

APRIL 3, 2011

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday	April 2	6:00 P.M.	John & Angeline Trlica	Moravia
Sunday	April 3	9:30 A.M.	Ludwig & Adela Dittrich	St. John

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	April 9	6:00 P.M.	Hulda Kainer	St. John
Sunday	April 10	9:30 A.M.	Anton Orsak	Moravia

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday	April 16	6:00 P.M.	George Shimek	Moravia
Sunday	April 17	9:30 A.M.	Martha Besetzny	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 23:1-6 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 or 9:1,6-9,13-17.34-38

Samuel does not see as God sees in the choice of David, who is anointed with oil. As Jesus cures the blind man, so too are we brought from darkness into light through the grace of baptism.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ezekiel 37: 12-14 Psalm 130:1-8 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45

Jesus is our resurrection and our life. Because he has given us of the Spirit, we are no longer dead because of sin, but alive. In Jesus, is the fullness of redemption.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Matthew: 21:1-11 (procession) 38:Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from last bulletin)

The Second Temptation POWER

Next, the devil brings Jesus up and shows him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The tempter promises that Jesus will be the ruler of everything in the land, if he would only prostrate himself in worship, Jesus replies, "It is written: You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve."

This temptation gets to the heart of who Jesus is as Messiah. He did not come to have power over the kingdoms of the earth even though, because of his divinity, he could assume it. Jesus does not set out to rule the world or gather power for himself. Rather, he comes to serve his flock through preaching, teaching, and healing. And Jesus knows that he must suffer. When he asks his apostles in Mark 8:29, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replies that Jesus is the Messiah. Then, Jesus begins to teach them that the Son of Man must be rejected and killed, but Peter cannot believe this notion of Messiah. So Jesus rebukes him with the words, "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." In essence, Peter is limiting Jesus' role as Messiah to a powerful leader, while Jesus understands that he must endure great suffering in sacrifice for all.

For Reflection

- Am I responsible with my power as a parent, grandparent, manager, friend, spouse, and colleague?
- Do I try to gain power for myself at the expense of others?
- Do I resent my own suffering?

The Third Temptation EGO

Finally, the Gospel of Luke goes on to tell us that Jesus is brought to Jerusalem, made to stand on the parapet of the temple, and taunted to "throw himself down" to prove that he is the Son of God. Jesus tells the tempter that the Lord God is not to be put to the test. In other words, Jesus does not have to prove who he is or why he is on earth through miraculous shows of strength or dazzling deeds. He has no need to puff up his own ego. Jesus does not need fame.

Throughout the Gospels, we read of Jesus' healings; he even raises Lazarus from the dead! But in not one of these instances do we read that Jesus healed a single person out of pride or ego. He is simply carrying out his

mission on earth - to fulfill the coming of the reign of God. Jesus approaches his many miracles with great humility. In Mark 5:24-34, a woman with a hemorrhage reaches out and touches his cloak and is healed immediately. The Gospel says that Jesus begins to look around for who touched his cloak "because he felt the power was drained out of him." When the woman comes forward, Jesus actually gives her the responsibility for her own healing. He says, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

For Reflection

- Am I overly concerned with how other people view me, longing for fame and recognition of my gifts and talents?
- Do I put myself and my own needs in front of others?
- Does my love of self get in the way of my love of God?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Moravia - April 8 St. John - April 15

PRO LIFE

Not just live and let live, but live and help live. (from Wings of Silver compiled by Jo Petty)

CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John's Church cleaning list for the month of April: Elsie Farek, Dana Daughtry and Joyce Janda.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

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

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones for Ascension of Our Lord Church, contact Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169.

