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My dear parishioners:

This weekend marks the half-way point in the Season of Easter. I would like to use this opportunity to be reminded of the importance of this liturgical season and why we need to remain in the "Easter mode" for another few weeks.

Easter was the first specific solemnity the nascent Church celebrated at Mass. From immediately after the resurrection of the Lord the disciples celebrated Mass every Sunday, but without any specific aspect of the Lord in mind. By the second century Church leaders began to compose special prayers and to pick special scripture readings to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on the Sunday closest to the Jewish feast of Passover. Church elders believed it was essential that Christians recalled each year in prayer the profound importance of the death and resurrection of Christ. It would be more than a century later before Church elders composed a specific Mass for the nativity of Jesus.

As the Church calendar grew in the 3-6th centuries to include Masses for other aspects of the life of our Lord and his Blessed Mother, as well as the martyrs, and finally saints, the Church began to place an importance on having a period of time before Easter to prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, as well as a period of time after Easter to celebrate the importance of the paschal events. Ultimately the Church determined that 40 was the appropriate number of days to prepare for Easter in the season of Lent (40 being a holy number in Jewish theology, signifying a sufficiently long enough period of time to accomplish something of importance), and that 50 was the appropriate number of days to celebrate the season of Easter.

The Acts of the Apostles in 1:3 states that Jesus appeared to the disciples for forty days after his resurrection from the dead (a sufficiently long enough period of time for the disciples to know it was really and truly the risen Lord), and then he ascended into heaven in the sight of his apostles. Acts further states that on the day of Pentecost (coming from the word for 50) the Holy Spirit was sent upon the disciples, breathing the life of the Spirit of Jesus into the Church (2:1-4). Because the sending of the Holy Spirit occurred on the 50th day of the resurrection of the Lord, the Easter Season is 50 days in length.

Each year the Sunday readings for the first three Sundays of Easter focus on the events of the day of the resurrection of the Lord, and the establishment of the sacraments of the Church that result from the resurrection. The readings for the last three Sundays of Easter focus on the on-going power of the resurrection in the life of the Church. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is today, as the mid-point in the Easter season is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" and each year the gospel speaks of Jesus as the good shepherd who gives his life for his flock.

Everything that we believe as Catholics leads to the death and resurrection of Christ, and everything we believe as Catholics flows from the death and resurrection of Christ. The paschal mystery is the prism through which we must view life. The Church, in her wisdom, provides us 50 blessed days to stayed prayerfully focused on the great gifts of grace we have received through the Lord's resurrection. Let us not rush through these holy days but rather let us stay attentive to how much grace flows into our lives from the empty tomb.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

April 21– April 29, 2018
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 21 4:30pm—Mass

Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/
 Jn 6:Mass intention for Lloyd and Ron Chance

Sunday, April 22 9:00am—Mass

Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, April 23 4:30pm—Mass

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

Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Tuesday, April 24 No Mass

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

Wednesday, April 25 4:30pm—Mass

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20

Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Thursday, April 26 8:30am—Mass

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

Friday, April 27 9:30am—Communion Service

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

Saturday, April 28 4:30pm—Mass

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

Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Sunday, April 29 9:00am—Mass

Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/
 1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Mass intention for the People of the Parish

**The stone rejected by the builders
 has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118)**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Nelda Leathem, Maureen Peltier, Mandy Boudreaux, Julie Faircloth, Jessie Day, Bubba Weeks, Evelyn Schima, Marcella Rupert, Rosalind Sanchez; Gabriel & Ronald Petree, Michele Duncan, Allen Carlson, Susie Gaudet, Wayne Cook

Repose of the soul: Matthew Hernandez, Linda Jordan, Agnes Courville

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

SACRED SILENCE

Please respect the true presence of the Lord in the tabernacle by not visiting before and after Mass inside the Church.

Weekly Stewardship

April 14 & 15 Weekly Offering \$ 3,672.00
Average Weekly Cost \$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit \$ 520.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Sun. April 22 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00am—Mass	Mon. Apr 23 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. Apr 24	Wed. Apr 25 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. Apr 26 8:30am—Mass 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. Apr 27 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. Apr 28 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass First Communion
Sun. April 29 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet & Adoration 9:00am—Mass First Communion	Mon. Apr 30 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. May 1 10:00 am—Senior Social 11:30am—First Tuesday Mass 12:00—Lunch 1:00pm—Altar Society	Wed. May 2 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. May 3 8:30am—Mass 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. May 4 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. May 5 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Next weekend 10 children will be making their First Communion.

Saturday

Alejandro Flores
 Elizabeth Lopez
 Victoria Lopez
 Danna Lopez Ramirez
 Cristian Reyes



Sunday

Brielle Buckner
 Luke Evans
 Jackson Griffith
 Katie Linney
 Isaiah Pippin

Honoring our Graduates

The parish would like to honor all parishioners graduating from high school and college/university this year, with a blessing at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, May 20. Please provide the pastor/parish office with the names of graduates and whether they are graduating from high school or university so that we can prepare a parish gift to honor our graduates.

Newman Connection

Statistically 80% of U.S. college-age Catholic young adults stop actively practicing their faith at some point in their college years. Only less than half of these Catholics will return to the practice at some time in their adult life. Newman Connection is a Catholic non-profit organization which attempts to support college enrolled Catholics in continuing to practice their faith by connecting them with the Newman Center of the college they are attending. Parishioners with children who will be attending college in the fall, or are presently attending college, are asked to provide the parish office/pastor with the parishioner names and colleges so that the Newman Connection can provide this information to the colleges. Let us do all we can to help keep our young adult parishioners connected to their Catholic faith.

Adult Faith Formation Classes

Sundays after Mass

4 Signs of Dynamic Catholics by Matthew Kelly
 Led by Madeline Arnett

Diocese of Beaumont Office of Youth Ministry

Summer Camp 2018

Registration By April 15 \$215 per camper
 April 16 and May 31 \$230 per camper
 After May 31 \$245 per camper

Registration Forms in the foyer of church.

The **BEST WEEK OF SUMMER** that you'll remember all year long! Great times with good friends - old and new. Crazy games. The pool! Special prayer times. Talent show. Arts and crafts, lots of stuff to learn and do, great food & those amazing counselors and CITs!

Summer Camp is held at Camp Niwana located in the beautiful woods 5 miles west of Woodville, TX.

Session 1 July 15-20 For those entering 4th-6th grade
Session 2 July 22-27 For those entering 7th-9th grade