

## FEBRUARY 6, 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

REV. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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### MASS SCHEDULE

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#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 5	6:00 P.M.	Louise & Frances Shimek Family	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 6	9:30 A.M.	Adolph & Adella Kutac	St. John

#### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 12	6:00 P.M.	Daniel S. Spies	St. John
Sunday	Feb. 13	9:30 A.M.	Eddie Pilat	Moravia

#### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 19	6:00 P.M.	L.A. Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 20	9:30 A.M.	Ida Kahanek	St. John

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 112:4-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16 Through the power of God, we can be a light to the world by our loving concern for others, especially the poor and the oppressed.

#### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,27-28,33-34a,37 In Jesus is revealed a new wisdom, a new law, a new way of living. Happy are they who choose to keep his commandments and follow his ways.

#### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18 Psalm 103:1-4,8,10,12-13 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Matthew 5:38-48

Offer no resistance to one who persecutes you. Rather, love your neighbor as you love yourself. As the Lord is gracious and merciful, treat others in the same way, humbling yourself before the Lord.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The question often arises who can be a godparent or sponsor for a Catholic baptism. The rules of the church in these matters are very clear. At least one Catholic sponsor is required at a Catholic baptism. According to the Rite of Baptism, the requirements for a single sponsor are mainly that the sponsor:

1. be mature enough to take the responsibility to testify to the faith of an adult convert, or to profess with the parents the church's faith when a child is being baptized;
2. be able to help the parents as necessary to bring up the child as a good Christian;
3. have received the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist;
4. be a member of the Catholic Church who is living a life in harmony with that faith and with the role of sponsor;
5. be at least 16 years of age, unless an exception is made for a special reason; and,
6. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

If there is only one sponsor, that sponsor may be a man or woman, regardless of the sex of the child. If there are two, it should be one of each sex.

When only one Catholic sponsor is assigned, a baptized non-Catholic Christian may stand in place of the second sponsor. However, this non-Catholic is not a godparent in the canonical sense of the word; he or she is officially referred to as a "Christian witness" to the baptism.

This is the universal teaching of the Catholic Church according to the Catholic Catechism.

#### VICTORIA DIOCESE CATECHETICAL MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Victoria Diocese Organization of Catechetical Ministry Workshop, Feb. 17, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Chancery, Sacred Heart School Library & Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Wharton. For information or to register, call the Catechetical Office at 573-0828.

#### THE YOUTH CONNEXION Greg & Kris Hermes 798-0655

**Feb. 13:** Firefall at 5:00 p.m. in church, followed by Youth Social 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth House for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### TABC CERTIFICATION CLASS

TABC Certification Class will be held at the K.C. Hall, Hallettsville on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 6:00 p.m. The class is open to the public. Cost - \$25 per person. For more information, contact the KC Hall at 361-798-2311.

**ADULT EDUCATION      Feb. 8: Our Food for Eternal Life - the Holy Eucharist**

On the night before He died, Jesus gave us the greatest gift of Himself in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, through which we receive His totality: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. This celebration of our salvation in which bread and wine become the true Body and Blood of Christ, so that we might be nourished and made more like Christ is called the “source and summit” of our Christian life.

**COME AND SEE WEEKEND**

The IWBS Sisters are hosting “Come and See” visits for single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age) on March 5-6 and April 9-10 at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria. If interested, check them out at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org), call 361-575-7111, or email [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) or [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com) for more details or to make a reservation.

**PRO LIFE**

Whether we are talking about pain suffered by unborn children, or about late term abortions, or about infanticide, we inevitably focus on the humanity of the unborn child...Once we as a nation rally around any one of these issues to affirm the sanctity of life, we will see the importance of affirming this (life ethic) principle across the board. (from ABORTION & THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION BY PRES. RONALD REAGAN 1984)

**FINANCIAL COURSE**

We had a very successful Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course in the Fall. We started another course on Monday, January 31, and will be held each Monday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for 13 weeks at Sacred Heart. The cost of the course is \$99 per couple or \$99 per person. If you are interested in taking this Dave Ramsey Course, or know of anyone who is interested, please call the Sacred Heart Rectory at 361-798-5888 to register. Even though the course started last Monday it is not too late to begin.