MEMORIALS

St. John Cemetery Fund

In memory of Alvin Jurena by Ricky, Barbara, Kristen & Kasey Steffek \$25

BENEFIT FOR DALTON BUBELA

FOOD and FUN at this BENEFIT - Assist with medical expenses for Dalton Bubela (grandson of Lorine and David Kubenka) by attending the benefit hosted by friends and family on Saturday, April 2nd in Praha Hall from 5 to 10 p.m. The evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with a BBQ Pork Steak Dinner, followed by live and silent auctions and music by Incredible Music Makers. Tickets (\$7.50 ea.) are available from Carol Siegel 979-562-2669, Prosperity Bank in Schulenburg and Flatonia and Fayette Savings-Flatonia.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011 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 the Holy Spirit." We begin GOF with a meal; you must bring your meal and drink if you do not notify Mrs. Dana that you want to participate in the \$5.00 sandwich meal by April 17, 2011. Remember, Sacrament students will be receiving their Sacrament training assignments each month at the end of GOF. For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

ST. JOHN ALTAR SOCIETY

The St. John's Altar Society cordially invites everyone from Ascension of Our Lord and St. John the Baptist to attend our annual Spring Brunch on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Building immediately after the 9:30AM Mass. We look forward to the fellowship. Members are asked to bring a brunch item. Coffee, juice, and water will be provided. Members may pay their dues at the brunch.

SERRA CLUB RAFFLE

The Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Victoria are sponsoring the raffle of a donated, brand new 2010 silver Toyota Corolla Sport on July 14, 2011 at Bishop Fellhauer's Charity Banquet; you need not be present to win. Proceeds benefit vocation efforts in the Diocese of Victoria. Chances are \$5 each or 3 chances for \$10. There will be a booth outside of each Mass the weekends of April 2, 2011 and April 9, 2011. Please make checks payable to the Diocese of Victoria. If any questions, please contact James Daughtry, 979-562-2381.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 2 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan, Caitlyn Deem

Sunday, April 3 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, April 9 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann

Sunday, April 10 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhart, Jared & Caleb Krischke

Saturday, April 16 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan

Sunday, April 17 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Happy hope

Newspapers, television, even events in our own lives can reduce or eliminate hope. It's

important to remember to stay in touch with hope.

"Happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:5). Staying in touch with hope is staying in touch with the God who promises a brighter future.

Necessary choice

Being a follower of Christ sometimes means standing apart from friends and neighbors when we would rather blend in. When the Israelites wanted to blend in with their neighbors and followers of Baal, Elijah said, "How long will you straddle the issue? If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). The Israelites chose God. We must do the same.

"He said to them, 'Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here'" (Mark 16:6).



The perfect love waits for you

It is said that in order to attract the perfect love, we have to become the perfect lover. In fact, Easter proves that God is the perfect love. All we have to do to claim this perfect love is to become better lovers ourselves.

Be alone together.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Two people in love need to be alone together so love can grow. Make time to be alone with God every day.

Meet for frequent dinner dates. Can you get enough of your beloved by just having dinner together on Sundays? Try to make Mass more than once a week.

Reread his love letter. *"I will never*

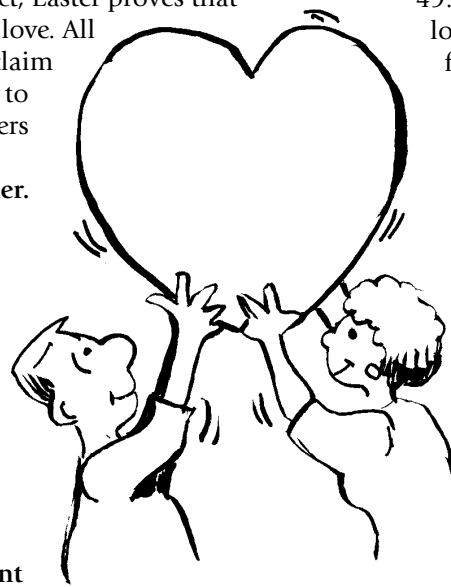
forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name" (Isaiah

49:15-16). Re-reading love letters rekindles feelings of warmth between lovers. The Bible is the longest, most passionate love letter there is. Read it to find out how God really feels about you.

Prove your love.

"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal

myself to him" (John 14:21). Following his Commandments is the surest way we can show God how very much we want to be with him forever.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in the Devil?

