

APRIL 5, 2009

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



REV. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Saturday	Apr. 4	6:00 P.M.	Daniel S. Spies	Moravia
Sunday	Apr. 5	9:30 A.M.	Delaine Dittrich	St. John

Holy Thursday

Thursday	Apr. 9	7:00 P.M.	Deceased Parishioners & Priests	St. John
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Good Friday

Friday	Apr. 10	1:00 P.M.		St. John
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Holy Saturday

Saturday	Apr. 11	6:00 P.M.	Joe & Larry Zatopek	Moravia
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Easter Sunday

Sunday	Apr. 12	9:30 A.M.	Ludwig & Adela Dittrich	St. John
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Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday	Apr. 18	6:00 P.M.	Frankie Kubicek	Moravia
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Sunday	Apr. 19	9:30 A.M.	Steven Kusy	St. John
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Confessions

Thursday	Apr. 9	6:00-6:55 P.M.		St. John
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Friday	Apr. 10	12:00 noon-12:55 P.M.		St. John
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THE WORD OF GOD

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (procession) 38: Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22:8-9,17-18a,19-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

Holy Thursday Evening-Mass of the Lord's Supper

Readings: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 Psalm 116:12-13,15-16bc,17-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus celebrates the Last Supper in which he gives us his body and blood.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42

Entrusting his life to the Father, Jesus bore our infirmities, and obedient unto death, won for us eternal salvation.

Today, Good Friday, and, if possible, on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the paschal fast is observed everywhere to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more deeply in his resurrection.

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

Readings: Acts 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 118:1-2,16ab-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 or 41: Mark 16:1-7 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, 46: Luke 24:13-35

On this day of days we offer a joyful sacrifice of praise to the Father who raised his Son from the dead. Let us be intent upon the life Christ offers us, Christ our Passover who has been sacrificed.

Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

Readings: Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday and recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Thursday we begin celebrating the Triduum - the three special days before Easter Sunday: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of our church year. Let us use this time to reflect upon God's great love for us. Let us take some quiet time to be with Our Lord and thank Him for all that He has done for us and is doing for us.

We realize God's presence in our lives and His love for us, even in difficult times when He gives us the strength to deal with the difficulties. May you have a very blessed Holy Week.

Our next gathering for Generations of Faith will take place on Wednesday, April 15 at the St. John Religious Education Center beginning at 6pm. The topic will be "Ascension of Our Lord". Parents are asked to bring sandwiches or sodas.

Our last gathering for Generations of Faith will take place on Wednesday, May 6, at Ascension of Our Lord Church for Confirmation. The mass will begin at 6 pm. All students and parents are to attend (attendance will be taken). This will

be considered our closing Mass for the religious education program. There will be a reception in the Parish Hall after the Confirmation Mass where the students and parents of the program will host the bishop and the confirmation students. Parents are asked to bring a snack tray of sandwiches or vegetables. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

ST. JOHN USHERS

St. John Ushers for the month of April are Walter Hermis and Leo Janda.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John Church cleaners for the month of April are Elsie Farek, Dana Daughtry and Joyce Janda.

ST. JOHN KJT SOCIETY #32 MEETING

St. John KJT Society #32 meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 11:00 A.M. at the Religious Education Center at St. John. The society will sponsor a parish donut and coffee social immediately after the 9:30 mass at St. John.

PRO LIFE CORNER

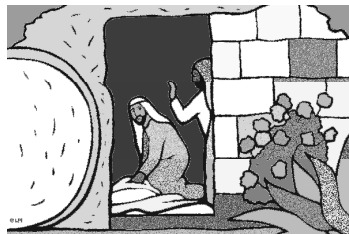
On March 10, 2009 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (headed by “pro-choice” Sec. Kathleen Sebelius) issued a PROPOSAL to rescind the Bush Administration rule: for conscience protection of doctors, nurses and hospitals who choose NOT to participate in abortions. APRIL 9 is the HHS deadline for accepting comments urging the Administration to retain the Bush regulation protecting conscience rights of healthcare providers to serve patients without violating their moral and religious convictions. Comments may be mailed one original and two copies to: Office of Public Health and Human Services, Attn: Rescission Proposal Comments, Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg., 200 Independence Ave., SW Room 716G, Washington, D.C. 20201. For e-mail send to: proposed rescission@hhs.gov or online: www.Regulations.gov (Check “Select to find documents “ and then enter Rescission Proposal”)

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 9 - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann
 Good Friday, April 10 - St. John - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny & Caitlyn Deem
 Holy Saturday, April 11 - Moravia - Ashley & Joshua Becan, Caitlyn Deem
 Easter Sunday, April 12 - St. John - Logan & Seth Eckhart, Caleb & Jared Krischke
 Saturday, April 18 - Moravia - Ashley & Joshua Becan & Caitlyn Deem
 Sunday, April 19 - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann & James Lofland

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 – Parish students attending St. Rose Catholic School will receive First Communion at the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. John.

