

April 3, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy)



My Lord And My God

The early Christians' question: How can one believe in the risen Lord without having seen him is answered by Thomas in his confession, "My Lord and My God." Seeing Jesus does not guarantee believing in him. Even after the disciples saw Jesus, they still had to come to faith in the resurrection. Jesus therefore calls Blessed those who have not seen and have believed. Are you numbered among them?



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Mandi & Matthew Prichard in memory of Delphin Janecka, Bill & Dickie McDaniel and Lonnie Prichard, Sr.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, April 9
4:30 p.m. Ben Smolik
Sunday, April 10
8:00 a.m. Spec. Int. – Stazy Hajek

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Third Sunday of Easter*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40b-41
Responsorial Psalm: 30
Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-4
Gospel: John 21:1-19

No Bible Study Wednesday, April 6

C.C.D. Wednesday, April 6

ORIENTATION – OCTAVE OF EASTER

Today marks the conclusion to the octave of Easter. It is the eighth day: the day of new creation.

Today is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a day established by Pope John Paul II as a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence the difficulties and trails that humankind will experience in the years to come. In a similar way to Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) or the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), the Second Sunday of Easter bears the additional title of Sunday of Divine Mercy.



This is not a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather, it leads into the continuing celebration of God's mercy during Easter Time. As the Octave Day of Easter, the Lectionary readings for today and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church's Easter faith.

As the Church celebrates the Year of Mercy each Deanery in the Diocese of Victoria will have a special ceremony. There will be a gathering at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville at 2 p.m. followed by a procession around the Lavaca County Courthouse Square ending back at the church for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. You are invited to join the gathering, give witness to God's Mercy.

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

John Pavlicek, Houston, TX - \$50
Peggy & Darrell Mica, Austin, TX - \$50

In Memory of Ella Migl
Aileen & Bob Shocklee, Carmel, IN - \$20
Mary Lynn & Allen Brehm, Houston, TX - \$20

In Memory of Anton Okruhlik
Aileen & Bob Shocklee, Carmel, IN - \$10
Mary Lynn & Allen Brehm, Houston, TX - \$10

Nancy & Thomas Petru - \$201
(final pledge payment for pew restoration)

*** In Memory of Annie (Kubena) & Vaclav Parma, Edwin F. Parma, Louis Parma**
Grace (Parma) & Roger Howard, San Antonino, TX - \$500
* Total contributions to date in memory of the Parma Family - \$27,500.

To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to st_joe@sbcglobal.net.

REFLECTION

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen And Have Believed

As often as we have heard this saying of Jesus, we have difficulty seeing how it can be so. We have the need to verify things for ourselves. We, at the same time sometimes accept testimony on the basis of the words of others, without the need to see things for ourselves. There is therefore no need to see in order to believe. The apostles saw Jesus suffering, his nailing to the cross, his death and burial. How could he be alive, three days later? They, like us had to go beyond trusting their own eyes to attain faith in the resurrection.

The testimony of the apostles allows us to participate in their experience as privileged witnesses and believers; so those of us who have not seen him can still have the blessedness of faith. The blessing pronounced by Jesus continues to encourage us who long to see but who are content to believe and hope and trust that one day, we will see God face to face for all eternity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April 6 – Carl Henke

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



April 8 – Margaret & Michael Hanslik

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

March 14, 2016

Dear Pastor,

Listed below is the information pertaining to your Parish's 2015 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA):

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Praha	
Parish Goal	\$7,532
Total Number of Parishioners Pledging	49
Total Amount Pledged by Parishioners	\$7,015
Total Amount Contributed by Parishioners	\$7,015

The Total Amount Contributed by Parishioners includes all contributions received through February 29, 2016. In order to meet your 2015 Parish Goal, a total of **\$517** is due and payable to the Diocese of Victoria on or before April 4, 2016.

Last month the 2016 DSA Brochure and Pledge Card were mailed to your Parishioners from Victoria. The 2016 DSA Appeal runs from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. Please note that any payments received after February 28, 2016 will automatically be applied to the 2016 Diocesan Services Appeal. For your information, your Parish's 2016 DSA Goal is **\$7,618**.

Sincerely,
Rene Garcia

EASTER ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARY'S

Dear friends,

The Spirit of the Risen Lord is evident among us! Our celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum was very spirit-filled and well attended. It was wonderful to see so many people actively participating, making it all come together.

Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday): The Mass was very touching. Parishioners washing one another's feet. What a great sign of our willingness to serve one another as Church.

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday): The Liturgy was marked by noble simplicity. It was a way of identifying with the sufferings of Christ, as our savior goes to his death.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (Holy Saturday): The service was absolutely beautiful. What an example of full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. The number of people who joined us in prayer was amazing. It was great to see so many participants in the service.

Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday): The Spirit of the Risen Lord was palpable in our midst. The balloons and Easter Egg Hunt with the kids were a big hit. Who thought so many kids would show up in little Praha for Easter. It is all possible. I enjoyed every bit of it all.

While I thank God for the joyful celebration of the three days, I realize that all would not have been possible without the help of many cooperative parishioners.

The Liturgy - I thank our Lectors, our Choir, our Cantor, our Altar Servers, our Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and our Ushers who performed their ministry so diligently.

Other helpers and donors - Thanks to the many who worked behind the scenes to pull it all together: Preparing for the Triduum – Pat Masek and Georgie Cerny, Kathleen Svatek & the Altar Society members; Martin Svatek & Dennis Stryk for cleaning the grounds and the cemetery; all those who donated canned goods for the needy and monetary donations for the poor and for the seminarians; Good Friday special effects – Jason Bartos; Holy Saturday bonfire – Charlie Bartos; Easter Flowers – all those who donated towards the flower fund; Balloons – Donna & Hannah Perez; Easter Egg Hunt – thanks to Staci & Mary Bartos and Pat Masek for donating the eggs, and to Delia Moeller for organizing the hunt and photographing the hunt. Lastly, I am very grateful to all of you for your participation and words of encouragement. It is my prayer that the Spirit of the Risen Lord will continue to transform us into witnesses of his presence in our lives.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Gabriel

More Easter Flower Fund Donations

Elaine & Johnnie Hoffman