

MAY 15, 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

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

WEBSITE: WWW.SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

E-MAIL: RECTORY@SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 14	6:00 P.M.	Fred & Martha Hermes	St. John
Sunday	May 15	9:30 A.M.	Ross, Diane & Devan Goldberg	St. John

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 21	6:00 P.M.	Helen Etzler	Moravia
Sunday	May 22	9:30 A.M.	Henry R. & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 28	6:00 P.M.	Edward E. Kusy	St. John
Sunday	May 29	9:30 A.M.	Leo & Viola Henke	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 23:1-6 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10 God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. Through his wounds we have been healed and have returned to our shepherd. Let us listen to his voice and follow him.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

We are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood" called to place our faith and trust in the Spirit of Jesus who guides the community of faith.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21

The people of Samaria come to worship the Lord and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is this same Spirit who leads us into the truth. In the body, Jesus was put to death; in the Spirit, he was raised to life. We are called to this same glory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Prayer in our life is very important. Everything we do should be based on prayer. Jesus Himself would go off and pray to His Father, especially when He was facing a difficult situation.

Too often we forget about prayer in our daily lives and reserve it for Mass time on the weekend. As faithful followers of Jesus we need to have prayer individually and together. We should always have time for prayer at all of our meetings and gatherings. This reminds us of who we are and that we depend on God for everything in our lives.

The pews at Ascension are in the process of being refinished. They are looking good. We will also replace the padding on the kneelers.

We are working on the septic tanks both at Moravia and St. John. This is a must to keep everything operational. We will keep you posted on this work as it progresses.

Congratulations to John Berckenhoff, Kamryn Darilek, Sydney Berckenhoff and Cutter Morin who received their First Holy Communion on Mother's Day.

Prayer for Rain - Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear, then this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all Who seek it, the gift of a bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

PRO LIFE

"Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. There may be legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not.....with regard to abortion and euthanasia." (Pope Benedict XVI)

MORAVIA PICNIC RAFFLE - It's time to get started on a successful picnic raffle. If you would like to make a donation to this year's raffle, please contact Arlene Becan at 798-9320 or Mary Ann Spies at 798-5560.

ST. JOHN'S PICNIC RAFFLE - Anyone wishing to make donations for the St. John's Picnic raffle call Theresa Eckhardt at 743-4435 or Ann McBride at 561-8440.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

We want to congratulate John Berckenhoff, Sydney Berckenhoff, Kamryn Darilek, and Cutter Morin on receiving their second and third sacraments, First Reconciliation and First Communion!

Our monthly meetings for the 2010-2011 GOF year have come to a close. We had a fun, fantastic year as we studied the Nicene Creed. We would like to thank all the parents and parishioners who supported us so that we could have such a successful year.

We wish each of you a safe, fun summer. Remember, your faith cannot take a break during the summer—see you at Mass! For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH REPORT FOR 2010-2011

Ascension of Our Lord and St. John the Baptist

We studied the Nicene Creed following Harcourt Religion Publishers' Professing Our Faith Intergenerational Faith Formation Program Guide. All students were trained in Safe Environment per Diocesan guidelines. We experienced an overall attendance average of 95% for students and parents. Our parents and parishioners were very supportive. We had one student receive Confirmation and four students receive First Reconciliation and First Communion.

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 after Mass this Sunday, May 1, 2011, at St. John the Baptist. Please make checks payable to the Diocese of Victoria. If any questions, please contact James Daughtry, 979-562-2381.

ASCENSION CHURCH EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

In memory of F.C. Sparks, Victor and Hermina Rybak by Eunice Sparks, In memory of Clarence Haas by Evelyn and Barbara Haas, In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Appelt, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Leister and Delores Appelt by Donna Coldeway, In memory of Joe and Larry Zatopek, John and Angelina Trlica by Mildred Hajek, In memory of Emilie and Charles B. Halata, Lillie and Bohumil Bohuslav by Arnold & Gene Marie Bohuslav, In memory of August and Rose Konvicka by Aubrey and Vernell Shanks, In memory of Anton, Marie and Patrick Hrcncir by Anthony Hrcncir, In memory of Timothy and Mark Olsovsky by Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky, In memory of Edmund and Julie Filip by Thomas and Rose Ann Brosh, In memory of L. A. & Vera Wenglar by Phil and Kathy Guenther, In memory of Charles, Mary and Alex Hrcncir by Dennis and Barbara Janak.