**CHURCH CLEANERS & USHERS**

St. John’s Church cleaning list for the month of February: Grace Sumbera, Josie Hermis & Evelyn Hermis.  
St. John’s Ushers for the month of February: James Daughtry & Leo Janda.  
Moravia Church cleaning list for the month of February: Arlene Becan & Janis Hrcncir.  
Moravia Ushers for the month of February: Hilbert Henke Jr. & Dale Janak

**MEMORIALS**

In memory of Doraine Buck to Ascension Cemetery Fund by Peoples State Bank, Hallettsville, TX. - \$10.

**ST. JOHN’S BINGO STAND**

St. John’s Bingo Stand will be removed and replaced. If anyone is interested in the old stand, please call Robert Mendel by February 21 at 979-562-2246 or 979-743-9516.

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)**

**THE GENERATIONS OF FAITH SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY HAS CHANGED DUE TO CATECHISTS’ AVAILABILITY. Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at the St. John’s Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. from 5:30PM-8:15PM.** We apologize for any inconvenience. We will continue our study of “Professing Our Faith” with “We Believe in Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.” 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 February 20, 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.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, February 5 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Clayton & April Brossmann, James Lofland  
Sunday, February 6 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Miranda Shimek  
Saturday, February 12 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann  
Sunday, February 13 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Jared & Caleb Krischke  
Saturday, February 19 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan, Caitlyn Deem  
Sunday, February 20 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Seth & Logan Eckhart, Blaine Besetzny

**REFLECTION OF FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Listed below is the information pertaining to your Parish’s Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign efforts:

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Parish Goal	\$21,607.00
Total Number of Parishioners Pledging	40
Total Amount Parishioners Pledged	\$38,620.00
Total Amount Parishioners Contributed	\$26,147.28

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, MORAVIA**

Parish Goal	\$27,666.00
Total Number of Parishioners Pledging	40
Total Amount Parishioners Pledged	\$40,059.50
Total Amount Parishioners Contributed	\$25,306.93

The campaign began in 2008 and it will conclude at the end of 2012.



# Growing in FAITH™

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

February 2011

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Others first

Most of us will never feel even a small part of the pain Jesus endured during his crucifixion.

What is most amazing, however, is that Jesus was able to put aside his own incredible pain to think of others. From the Cross, he forgave his enemies, won the good thief's soul, made final arrangements for his mother's care, and prayed for his persecutors. He put others first. He asks that we do the same.

### Always hope

Sin and negative thinking go hand in hand. We lose hope and think God isn't watching or doesn't care. Thinking positively and hopefully helps to avoid sin. Thanks be to God for second chances!

### In the stars?

Wondering about your future? If you could read the future in the stars, decisions would be easier and success could be guaranteed. But only God knows your future. Don't trust the stars; trust the one who made them.



## Simple ways to live a better life

The weeks before Lent are a good time to decide how to live a holier, happier life. Trying just one of these ideas can make a big difference in the way you live:

**Live in the moment.** We can't change the past and don't know the future. The choices we make right now are all that count.

**Be the real you.** Don't compare yourself with others or try to imitate people who are smarter, richer, or cooler. God loves each of us for who we are, not who we are like.

**Avoid drama.** If you find yourself seeking attention and sympathy from other people – or get drawn in by others who do – try substituting

activities or people you find positive and interesting instead.

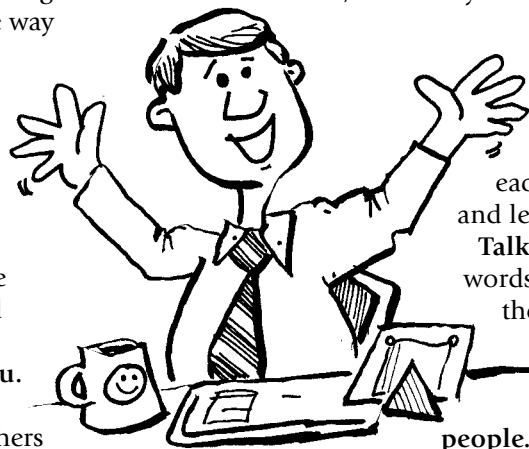
**Face your fears.** List your worst fears, the ones you are afraid to tell anyone. Are they realistic? If so, take action to resolve them. Otherwise, cross each off your list and let it go.

**Talk less.** Weigh your words before you say them. Spend more time listening.

**Spend time with happy**

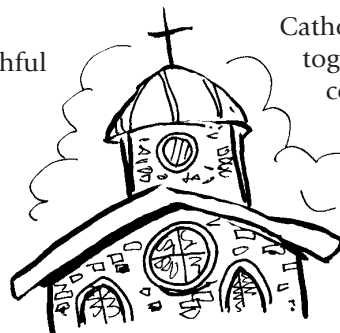
**people.** Surround yourself with people who are positive and want to improve their lives. Let go of those who drain your energy.