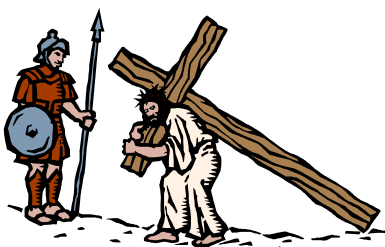
Next Bulletin: April 19th, 2009
 Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2009



Those preceding him, as well as those following kept crying out:
 “Hosanna!
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!
 Hosanna in the highest!”
 — Mk 11:9-10
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead — Jn 20:8-9
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “I have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” — Jn 20:28-29
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



**Happy
 Easter**

Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2009

One Minute Meditations

Healthy worship

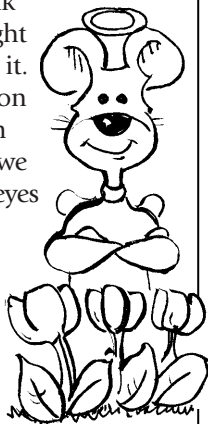
Recent medical studies revealed that people who attend church at least weekly have longer life expectancies and fewer complications from illnesses or surgeries than non-churchgoers. Going to church may not protect us from health crises, but it does help us cope with them.

Empty and fill

There are times in our lives when we have to empty our minds of negativity so God can replace it with peace and joy. Each day, take time to rid yourself of anger, fear, self-pity, jealousy, and bitterness. Then look for God's gifts of peace, wisdom, friendship, forgiveness, and love.

Our choice

Each day we have a choice of how we can live. We can waste time cursing the darkness or we can thank God for the light when we have it. We can focus on the ugliness in the world, or we can train our eyes to see and appreciate the beauty that is there instead.



5 reasons to be hopeful right now

It's hard not to worry these days. If we haven't been affected by economic troubles directly, we may be worried that we or someone we love will be soon. Yet we in God's family have more reasons to be hopeful no matter how bad things get ...

God loves us with the warm love of a father.

"If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Matthew 7:11).

We can always count on our Father.
"Know that the Lord works wonders for the faithful; the Lord hears when I call out"

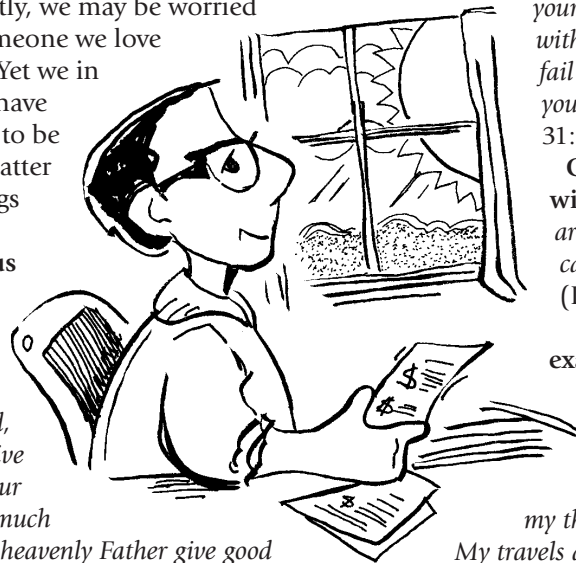
(Psalm 4:4). *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear ... for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you"* (Deuteronomy 31:6).

God is always with us. *"You, Lord, are near to all who call upon you ..."* (Psalm 145:20).

God knows exactly what we need. *"(Y)ou know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar.*

My travels and my rest you mark; with all my ways you are familiar." (Psalm 139:2, 3).

All we have to do is ask. *"Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics believe that the Holy Trinity is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The concept of the Holy Trinity, though, is beyond our human ability to understand. That's why we call it a "mystery."

Why do Catholics believe in a Holy Trinity?