MEMORIALS

Ascension Building Fund

In memory of Alvin Jurena by Janice Chovanec

\$20

THANK YOU - Thank you to the Moravia KJZT #44 for the \$100 gift to help with the Religious Education Program

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 14 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Seth Eckhardt, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

Sunday, May 15 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Caleb Krischke

Saturday, May 21 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan & Caitlyn Deem

Sunday, May 22 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Clayton & April Brossmann, Caleb Krischke

Saturday, May 28 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Caitlyn Deem & James Lofland

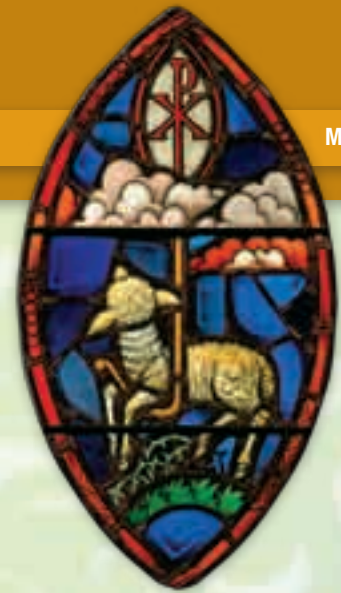
Sunday, May 29 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Seth Eckhardt, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

THE YOUTH CONNEXION - Greg & Kris Hermes 798-0655

Youth News: May Fire Fall & Youth Social/Cook-out on May 15 at Sacred Heart - In Honor of our High School Graduates! The last Fire Fall this school year will be on Sunday, May 15. The Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 5 p.m. in the church and will be offered for the intentions of all the high school graduates of our parishes. A social and cook-out will immediately follow at the Youth House in honor of our Seniors. All youth from 8th grade through 12th grade, please come and pray for our graduates at 5 p.m. and then stay to celebrate with our seniors at the cook-out. This is for Sacred Heart, Moravia and St. John parishes.

SAVE THE DATE - July 13 - 6:00 p.m. - In celebration of the beatification of Pope John Paul II, Sacred Heart Youth Group is sponsoring a parish Movie Night on Wednesday, July 13 at 6pm in the Sacred Heart Family Center. The featured film will be Pope John Paul II, starring Academy Award - and Golden Globe - winning actor John Voight as the pope. The movie was made in cooperation with the Vatican and received a blessing from Pope Benedict XVI. Bring your family and friends! Admission and pop-corn are FREE. Other movie concessions will be sold to benefit our parish Youth Group. Copies of the DVD and other JP II materials will be available for sale. Free-will donations are welcome. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will promptly begin at 6 p.m. For more information contact Fr. Tommy Chen. All are welcome.

SACRED HEART PARISH PICNIC AT THE KC HALL ON SUNDAY, MAY 29TH: Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner with cornbread dressing - \$7.50 for adults & 4.00 for children. Music on Main Pavilion 11:00 am-1:00 pm by J & S Playboys. Free dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten 1:00-9:00 pm by The Red Ravens & Jodie Mikula Orchestra. Auction begins 1:00 p.m. Bingo, cake walk, country store, raffle, kiddie rides & games. Guinea Pig Plop sponsored by Sacred Heart Youth. Washer Pitching Tournament begins at 5:00 p.m. Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, funnel cakes, sno-cones & more all afternoon!!



The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Acts 2:14A, 36–41
1 Peter 2:20B–25
John 10:1–10

MONDAY

John 10:11–18
"I am the good shepherd."

TUESDAY

John 10:22–30
"My sheep hear my voice."

WEDNESDAY

John 12:44–50
"I have come as light into the world . . ."

THURSDAY

John 13:16–20
"I know whom I have chosen."

FRIDAY

John 14:1–6
"Believe in God, believe also in me."

SATURDAY

John 14:7–14
"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Saved for Abundant Life

The image of the Good Shepherd offers us comfort and hope. Certainly, artistic representations give us a picture of great tranquility and peace. When we hear the words "Good Shepherd," we immediately associate them with today's responsorial psalm (23): "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures."

The readings certainly confirm the sense of solace and security that the Good Shepherd offers, but they also offer us a fuller context of the work of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He saves his flock that is imperiled in many ways. The context that surrounds the work of the Good Shepherd suggests great danger, not just a peaceful field for grazing.

Peter, in today's first reading, speaks of salvation "from this corrupt generation," the culture that is marked by sin and division. In the second reading, Peter's letter speaks of the internal divisions and sins we suffer and from which we are healed by the Good Shepherd,

our wounds and our straying from righteousness. The words of Jesus in the Gospel speak of violence and destructive forces to which the sheep are subject.