**Work happy.** No matter how you earn a paycheck, give it your very best effort. That turns a job into a prayer.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

A parish is "a stable community of the faithful within a particular church or diocese, whose pastoral care is confided by the bishop to a priest as pastor (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2179). It is where



## What is a parish?

Catholics in the area can come together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

For Catholics today, our parishes are our spiritual homes. It is where we learn ways to live our faith, deepen our practice, exhibit charity, and join in worship.

## “Please tempt me!”

Believe it or not, temptation can actually be good for us. In fact, the time to worry is when we don't feel we are being tempted.

**Temptation guards against overconfidence.** When life is easy, we can deceive ourselves into thinking we are stronger than we really are. That's when opportunities for sin can sneak up on us. How do we know we can resist if we haven't been tempted? Suffering from temptation helps us to identify our weaknesses so we can build defenses.



**Resisting temptations strengthens virtues.** In order to resist evil, we have to practice virtue. To resist pride, we practice humility. To counter selfishness, we practice charity. The more we use our virtues, the stronger they will become.

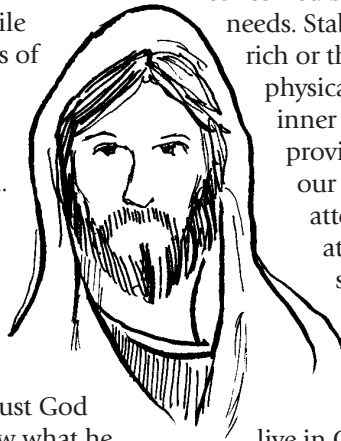
**Temptation exposes our real selves.** Our imperfect world full of temptations makes it tough to do the right thing all the time. How we deal with temptation shows us who we really are. Anyone can call himself a follower of Jesus but the proof is in the living.

### from Scripture

### Matthew 6:24-34, Our choice

In Jesus' day, scribes and Pharisees often lived comfortably while urging the people to heights of sacrifice and penance they didn't observe themselves. The message was right but the messengers were flawed. Instead, Jesus took on our humanity and spoke with authority. He experienced hunger and thirst, and didn't always have a place to sleep. So when he counseled his listeners to trust God with all their needs, he knew what he was asking.

Jesus said don't worry. By that he meant that don't be anxious and



concerned beyond our immediate needs. Stability in this world for the rich or the poor comes not from physical provisions but from the inner peace that only God can provide. By worrying about our physical needs, we draw attention away from attaining the inner stability so necessary for peace.

From experience, Jesus knows we have a choice. We can live in the world or we can live in God's Kingdom, but we cannot do both. Jesus wants us to invest in our future with him. God will take care of the rest.

### Q & A What are the “Four Marks of the Church?”

When Jesus founded the Church, he gave it four characteristics called, “The Four Marks of the Church:” it is **one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic.** The Nicene Creed we profess during Mass repeats these Marks.



First, the Church is **one**, united by the Trinity, and all members are united in their belief, worship, sacraments, tradition, and leadership. For example, Catholics all over the world believe the same truths and celebrate the same Mass.

The Church is **holy** because Jesus established it and made it holy. He continues to share his grace with the Church and the Church helps her members live holy, Christ-like lives.

It is **Catholic**, meaning “universal,” and unites the faithful on earth with those in Heaven and in Purgatory. And, Jesus intended the Church for all of human kind – for all people, everywhere.

Finally, the Church is **apostolic** because Jesus gave authority to St. Peter, the first Pope, and the other apostles, the first bishops. This authority has been handed on to their successors throughout the centuries.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**February 8 – St. Jerome Emiliani (1537).** While serving as a militia officer for Venice, St. Jerome Emiliani was imprisoned by the enemy. In prison he taught himself how to pray and was inspired to escape safely. In response, he became a priest and with his own resources opened orphanages, a homeless shelter, and a hospital.

**February 14 – St. Cyril (869).** Along with his brother Methodius, St. Cyril was a missionary, teacher, and patron of the Slavic people. He invented an alphabet still used in some Eastern liturgies, and preached the Gospel in a

more easily understood manner. He died in Rome shortly after taking the monastic habit.

**February 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072).** Childhood deprivation may have created a desire for an austere life. St. Peter Damian became a devoted and disciplined monk but was called to service as a bishop for many years and served as advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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