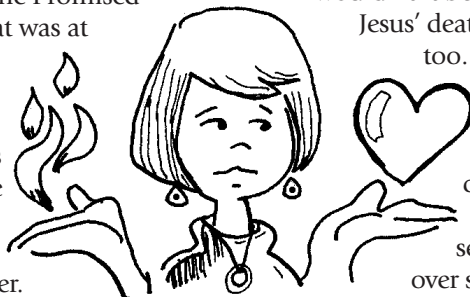
Before the time of Jesus, only the Father was known. Then Jesus revealed himself as God, *"the Father and I are one"* (John 10:30).

After his Ascension, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – God's Spirit – on Pentecost (Acts 2).

It's our Easter choice ...

Before the Israelites could finally enter the Promised Land, Moses delayed them to explain what was at stake. He wasn't going with them but he wanted them to be able to stay there with God's blessing. (Deuteronomy)

So he put the choice facing the Israelites (and us) in the clearest possible terms: we can choose to live in God's friendship or outside of it. One choice means eternal life and happiness, the other misery forever. After waiting so long for the Promised Land,

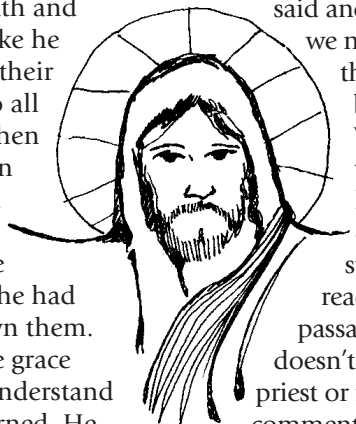


wouldn't it be a shame to make the wrong choice?

Jesus' death and Resurrection has given us a choice, too. Isn't it amazing that the Creator of heaven and earth lets us decide how we want to live? We can say "yes" or "no" to God's love. While our choices lead to consequences, the choice is still up to us. This Easter, choose honesty over deceit, self-control over sinful pleasure, generosity over selfishness. Then your Easter choice will be to choose life with God in his love.

from Scripture **Luke 24:35-48, Loose ends get tied**

The disciples shouldn't have been surprised by Jesus' death and resurrection. It's not like he didn't warn them. Yet their minds weren't open to all that he revealed. So when he appeared to them in Jerusalem, he let them see him, touch him, and watch him eat. He reminded them of all he had taught them and shown them. Then he gave them the grace they needed to truly understand and live what they learned. He gave them what they needed to be his true followers.



In order to understand all that Jesus said and all that he expects from us, we need to know him the way the disciples did. We can start by carefully reading his Word. Some aspects of what we read in the Bible may be hard to digest and comprehend. When you get stuck on something you have read, read the surrounding passages and footnotes. If that doesn't help, consult your parish priest or find a good Catholic Bible commentary. Once you understand, ask the Holy Spirit to help you put God's Word into action.

Q What are the 7 & themes of Catholic A social teaching?

Catholics have a history of speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves. As a Church, we are committed to:

1. Life and dignity of the human person. Since we are created in the image of God, human life is sacred from conception to natural death.
2. Call to family, community and participation. We have a right to live in and contribute to our families and communities.



3. Human rights and responsibilities. Each person has a right to the things that make life decent – faith, family, food, shelter, etc.

4. Option for the poor and vulnerable. Jesus instructed us to care for those less fortunate.

5. Dignity of work and the rights of workers. Through work we participate in God's act of creation. The basic rights of workers, owners, and managers must be respected.

6. Demand for Solidarity. We work for the common good everywhere.

7. Care for God's creation. Our love for God inspires us to be good stewards of the earth and his creations.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 4 – St. Isidore of Seville (636). St. Isidore was born to a family that included three other saints and succeeded his brother as bishop of Seville. He was a peacemaker and is known as "The Schoolmaster of the Middle Ages" because the encyclopedia he wrote was used for 900 years.

April 5 – St. Vincent Ferrer (1419). Against his parents' wishes, St. Vincent Ferrer joined the Order of St. Dominic. He became a famous preacher and was known as the Angel of Judgment because his sermons aimed to prepare his listeners for judgment.

April 12 – Easter Sunday. The solemnity that marks Jesus' Resurrection.

April 19 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised that anyone who honors him as the King of Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy – the prayer he gave to St. Faustina – will receive special graces and great mercy.



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

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