

**APRIL 15, 2012**

**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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**Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday**

Saturday	April 14	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Martha Besetzny & Steven Kusy	St. John
Sunday	April 15	9:30 A.M.	Living & Deceased Members of Richter Family	Moravia

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Saturday	April 21	6:00 P.M.	Living & Deceased Members of Moravia KJZT Society #44	Moravia
Sunday	April 22	9:30 A.M.	Ervin, Sr. & Bernice Neskora 60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	Moravia

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Saturday	April 28	6:00 P.M.	Alvin & Alma Jurena	St. John
Sunday	April 29	9:30 A.M.	Laurie Kristinik	St. John

**First Friday**

Friday	May 4	8:00 A.M.	Pat Hrnecir	St. John
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**THE WORD OF GOD**

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**Second Sunday of Easter (Or Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

Readings: Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Readings: Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Psalm 4:2,4,7-9 1 John 2:1-5a Luke 24:35-48

Peter proclaims the wonders of the Lord: The suffering Messiah is raised from the dead and has been glorified. This Jesus is our intercessor, and our offering for sin, our peace.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Readings: 50:Acts 4:8-12 Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,29 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18

Jesus is the "cornerstone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone". He is the good shepherd who laid down his life for us. Through his paschal mystery we have become children of God.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Thank you to everyone who helped with all of the Masses and Services in any way during Holy Week. Thanks to everyone who helped with the music, the decorating of the churches, serving, ushering, lecturing, giving Holy Communion, helping with the Easter Fire & Easter Candle and participating in any other way. May everyone continue to have a very blessed Easter Season.

We are in the process of starting to build a new pavilion at Moravia. It will be a great asset to the parish and the picnic. The approximate cost will be \$109,000. Anyone wishing to donate to this project may make checks payable to Ascension Church Pavilion Fund. We will acknowledge the donors in the following way:

Platinum - \$5,000 & Over	Silver - \$500 to \$999	Blue Ribbon - \$100 to \$249
Gold - \$1,000 to \$4,999	Bronze - \$250 to \$499	

We have started the fund with a \$1,000 donation from Joe & Debbie Neskora. A drawing of the Pavilion is in the foyer of the church in Moravia.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Church today, April 15<sup>th</sup>, from 3-4 p.m. Everyone is invited.

**ST. JOHN RAFFLE DONATIONS**

We are getting to work on the raffle for St. John picnic. We are actively accepting cash prize donations or gift certificates for it. Deadline is May 7, 2012. To make a donation please contact Ann McBride at 979-561-8440 or Theresa Eckhardt at 979-743-4435

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)**

Our next Generations of Faith is on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. We will continue our study of "Responding in Prayer" by discussing "The Lord's Prayer." If you wish to participate in the \$5.00 sandwich meal, please notify Mrs. Dana, 979-562-2381 or 713-822-3019, by Sunday, April 15, 2012.

**TRUCK RAFFLE**

Truck Raffle tickets are now available at the Sacred Heart Rectory for a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado LT1500 4x4 Z-71 Crew Cab (Value \$38,090) & 13 other prizes! Drawing will be held at the Spring Picnic on May 27. Tickets \$100 each.

## MEMORIAL

Fr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse

In memory of Laddie Siegel by Willie E. Barborak

\$15

### ST. JOHN EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

**Barbara Appelt** in memory of Martha Appelt, Edward Appelt & Gene Slavik; **Arnold & Dorothy Berger** in memory of Lebert, Leona & Donald Berger, Milton, Stella & Stanley Schmidt; **Albert & Agnes Berckenhoff** in memory of Rudolph & Rosie Berckenhoff, Eugene, Rudy & Bill Berckenhoff, Silven & Clare Zapalac; **Alvin & Gladys Besetzny** in memory of Charles Besetzny and Anton Hrcir Families; **Alphonse Besetzny**; **Robert & Pam Besetzny** in memory of the deceased members of the Havrda & Joost Families; **Sharon & Marcus Bujnoch** in memory of Victor Bujnoch; **The James Daughtry Family** in honor and memory of all living and deceased members of our family; **Claudette, Darrell & Ella Lynn Demel** in memory of Evelyn Novosad; **Elsie Farek** in memory of Tom Farek; **Frank J. Forestier** in memory of Frank Forestier Jr., Laurence Forestier, & Kristian Guidry, Louis Strecker, Sr. & Mae Rita Doredant; **Walter & Josie Hermis & Dylan Goldberg** in memory of Ross, Diane & Devan Goldberg, Fred & Martha Hermis & George Vasek; **Harvey & Evelyn Hermis** in memory of all deceased members of the Janik & Hermis Families; **Leo & Joyce Janda** in memory of all deceased members of Herbert Berger & Joseph Janda Families; **Daryl & Laura Kutac**; **Ervin Mendel** in memory of Irene Mendel; **Diane Barry Roeder**.

### DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

The DSA (Diocesan Services Appeal) for 2011 for St. John is as follows: Parish Goal - \$5,307.00. Total number of Parishioners giving: 17. Total amount contributed: \$2,110.00. The parish responsibility for the difference between the goal and the amount contributed is \$3,197.00. The goal for next year is \$6,418.00.

The DSA for Ascension of Our Lord for 2011 is as follows: Parish Goal: \$4,982.00. Total number of Parishioners giving: 17. Total amount contributed: \$2,675.00. The parish responsibility for the difference between the goal & the contributed amount is \$2,307.00. The goal for next year is \$5,718.00.

The goal for each parish is based on the Sunday collection for the year. It does not include the picnics. The picnic money is totally for the parish.

### MASS & HEALING PRAYER

Come join us at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**, 105 N. William St., Victoria as Fr. Phi Nguyen celebrates **Mass and healing prayer** on **May 19 at 10:00 a.m.** Joining Fr. Phi in the healing service will be Emma De Guzman, a Filipino Catholic Evangelist, Stigmatist, Mystic & visionary who also has a gift of healing. The usual date of the Mass and Healing Service has been changed to May 19 to accommodate the presence of Emma De Guzman.

### LAST FIREFALL FOR THE SPRING IN HONOR OF GRADUATING SENIORS

#### **PLEASE NOTICE THE TIME CHANGE due to the Sacred Heart Spanish Mass**

All graduating seniors of Sacred Heart parish and missions and all 8th grade and high school youth are cordially invited to attend the last Spring Firefall Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday, April 29 from 6-7pm in Sacred Heart Church. The intention of the Holy Hour will be for the blessing and success of all graduating seniors. An individual benediction will be given to each Senior who is present at the Holy Hour. A hamburger supper reception will be given at the Youth House by the Youth Group for all the youth who attend the Holy Hour. Please come and show your support to our graduating Seniors! (Please call Fr. Tommy at the rectory to RSVP for the hamburger supper by Fri. Apr. 27 by 4pm.)

### DIOCESAN BOY'S VOCATION CAMP TO BE HELD JULY 15-18

Application forms are now available from Fr. Tommy for the Diocesan Boy's Vocation Camp to be held at Cooper's Farm July 15-18. Young men who have completed their 8th grade year by the summer through 21 years of age are eligible to attend the camp. This camp is staffed by the Diocesan Seminarians and some of the junior clergy of the diocese. Spaces are limited, so sign up today!

### ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 14 - 6:00 p.m. St. John - James Lofland, Josh Becan  
Sunday, April 15 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Miranda Shimek & Riley Lux  
Saturday, April 21 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Josh & Ashley Becan  
Sunday, April 22 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke, Miranda Shimek  
Saturday, April 28 - 6:00 p.m. St. John - James Lofland, Riley Lux, Josh Becan  
Sunday, April 29 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Dylan Goldberg, Seth Eckhardt, April Brossmann

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING & REFRESHER COURSE

All current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who did not attend the course on Holy Tuesday **AND** all those interested in becoming commissioned to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion who have not attended the training, must attend the make-up session on Monday, April 30 from 7:00-9:00 p, in the Sacred Heart Church. For current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who miss this final class and do not contact the rectory, we will assume that you no longer wish to serve as an Extraordinary Minister.

### PRO LIFE NEWS

Both the original Health and Human Services Mandate and the self-proclaimed "accommodation" - which Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops dismissed out of hand and called "UNACCEPTABLE" - does two things: 1.) It compels every employer in America to cooperate in the gravely sinful act of abortion by forcing them to pay for 100% of an employee's prescription for abortion-causing drugs. 2.) It also forces them to instruct employees on how to obtain these morally-objectionable abortion-causing drugs. I'm talking about scientifically certified abortion-inducing drugs like the "morning after" pill ... "ella"... and "Plan B". Simply put, the HHS Mandate wants to force employers to say something that goes against their conscience. To compel them to promote a culture of death they ardently oppose... (From March 2012 letter Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life)

## 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 4:32–35**  
**1 John 5:1–6**  
**John 20:19–31**

### MONDAY

**John 3:1–8**

*“... no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.”*

### TUESDAY

**John 3:7B–15**

*“... we testify to what we have seen.”*

### WEDNESDAY

**John 3:16–21**

*“Those who believe in him are not condemned.”*

### THURSDAY

**John 3:31–36**

*“He whom God has sent speaks the words of God . . .”*

### FRIDAY

**John 6:1–15**

*“Gather up the fragments . . . so that nothing may be lost.”*

### SATURDAY

**John 6:16–21**

*“It is I.”*

\*Sunday of the Divine Mercy

## I'll Believe It When I See It!

*(In 2000, Pope John Paul II decreed that the 2nd Sunday of Easter should be known as “Divine Mercy Sunday.” On this day, the Church reflects on the mystery of God’s love that is at the heart of our faith and liturgy.)*

Last week’s Gospel told the story of the first three disciples who found the empty tomb and how each one reacted to the event. Today, the evangelist introduces a new character: Thomas.

