

## NOVEMBER 28, 2010

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

REV. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

P.O. BOX H ✠ HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS 77964 ✠ (361) 798-5888 ✠ (361) 798-4970 FAX

WEBSITE: [WWW.SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG)

E-MAIL: [RECTORY@SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG](mailto:RECTORY@SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG)

---

### MASS SCHEDULE

---

#### First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Nov. 27	6:00 P.M.	George & Helen Henke	St. John
Sunday	Nov. 28	9:30 A.M.	Frank & Carolyn Okruhlik & Frank & Frances Tupa Sr.	Moravia

#### First Friday

Friday	Dec. 3	8:00 A.M.	Kenneth Besetzny	St. John
--------	--------	-----------	------------------	----------

#### Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 4	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 5	9:30 A.M.	Mass of Thanksgiving for Blessings	St. John

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception of The Virgin Mary (Vigil)

Tuesday	Dec. 7	6:00 P.M.	Joycelyn Bunt & Lillie Pesek	Moravia
---------	--------	-----------	------------------------------	---------

#### Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 11	6:00 P.M.	August Kubos	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 12	9:30 A.M.	Joe N. Steffek	Moravia

---

### THE WORD OF GOD

---

#### First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122:1-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

Let us rejoice in the Lord's peace, let us live honorably as we await his return.

#### Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Reform your lives; live in God's peace so that justice may flourish.

#### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)

Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98:1-4 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38

Chosen by God, Mary reverses the sin of Eve. Because of her obedience, God's salvation is made known to all the nations. Originating in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, feast of the "Conception of Mary by St. Anne," Pope Clement XI, in his Bull, *Commissi Nobis*, established this solemnity for the entire Church in 1708; patroness of the United States of America, Spain Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6a,10 Psalm 146:6-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

In the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of his advent.

---

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Advent is the season in which we prepare for the great celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. During these four weeks, we're invited to contemplate the richness of God's gift to us in Christ, as we, along with the entire Church:

**Wait.** We remember humanity waiting for the coming of the Savior. We wait and pray for the Second Coming of Jesus as our Lord and Judge.

**Convert.** We examine our lives and listen to the call of John the Baptist, to make the ways of our hearts ready for forgiveness and love.

**Hope.** We remember how God has fulfilled his promises in the grace and salvation through Jesus, and we pray and celebrate in hope for ourselves and for all God has made.

#### The Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception: God prepared Mary to be the mother of Jesus by preserving her from original sin. This is a day to celebrate God's great love for Mary, and for all of us, in his power to save us from sin. Many prepare for this feast by praying a novena (nine days of special prayers) beginning on November 30.

#### ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The only rehearsal for music before and during Christmas Mass in St. John will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Add your name to sign up list on bulletin board or call Elsie Farek 979-562-2159. All voices are welcome!

#### ST. JOHN CRIB

The St. John crib will be assembled after 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Stay and help decorate our church!

## CHURCH CLEANERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

St. John's - Gladys Besetzny, Sharon Bujnoch & Vicky Kainer  
Moravia - Lorraine Deem & Vernell Shanks

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas flowers for St. John's Church in memory of loved ones, contact Joyce Janda at 979-562-2682.

## ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas flowers for Ascension of Our Lord Church in memory of loved ones or just donations for Christmas flowers, please contact Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SWEEPSTAKES

Support Sacred Heart Catholic School by purchasing a \$5 raffle ticket for the Catholic School Sweepstakes sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance. All monies from the sale of the tickets go to our school. Grand prize 2011 Ford F-150, 2011 Ford Fusion or \$20,000 prepaid VISA card. Secondary prizes are prepaid VISA credit cards: (2) \$5,000, (2) \$2,500 & (5) \$1,000. Tickets may be purchased from SHCS students or at the school office or the Rectory. Tickets sold through December 3 with the drawing held on January 29, 2011. St. Rose in Schulenburg is also doing this for St. Rose School.

## YOUNG ADULT ACTS RETREAT

We are planning a Young Adult Acts Retreat for next July. This retreat will be for single men and women from 20-30 years of age. We will keep you posted as we get closer to the retreat which will be July 28-31, 2011.

## GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. from 5:30PM-8:15PM. We will continue our study of "Professing Our Faith" with "We Believe in Jesus." Pam and Robert Besetsny have graciously offered to furnish the entire meal for our December GOF meeting! Sacrament students will be receiving their Sacrament training assignments each month at the end of GOF.

GOF is particularly thankful this time of year for all the support that we receive from Father John, Father Tommy, the parents and both parishes. We thank each of the parish members who gave items for the San Antonio Homeless and we thank Advanced Home Health Services for allowing us to participate in their ministry to the homeless. For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 27 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann  
Sunday, November 28 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Caleb & Jared Krischke  
Saturday, December 4 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan  
Sunday, December 5 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Seth & Logan Eckhardt, Hayden Besetzny  
Saturday, December 11 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann  
Sunday, December 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, Caleb & Jared Krischke

## PRO LIFE

If you are between the ages of newborn and 37 years, congratulations; you have survived the war on the unborn. Many, many humans were not blessed like you with the gift of life and have died at the hands of abortionists. Thank God for your life! (Life and Family Advocates)

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IN HALLETTSVILLE – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**November 27:** Mr. & Mrs. Santa's Visit 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lighted Christmas Parade 6:15 p.m.  
Food & Market Days Booths begin at 12:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant 7:30 p.m.  
Lighting Extravaganza 5:45 – 6:00 p.m. Santa's Kiddie Parade 6:05 p.m.  
**November 28:** Christmas Pageant 6:30 p.m.

## ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS (Candles are left burning during evening meal, at prayers or at bedtime.)



**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent** (1 purple candle is lit): *Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent** (2 purple candles are lit): *Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze to follow in the steps of John the Baptist. May we bring light and love to all we meet, that the darkness of sin and fear may be overcome. In Christ's name we ask this. Amen.*



*"Two men will be out in the field, one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." — Mt. 24:40-42*

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2011, 1993, 1970, 1972

Next Bulletin: Dec. 12th, 2010  
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec 9th, 2010



**J**ohn the Baptist appeared...saying,  
*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:  
A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
Prepare the way of the Lord.

— Mt. 3:1-4, 2-3 & 6

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2011, 1993, 1970, 1972

# Growing in FAITH™

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

Special Advent Edition 2010

## One Minute Meditations

### Shepherds of the poor

Among the first to receive Jesus into the world were shepherds. Today, the presence of the shepherds in the Nativity scene reminds us of the poor of the world and how close they are to Jesus' heart. In honor of the shepherds, perform some act of kindness for the poor.

### Say "no" for Advent

Instead of taking on extra activities during the Christmas season, try saying "no" more often. Don't work overtime, don't attend another party, even say "no" to additional volunteer activities. Use the time you said "no" to the world to say "yes" to preparing for the Lord.

### Advertise your faith

Put on a joyful appearance no matter what is going on in your day. Remind yourself of the coming miracle and what it means for each one of us.

### Unborn joy

*"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..."* (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. During Advent look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill his plan.

### The light of Advent

*"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:4-5).

## Make ready for something wonderful

We spend Advent waiting for something wonderful to happen. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth ...

### Week One - Wait.

Whenever you find yourself waiting for something this week, think of the fact that you are also waiting for Jesus to come. Ask him what you need to do to be ready for his arrival.

### Week Two - Hope.

This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious

than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

### Week Three - Prepare.

Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas.

Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace.

Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

### Week

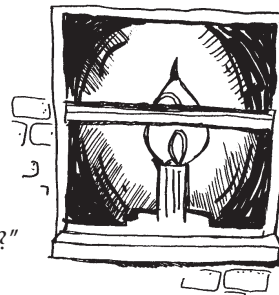
### Four - Rejoice.

Sing "O Come O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.

**Why Do Catholics Do That?**

**Why do we celebrate Advent?**

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know that Jesus



will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

# Develop an Advent frame of mind



The holiday season can seem more like a test of character than a preparation for celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable love.

**Try to see with a Father's eye.** Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through his eyes. Not the flawed human visible to the rest of us, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of his glory.

**Tune in to a remarkable moment.** "And the Word became

flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). It really happened. God really came and shared our experience in the world. In response, we can reach out beyond our friends and family and share our experience of God with the rest of the world.

**Prepare your gift.** The real gift of the Magi was to receive Jesus as the savior of all people. Your gift to Jesus can be an open heart, ready to receive the love he has for you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimagineable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

## 5 ways to enrich your season

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, and the excitement of Christmas. Yet Advent is a beautiful season in itself.

Consider these five ways to enjoy Advent as the season of hope ...

**1. Come into the silence.**

Over the next few weeks, take lots of deep breaths and treat yourself to some silent time each day.

**2. Mark your progress.** Buy or make an Advent wreath with four candles and light a new candle each Sunday. Say the traditional prayers or write your own.



**3. Share the joy.** Make peace with anyone who wronged you - or was wronged by you. Put resentment out of your heart to make more room for joy.

**4. Comfort the lonely.** Compile a list of people who live alone, are new to your area, or who have lost a loved one this year.

Include them in your holiday gatherings.

**5. Start a new tradition.** Sing a special song each night during Advent. Reserve a favorite food just for this time. Go out for a special meal after Mass. Whatever you do, make it joyful and celebratory.

## St. Nicholas - A saint for the season

St. Nicholas was born at the end of the third century in Asia Minor. He was the son of wealthy parents who died while he was a child. Despite his misfortune, he selflessly wanted to share his wealth with those in need.

One popular story involving St. Nicholas concerns a man who had lost his fortune and was too poor to fill his family's bellies. He was even thinking of selling his three daughters to pay off his debts. Nicholas heard of the man's situation and secretly threw a bag of gold into an open window in the house. When the man awoke the next morning, he thanked God for his good

fortune. Twice more Nicholas helped the man in this way, and each time the man praised God - just as Nicholas intended.

St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6th this year. Children all over the world put their shoes out at night to find candy and small treats in them in the morning, in remembrance of St. Nicholas' anonymous generosity.



## An illuminating tradition

The Advent wreath is one of the most popular devotions of the season. It is a symbol of our watchful wait for the Savior. Here's a way to make your own.

**Supplies:** Styrofoam ring, markers, evergreen branches that you buy or gather, wire or twist ties, three violet (purple) candles, one rose (pink) candle.

**Directions:** On the Styrofoam ring, mark four "Xs" equal distances apart where the candles will sit. Press a candle into the ring at each "X" to make an indentation. (Don't leave the candles in place yet.)

Wrap the evergreen branches around the ring to cover it completely. Secure the greens with wire or twist ties. Place the candles in the indentations you created earlier. Wind ribbons around the ring or add pine cones to decorate as you choose.

The three violet candles represent preparation, and are lit during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of Advent. The rose candle, lit during the 3rd week, is a reminder to rejoice.

Light a candle each night during Advent and offer prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC

Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™

(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax

<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

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