When we let the powerful message of these readings touch us, we realize that the Good Shepherd who knows us and whom we know saves us from external dangers (in the world) and internal dangers (the wounds we carry inside ourselves). We desperately need the Good Shepherd. We clearly need to attach ourselves to his flock. In that flock, we are saved from whatever would diminish or even destroy us. In that flock, we find abundant life.



The Faith of the Church

We all stand in need of salvation. We all need to be saved from the sin and evil that marks our world and our inner lives. Knowing this need, we can turn with confidence to the one who alone can save us, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep and then takes it up again, so that they may have abundant life (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 754).



Questions of the Week

If we are very busy—and so many of us are—we may never stop and take a look at our deepest needs. If we do not recognize our needs, we may not recognize that we need a savior, the Good Shepherd who leads us.

Adults

How do I take stock of my life and come to understand my deepest needs and, ultimately, my complete reliance on the Lord?

Children

How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lead me and guide me in my life?

Responding to God's Word . . .

The pastoral ministry of the Church literally means the ministry or service of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd (pastor) continued in the Church. All of us collectively belong to the flock of Jesus and benefit from his saving work and guidance as our Good Shepherd. At the same time, in the flock of Jesus, we also share responsibility for one another.

We do not save each other. Jesus, the Good Shepherd has saved us. What we do is bring that saving work of Jesus to others through our words, our actions, and our witness. We enable the loving and saving care of the Good Shepherd to

be present and active in our world today.

This Sunday celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This reminds us of our shared responsibility to make the Good Shepherd real and present in our world. Certainly, the ordained ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons is a graced way that the Good Shepherd remains present to his Church.

Religious life, too, offers a witness of life and works to the Lord's shepherding of his people. This vocation or calling to make the Good Shepherd present also happens in the sacrament of marriage and the dedicated single life. It is our shared responsibility.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. As you pray before meals, add a prayer of gratitude for Jesus, the Good Shepherd of our souls and pray for people to fulfill their vocations in life.

In the workplace or in school. Offer a word of encouragement to people as they try to live out their vocation, whether as priests, religious, married couples, or dedicated single people.

In the community. Identify the struggles and dangers particular to your community and focus on the ways that the Good Shepherd might be a saving presence.



Meditation Moment

A woman was diagnosed as being terminally ill. For a while, she continued to live pretty much as she always did. Then, one day, she said to herself, "What am I doing? What am I building a bank account for? What am I living this way for?" Then she decided to begin living as her heart dictated. That woman lived 15 more months. Before she died, she confided to a friend, "The last 15 months of my life were the richest of my entire life."

For reflection . . .

The woman's experience invites me to ask: What was one of the richest periods of my entire life?

I SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS WORLD BUT ONCE. ANY GOOD THAT I CAN DO, OR ANY KINDNESS THAT I CAN SHOW TO ANY HUMAN BEING, LET ME DO IT NOW AND NOT DEFER IT. FOR I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.

ATTRIBUTED TO STEPHEN GRELLET (ADAPTED)

FROM VISION BY MARK LINK, SJ

Let Me Know Your Voice

Lord Jesus,
you said that your sheep
recognize your voice. Help me
to recognize your voice within and
beyond the noises of this world. Help me
to hear you when circumstances seem
overwhelming and even crushing. Help
me to hear your voice when I am caught
up in my own enjoyment and pursuits.
Help me to hear your voice in other
people, in your holy Church, in your
holy Word. In every circumstance,
make me alert and attentive.
And be my Good Shepherd
forever and ever.
Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart
as a guide for your faith journey
this week.

In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord God says, "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out" (34:11). Know that God does not just watch over us passively but actively cares for us and pursues us.

Profile in Faith

Shepherds of Bethlehem

The shepherds of Bethlehem, tending their flocks, went in faith to see the newborn Jesus who would shepherd his people, Israel. They took what they had seen and experienced and joyfully shared the good news of the one who would be a Good Shepherd for all.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
January 26, 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that the material reviewed is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those granting the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Author: Louis J. Camel1

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Front photo: Gene Plaisted, OSC/The Crosiers

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright 1989, 1993, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2011 RCL Publishing LLC. All rights reserved.

The Faith Connection® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is published weekly by RCL Benziger, 206 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

877-275-4725

Contact us at RCLBenziger.com