Thomas refused to believe unless he saw and touched the wounds of the crucified Jesus himself. This statement is absurd, for once we “see and touch,” faith is no longer needed and unbelief is impossible. Yet, with this story, John is trying to tell us that even among the first followers of Jesus, there was doubt, unbelief, and fear.



We have a common saying that expresses our need for tangible proof of many things faith-based or otherwise: “I’ll believe it when I see it.” Jesus is patient with Thomas and allows him to put his fingers and his hand into his wounds, which causes Thomas to state with faith:

“My Lord and my God.”

Jesus uses this event to leave us a ninth beatitude: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” That is all of us.

But consider this: do we truly see with the eyes of faith? I ask myself as I read this passage:

Am I able to look up and around and really notice, really see the Risen Lord who stands before me with a different appearance than the one I expect?



## The Faith of the Church

It would be hard for any of us to accept that a person whom we do not recognize is actually a close relative or friend. When faced with the reality of the Risen Christ, the disciples doubted; they thought they were seeing a ghost. The notion that the Apostles made up the Resurrection is contradicted by all the encounters they had with the Risen Christ without recognizing him (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 644).



## Questions of the Week

There is a doubting Thomas in all of us. We say we believe, but when we lose a loved one, we often express our doubts about the Resurrection: “After all, nobody has come back to tell the story.”

### Adults

*In a similar situation, would I react like Thomas and demand to touch Jesus’ wounds in order to believe?*

### Children

*How am I sharing the peace of Christ with my friends?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

John tells us that the disciples were locked in a room "for fear of the Jews." We must clarify that John was referring to the religious leaders of the day who opposed Jesus. The passage doesn't refer to all Jews of Jesus' day, and it certainly doesn't refer to Jews today.

The disciples feared that the people who had killed Jesus would now come after them. When Mary Magdalene said that she had seen Jesus and that he had spoken to her, some doubted her story! They were probably thinking, "I'll believe it when I see it."

In my life, I have often felt like Thomas. When my mother was dying, I would remind her about my father who was waiting for her in heaven. She would say: "I don't know; nobody has come back to tell me the story!" She was a woman of faith, but the idea of the Resurrection was hard for her to accept. I think some Christians feel the same fear.

It is in these moments that we must let the words of Jesus fill us with hope: "Peace be with you," a statement that he says not once, but three times (Jn 20:19, 21, 26).

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Begin with the Gospel reading and then ask if any family member relates to Thomas. Respect their doubts like Jesus did.

**In the workplace or in school.** Start a conversation about life after death. Then ask your friends what they believe about it. Do not argue!

**In the community.** Share with the people you know what the "Peace of Christ" means to you. Ask them if they feel that peace in their hearts.



## Meditation Moment

In *Man's Search for Meaning*, psychotherapist Viktor Frankl notes that many war prisoners caved in under the pressure of Nazi death camps. But not everyone did. As a prisoner himself, he probed for the reason why some caved in and others did not. He discovered that those who held firm were prisoners who believed that their lives—and hence their sufferings—had "ultimate meaning." Dr. Frankl concluded that faith gave prisoners a remarkable energy and power.

### For reflection . . .

*Can I recall a time when faith gave me the power to survive a bad situation?*

OUR GENERATION IS REMARKABLE . . . FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MUST BELIEVE IN SOMETHING BUT DO NOT KNOW WHAT.

EVELYN UNDERHILL

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

## I believe!

Giver of Peace,  
Fill us with  
the inner conviction  
that we have come from you  
and will return to you one day.  
Let us live our daily ups and downs  
in the hope of the Resurrection  
and of a world transformed  
by your love. We believe,  
Lord, help our unbelief.  
Amen.

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

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

John 20:29

## Profile in Faith

**Blessed Peter Gonzalez**  
(d. 1246)

Peter was riding into a city to take up a post at the cathedral that his bishop-uncle had secured for him. His horse fell, leaving Peter in the mud and onlookers amused. Humbled, Peter reevaluated his life. He became a Dominican priest. After a defeat of the Moors, he persuaded the king to treat them with compassion.

Feast Day: April 14

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