Jesus spoke of the Devil, calling him a murderer, a liar, and the father of lies (John 8:44). In fact, the Devil was once the angel Lucifer.

Revelation 12:3-9 tells of a great battle in which Lucifer, who opposed the will of God,

was defeated by the archangel Michael. Lucifer and his angel-followers were cast from Heaven and became known as devils or demons. The majority of the angels supported St. Michael, stayed in Heaven and remained angels.



What will you keep beyond Easter?

A benefit of Lent is that helps us to look at our lives, jettison what is bad, and keep what is good beyond the celebration of Easter. What will you keep beyond Easter?

Fasting? Skipping a meal and spending the time in prayer is a great way to prepare for an important decision or a critical task we are about to take on. It's a way of saying, "God's will be done."

Doing more with less? The simplicity of Lent reminds us of how much we have and how little



we really need. Keep going through the closets and bookshelves of your life and give away what you don't absolutely need.

Thinking of others? American Catholics have more than any Catholics in the world today. When we feel hunger or can't buy everything we want, we can think of our brothers and sisters around the world who are hungry or needy all the time. Being Catholic unites us to the one Body of Christ no matter where we are.

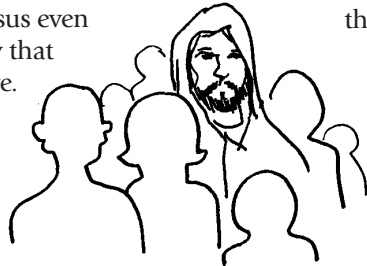
from Scripture

Luke 24:13-35, Jesus hides in plain sight

Jesus was so close to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus, he could have tripped them. Yet neither man recognized him. Jesus even gave clues to his identity that he quoted from Scripture.

The men were too caught up in the pain and disappointment of the crucifixion. Only when he broke bread with them did they see Jesus for who he was. Then he was gone from their sight.

Both Cleopas and his friend had formed such clear ideas of what they wanted Jesus to be that they failed to see



him for who he was. They expected a warrior king and almost missed the universal savior. Aren't we like that, too? Don't we have such expectations of what we want God to be that we miss who he really is?

Christ's presence in our lives isn't revealed so much by the song of angels as the whisper of a prayer. Taking the time to be alone with God, to read Scripture, and seek him in the people around us will help us uncover Christ's presence everywhere.

Q & A Is it a sin to be angry?

Anger in itself isn't a sin, but if we're not careful, anger can lead to sin.



Actions that we take when we are angry can be sinful. We can act in anger to be hurtful, violent, or impulsive, for example. In fact, it can be hard to know the right action to take when we are angry.

"Know this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a man does not accomplish the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-21).

There are very few Gospel accounts of Jesus getting angry. More often than not, he thought before he spoke and kept his cool. On one occasion, however, Jesus got angry when he saw people misusing the temple in Jerusalem for buying and selling instead of for worship. In that case, Jesus became angry because of the disrespect shown to his Father and to his Father's house. His anger did not prevent him from taking proper action to "accomplish the righteousness of God."

Feasts & Celebrations

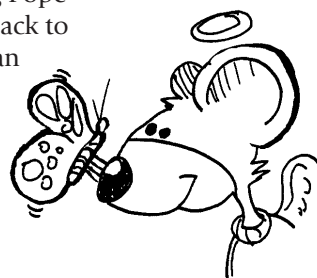
April 21 – St. Anselm (1109). A native of Italy, St. Anselm became a monk in France and reluctantly became bishop of Canterbury, England. He was exiled for rebuffing the king's interference in Church matters.

April 25 - St. Mark (1st century). St. Mark wrote the second Gospel largely based on St. Peter's perspective. Mark accompanied Sts. Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin) on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus and is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.

April 24 – Easter. The feasts of feasts

when we commemorate Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

April 29 – St. Catherine of Siena (1380). A mystic from a young age, St. Catherine had regular conversations with Jesus. At sixteen years old, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and served the poor. Although uneducated, she dictated many books on the Catholic faith. She is credited with coaxing Pope Gregory XI back to Rome from an easy life in France. This month we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.



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