

May 1, 2016

## Sixth Sunday of Easter



### *The Time of Presence in Absence*

Jesus' time on earth was very brief. He spent only a little time among us, but in that time he taught us about the Father and passed on to us the assurance of his love, as well as the knowledge of how to respond to it. Loving the Lord and keeping his word are the same thing. Jesus is the Word of God. To receive the Word is to receive the Father and the Son, since it testifies to their presence.

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, May 7  
4:30 p.m. Sp. Int. - Specially Remembered Mothers  
Sunday, May 8  
8:00 a.m. Sp. Int. - Specially Remembered Mothers

### Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Ascension of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11  
**Responsorial Psalm:** 47  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23  
**Gospel:** Luke 24:46-53

*No Bible Study Wednesday, May 4*

*C.C.D. Wednesday, May 4*

Pray for the repose of the soul of  
**Marie Masek**  
and for the comfort of her loved ones.  
*May she rest in peace.*



### 2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment .....	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$1,340.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$6,278.00

Consider at making a contribution.

### Restoring Maticka Praha



We thank the following for their recent donations:

*In Memory of John Kalina, Jr.*  
Georgie Cerny - \$15

To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to [st\\_joe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st_joe@sbcglobal.net).

### MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY



The month of May is one of two months in the year when Catholics traditionally honor the Blessed Virgin. This month is referred to as the month of Mary. The other, October, is the month of the Most Holy Rosary.

### VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS



The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.

**Remember to pray for the following intentions:**

*For my Uncle Rick*  
*For Health to be Restored*  
*Rory Miggins – Rest in Peace*  
*For my Grandchild's Well Being*  
*My Sister and All Houston Flood Victims*  
*Safe Travels For Our Son Somewhere in Southeast Asia*

### SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MASS – MAY 8

To have your mother specially remembered in the Mass Intention of the day, drop your Mother's Day envelope in the collection or mail by May 2.

## REFLECTION

### *A New Manner of Living In Christ's Peace*

What must we do to be saved? The question put to Jesus centuries ago is still asked today, and the answer is still the same. We must believe and we must love God and love one another as Jesus loved us. This sounds so simple, and yet it is so radical. The resurrection of Jesus has radically transformed the way we live together and the way we live with God. It has assured us that regardless of outward appearances we have even here and now a foretaste of this heavenly city, if we but choose to live in the power of the resurrection. We will be recognized as resurrection people by our active faith and our unselfish love.

The final gift Jesus promises to give is his own peace. This cannot be a reference to safety from distress because the one who promises it is the one who faced humiliation and crucifixion. The peace Jesus bestows is a peace he has won by overcoming sin and death. It issues from the union Jesus enjoys with God, a union we are now invited to share. It is a peace in which we can rest even while in the throes of life's struggles. Jesus bequeaths his peace on us just after he has assured us that God will send the Spirit to be with us in his absence. This is the greatest of his farewell gifts.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



May 3 – Kristen Olsovsky  
May 7 – Cynthia Stryk

## PICNIC RAFFLE PRIZES BEING SOLICITED



It's time to start thinking about making donations to the Raffle. Thomas Petru will start contacting local business this week. Anyone interested in making a donation may call Thomas Petru (512-751-6191) or Liz Janak (361-596-8206). The Raffle Prize donation deadline is May 31.

*Thank you.*

## Area Picnics

Today – Holy Rosary Mayfest, Hostyn  
May 29 – Sacred Heart Spring Picnic, Hallettsville

## Second Collection This Weekend Retired & Needy Priests of the Diocese



Priests devote their lives to furthering the mission of the Church and bringing people closer to Christ. In retirement, they continue to serve. They are the living roots of our sacramental community. *Please be generous.*

## THE FEAST OF ASCENSION



The feast of Ascension which is traditionally celebrated forty days counting from Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, May 8 in the Diocese of Victoria.

## ORIENTATION

### *"Peace I Leave With You, My Peace I Give You"*

Our reflection for this Sunday both carries us back to the themes of last week and directs our attention to the ascension of Jesus, which lies ahead of us. Today, we consider radical newness the resurrection brings, but we are aware of Jesus' departure. One might say that



this week we examine Jesus' farewell gifts to us. In the gospel reading for this Sunday before the ascension, Jesus tells his disciples that he will be leaving them. In a sense, they will be alone. Although he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, they will have to fend for themselves and the enemy or enemies that they will face will not be bunglers. While Jesus was alive, the disciples trusted in his ability to hold opposition at bay. They must have wondered where they would find the strength and direction they would need in his absence. Though he announces his impending departure, he does promise to leave them what they will need to continue. They will have "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name" – but they probably do not understand the significance of this promise. It will take their experience on the day of Pentecost to realize the power that they will wield as a result of their being possessed by this Spirit. At this point, all they would know is loss.

Knowing that the Advent of the Spirit was in the future, Jesus encouraged his friends with a message of peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." Even this they probably misunderstood. They had known moments of peace, times when they were away from the frenzy of the crowds and the opposition of some of the leaders of the people. But Jesus said that his peace was different. They would have to face the challenges that awaited them before they would be able to grasp the nature of his peace.