

JANUARY 9, 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

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	Jan. 8	6:00 P.M.	Gladys Lux	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 9	9:30 A.M.	Charles & Julie Neskora	Moravia

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 15	6:00 P.M.	L.A. & Vera Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 16	9:30 A.M.	Vernon Havrda	St. John

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 22	6:00 P.M.	Jimmy Sanchez	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 23	9:30 A.M.	Lorene Vaculik	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. To him be glory and praise! After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins.

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 49:3,5-6 Psalm 40:2,4,7-10 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the light of the nations who came to do the Father's will. In Christ we have been called to be a holy people.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 8:23-9:3 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

We have seen a great light: Jesus, the Messiah, who heals us of our sin and who is our unity and peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. As we celebrate this feast, we also remember our own baptism which was a very important day in our faith life. If you do not know the date of your baptism, look it up and then celebrate it each year just as you celebrate your birthday.

With the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, we now conclude the Christmas season and go into Ordinary Time. Again, we thank everyone who helped in any way to make this past Christmas such a beautiful celebration.

This week Fr. Tommy will be on our Annual Priest Retreat from Sunday evening till Thursday evening with half of the priests of the diocese. The following week I will be on retreat with the other half of the priests.

We had a very successful Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course in the Fall. We will be starting another one on Monday, January 31. It will be each Monday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for 13 weeks at Sacred Heart. 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.

MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS & USHERS

Moravia Church cleaners for the month of January: Barbara Janak and Angie Kubenka

Ushers for January for Moravia Church: Robert Kendall and Phil Guenther

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

The Moravia Altar Society meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 17th at the parish hall starting at 6:30 p.m.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

The Moravia Altar Society currently does not have a yearly fundraiser. The parish bingo was cancelled permanently last year due to lack of help and attendance. The December bingo was our fund raiser and all proceeds went to the society. Therefore, this year we are trying a No Bake Bake Sale. Anyone wishing to donate toward our Altar Society may do so by contacting Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CRIB

St. John Church crib and decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 9th beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m. (After mass which is in Moravia)

MORAVIA CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

In memory of Ann & Thelma Spies by Arthur Spies, Jr., in memory of Eddie Pilat by Pat Pilat family, Harvey Pilat family, Donald Brom family and Della Pilat, in memory of Joe & Vlasta Holik and Leroy Rehak Sr. by Franklin & Henrietta Filip, in memory of Konvicka and Holmes parents by Dyrel & Arlene Holmes, in Thanksgiving of recovery of Matt Holmes by Dyrel & Arlene Holmes, in memory of Clarence Haas by Evelyn & Barbara Haas, in memory of Anton, Marie & Pat Hrcir by Anthony Hrcir, in memory of Timothy & Mark Olsovsky by Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky, in memory of Charles, Mary & Alex Hrcir by Dennis & Barbara Janak, in memory of F.C. Sparks, Victor & Hermina Rybak by Eunice Sparks, in memory of Leo & Viola Henke and Joe N. Steffek by Leo & Dorothy Henke, in memory of Daniel S. Spies by Mary Ann Spies, in memory of L.A. & Vera Wenglar by Phil and Kathy Guenther family, in memory of Dominic Loth by Leroy & Lillie Loth, in memory of parents and grandparents of Fr. John Peters.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, January 19, 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 Jesus' Death and Resurrection: Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday." 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 January 16, 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.

MEMORIALS

Ascension of Our Lord Building Fund

In memory of Irene Orsak by Chris & Monica Janacek \$50
In memory of Pam Bohac Dornak by David & Dorothy Young \$20

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Seth & Logan Eckhardt, James Lofland
Sunday, January 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

Saturday, January 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan
Sunday, January 16 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny, James Lofland

Saturday, January 22 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, James Lofland
Sunday, January 23 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Miranda Shimek

PRO LIFE

God didn't just send a Messiah; He came Himself! Christmas is the feast not only of the birth of Jesus, but of the Incarnation - - the whole mystery of God becoming human. Jesus was an embryo, a fetus, and an unborn child. Life in the womb, which was already sacred because it comes from God, is now made even more holy, and worthy of our every sacrifice. The protection of everyone's life is our business. (from Nov-Dec Priest for Life Newsletter)

Next Bulletin: Sunday, Jan. 23rd

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20th, 2011



Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. — Mt: 3:13-15

Illustration from the Lectorium for Mass 65601, 1998, 1970 CCC.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" — Jn 1:29-30

Illustration from the Lectorium for Mass 65601, 1998, 1970 CCC.



Search your heart.
Hear His voice.
Answer His call.

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2011

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Mass matters

Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." (John 6:53). Don't miss a single Sunday or Holy Day opportunity to have Jesus' life within you.

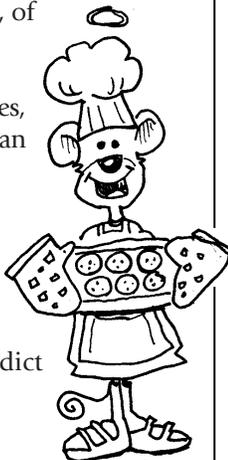
Tough times?

God will help you through whatever tough times you face. "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on him.

The Holy Father on joy

"The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And he is joy. Joy is the gift in which all the other gifts are included. It is the expression of happiness, of being in harmony with ourselves, that which can only come from being in harmony with God and with his creation."

(Pope Benedict XVI)



Find a way to the real world

As real as this life seems, it is just a stopover. The real world for us is Heaven and the eternity we hope to spend there. A sure way to get there is to live a holy life on Earth.

