wills our good, and evil is not of his doing. **God is always present.**

Our Father loves us deeply, cares about our concerns right down to the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). He urges us to respond well to a world we can't control. If we let him, God will enable us to learn and grow

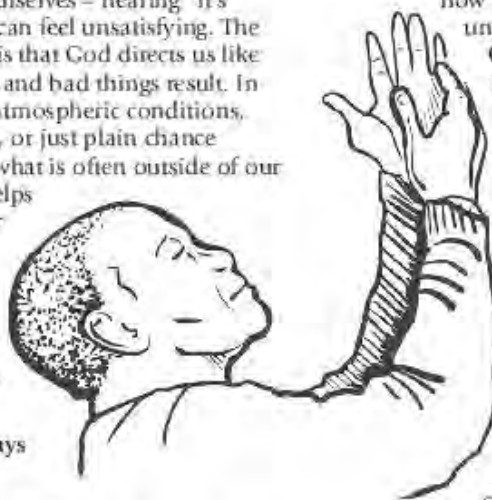
through our experiences, no matter how overwhelming or unpleasant.

God wills our good. It is not God's will that we suffer. The ways of the world aren't always in harmony with his will.

However, his plan for us will bring us the ultimate good. He loves us with true love and wants us prepped and ready for Heaven.

God doesn't make evil. What we see as evil in the world, God can use for good. When

we cooperate with him, suffering becomes meaningful, struggle worthwhile, victory affirming, and even the acceptance of what we cannot overcome life-giving, as they were for Jesus.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Pentecost the "birthday of the Church?"

On the feast of Pentecost, the Apostles were in the Upper Room where they held the Passover with Jesus. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles in the form of wind and fire. *"And they were all filled with the Holy*

Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

Then the Apostles were emboldened and rushed out to preach the Gospel and baptized 3,000 people. We call this the "birthday" of the Church because this is the day when the Holy Spirit made the Church visible to the world.



Jesus understands

"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). It is astounding to think that in his human nature, Jesus experienced fear and suffering, just like we do. Even better, he wants to help.

Fear. Early in his life, soldiers hunted him down to kill him. His neighbors threatened him with harm when they didn't like his teaching. He endured a horrific Passion. Jesus coped by relying on prayer, grace, and



confidence in his father's will. He showed us how so we can endure, as well.

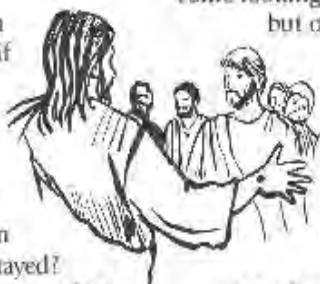
Suffering. During his crucifixion, Jesus became sick, dehydrated, and exhausted as his body began to shut down. Once on the Cross, it became harder and harder for him to breathe. In fact, throughout his life, Jesus experienced how it feels for a body to fail. He knows how it feels to die. When we are sick and suffering, we can turn to him for a cure, or the grace and strength to accept his will. All we have to do is ask.

from Scripture

John 20:19-23, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit

This Gospel shows us a glimpse of how most of the disciples spent their first Easter Sunday - hiding in fear. They were terrified the Romans would find them and execute them. What if the Resurrection really happened as Mary Magdalene said? What if Jesus came looking for them? Would he punish them for abandoning him when they should have stayed?

Yet, Jesus appeared to them within the locked room and spoke words of peace. He wasn't a ghost; his glorified body wasn't limited by the physical world. He showed them his wounds as



"the living proof" of the Resurrection. Imagine the Apostles' great relief at having their Friend back. Jesus did come looking for them, not in anger, but offering his forgiveness.

Instead of punishing them, Jesus gave them a mission and the Holy Spirit to help them. He said, *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* (John 20:23), establishing the Sacrament of Penance. Having authority to forgive sins, the Apostles and their successors could continue Jesus' work after he returned to Heaven.

Q & A

Why is Mary pictured with a blue mantle?

In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was covered in blue (or "violet") fabric for traveling (Numbers 4:5-6). God's Presence would "rest" on the Ark as a king sits on his throne (Exodus 25:22).

When Mary agreed to be the Mother of Jesus (i.e. God), she became his living "resting place." In art, Mary's blue mantle signals she is the new Ark of the Covenant.

Blue also indicates Mary's royal status. Jesus is the King of Heaven making Mary the Queen Mother. In Biblical times, the mother (not the wife) of the king was the queen. She wasn't as powerful as the king, but her intercession with him had significant influence.

Mary is not God, but her intercessory prayers for us are powerful because she is Jesus' mother. When we consider that Mary is also our mother by grace, her blue mantle invites us to entrust our concerns to her. Rather than an obstacle to Jesus, Mary leads us directly to him by a sure, safe path.



Feasts & Celebrations

May 12 - Sts. Nereus and Achilles (1st century). Not much is known about them, but it is certain they were Roman soldiers under the Emperor Trajan. They converted to Christianity, were exiled from Rome, and eventually martyred.

May 14 - St. Matthias the Apostle (1st century). Chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot, St. Matthias is only mentioned once in Scripture, but had accompanied Jesus and the Twelve from the beginning. He spent his life preaching the Good News until his martyrdom.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while a deacon. His visit to Constantinople restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, he died in prison.

May 21 - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st century). This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.



Our Mission

to provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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