Follow the model. When Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6), he meant for us to follow him and live as he lived. Jesus didn't retreat from the world. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Search the Gospels for clues to how you can imitate Jesus in your own life.

Eliminate distractions. Are there thoughts or activities which hold your attention longer than they deserve? For

example, do you watch more television than you should, or spend too much time on the

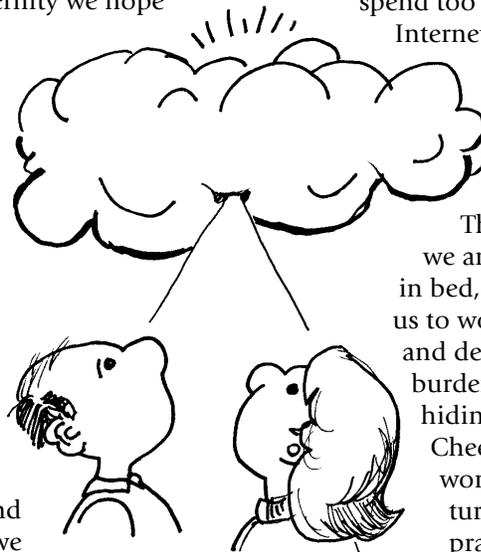
Internet? Cut back and give the time you save to God in some way.

Embrace the tough stuff.

There are days when we are tempted to stay in bed, but God intends us to work (Genesis 2:15) and deal with our burdens instead of hiding from them. Cheerfully handling work and suffering turns problems into prayers.

Look over your shoulder.

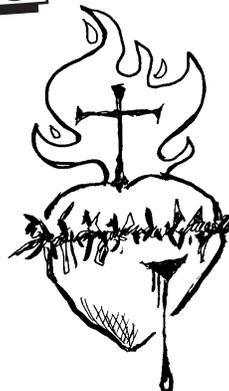
God is with us each minute of every day in a very real sense. Become more conscious of his presence and you will increase his influence over your actions.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

What does the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus mean?

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's love for us. It is often a heart surrounded by flame, pierced by a lance, topped by a cross, and circled by a crown of thorns.



Jesus' love for us burns bright and intense like a flame. His heart is pierced by the lance representing our sins and the crown of thorns and the cross remind us of the death he suffered to bring us life.

Tune out the world and tune into God

In our noisy world, it can be hard to hear God's voice over the din. Yet, listening is as important as talking during prayer. *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies"* (Isaiah 30:15). Try these ideas for some quiet listening in your day:

Quiet sight: during daylight hours, go to a window and look out. Ask God to help you see the familiar sight with new eyes. Discover something you hadn't noticed before.



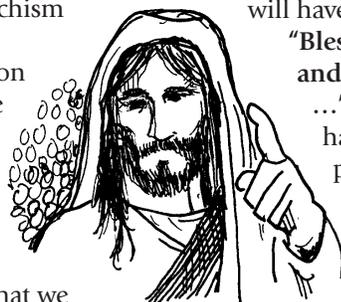
Quiet reading: Bring your Bible or devotional reading to a quiet spot. Read at least 10 verses and take 15 minutes to meditate on them. Be still and allow God to speak to you by whatever means he chooses.

Quiet retreat: several websites offer mini retreats as a way to enter into quiet prayer during your day. This is especially helpful if you spend a lot of time during the day in front of a computer screen. See www.loyolapress.com and click on 3-minute retreat, for an example.

from Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12, paths to happiness

God wants us to be happy. When he created us, he put into our hearts the desire to be happy (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1718). During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes – guaranteed ways to obtain peace here and happiness in Heaven.



"Blessed are the poor in spirit ..." Recognize that we need God to compensate for our weakness. Depend upon his help.

"Blessed are they who mourn ..." God knows what you need even better than you do. Trust him to strengthen you and bring you comfort.

"Blessed are the meek ..." Jesus is meek and gentle. Imitate him and you will have everlasting peace.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..." Peacefully accept whatever happens knowing that Jesus promises to give you courage.

"Blessed are the merciful ..." Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. If we show

mercy, we are guaranteed mercy. Perhaps the real secret to happiness is remembering that when we follow Jesus, there will always be a happy ending.

Q Can I be forgiven & for the bad things A I have done?

God loves us so much that he is ready to forgive anything we have done. Jesus said, *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners"* (Matthew 9:13). He knew we would sin and need forgiveness. The key is to ask.



As difficult as offering forgiveness to others can be, forgiving ourselves may be even harder.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God. But second to that is to *"... love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mark 12:31). That means he wants us to behave in a loving way toward all people God created – including ourselves. Forgiveness is critical.

The first step is to ask God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Don't worry that you may shock the priest by what you tell him. If he has been a priest for any length of time, he won't shock easily. When you finish the penance he gives you, resolve to avoid sin and start fresh. If God is ready to forgive you, can you do any less?

Feasts & Celebrations

January 17 – St. Anthony the Abbot (355). Born to a rich family around 250 A.D. in Egypt, St. Anthony gave up his riches to live a life of simplicity in the desert. He is the founder of monasticism.

January 21 – St. Agnes (258). At a young age, St. Agnes pledged chastity for Jesus. Reportedly she was turned in for being a Christian by a suitor whom she refused to marry. She maintained her chastity and her faith and was executed as a result.

January 24 - St. Francis de Sales (1622). As bishop of Geneva, St.

Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St. Francis wrote Introduction to the Devout Life, which is as applicable today as it was in his day.

January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274). St. Thomas was a Dominican teacher and scholar. He is considered by the Church as the preeminent spokesman for the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation.



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