

September 29, 2013

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

REV. DANIEL DANSO, 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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 28	6:00 P.M.	Rain	St. John
Sunday	Sept. 29	9:30 A.M.	Sylvia Bartosch	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Oct. 4	8:00 A.M.	Parish Family of St. John & Moravia	St. John
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Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Oct. 5	6:00 P.M.	George, Leona & Mary Chromcak	Moravia
Sunday	Oct. 6	9:30 A.M.	Daniel Spies	St. John

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Oct. 12	6:00 P.M.	Ervin & Irene Mendel	St. John
Sunday	Oct. 13	9:30 A.M.	Joe & Irene Drozd Barcak	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146:7-10 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31

Amos condemns the complacency of the rich who seek only their own comfort. In his parable about the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus echoes Amos, exhorting those who have to share with those who have not. Self-sufficiency must never blind us to the needs of others. Only in this way do we keep God's commandments in integrity and in truth.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Hebrews 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14 Luke 17:5-10

Faith is a gracious gift from God. It can neither be earned nor bought, only responded to with works of love and service. A vibrant faith can make us strong, loving and wise, confident that God will guard us from all harm. God is the Rock of our salvation.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalm 98:1-4 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19

The Lord has revealed his saving power to all the nations! Naaman, a Syrian, is healed, and lepers are made whole, but only the Samaritan returns to give thanks. Let us remain steadfast in faith, and thankful for the Lord's blessings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

We will be having the Life Chain on Sunday, Oct. 6 beginning at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the K.C. Hall. Please come out and show your support for Right to Life.

We are starting our capital campaign for the addition to and renovation of Sacred Heart School. We will be having a presentation on the project on **Monday, October 7** at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Center.

There is an important tax break for individuals age 70-1/2 and older that is scheduled to expire at the end of 2013. This is a great opportunity to contribute to this campaign and reduce your tax liability. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 allows you to withdraw money from your IRA tax free for qualified charitable distributions! The money must be sent directly from the custodian to the charitable organization. Please consult your tax advisor prior to making the distribution to ensure it applies to you.

Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on October 13.

Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three shepherd children in the village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She warned of violent trials in the 20th Century if the world did not make reparation for sins. She urged prayer and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At the request of Pope Francis, Cardinal Jose Polycarp, the patriarch of Lisbon, consecrated the Pope's pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, her feast day.

On Saturday, October 19, we will have the praying of the Rosary at 1:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church parking lot. This will be for an end to abortion and in celebration of Pope Francis' consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

SAINTS

Tuesday, Oct. 1 - Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor

Therese Martin, the "Little Flower," died Sept 30, 1897 of tuberculosis in the Carmel of Lisieux at age twenty-four; born in Alençon; contemplative who, in her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, urged all to follow "the little way"; proclaimed doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II, 19 October 1997; patroness of the missions, of florists, and of France; secondary patroness of the Apostleship of Prayer.

Wednesday, Oct. 2 - The Holy Guardian Angels

Friday, Oct 4 - Saint Francis of Assisi - Francis died 3 Oct. 1226; noted for his charismatic personality, deep compassion for all, and love for God's creation; renounced wealth to follow "Lady Poverty"; deacon; founded the Franciscan Family which is made up today of the Friars Minor (Capuchins numbering about 11,130 religious, Conventuals, c. 4,520 religious, and those of the Leonine Union, c. 15,250 religious, Poor Clares, Third Order Religious, and the Secular Franciscan Order; wrote *Canticle of the Sun*; received the stigmata 14 Sept. 1224; canonized only two years after his death,; patron of ecologists and of Italy.

Monday, Oct. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary - This memorial, established by Pope Pius V (30 Apr.) in thanksgiving for the victory at Lepanto, 7 Oct. 1571, recalls the rosary and its meditation on the mysteries of Christ and our salvation.

LIFE CHAIN. We are His hands. We are His voice. Join us in prayer on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Come and join thousands of Christians from across the country in a national Pro-Life Silent Prayer Chain. We will meet in front of the K.C. Hall on Hwy 77S in Hallettsville. Join us in peacefully holding signs that proclaim our pro-life message. Prayers and meditations are on the back of the sign. This event will provide a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian Community - that abortion is wrong and that the Church is opposed to the killing of unborn children! Our community needs to know that the Church supports the sanctity of human life. You may bring a chair if you are unable to stand for the allotted time. This is a family event. All are welcome, even children in strollers. You may bring drinks and should wear comfortable modest clothing. For more information, please call Angela at 361-741-8730. **Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Jeremiah 1:5**

SACRED HEART STRUDEL BAKE Sacred Heart Hallettsville 62nd annual Apple Strudel Bake set for Saturday, October 26, 2013. Unbaked strudels - \$14, baked - \$16. Pickup from 10am to 5pm on 10/26 at the SH Family Center in Hallettsville. To order, call Charlene Bradbury 361-798-3224 or Annette Henke 361-798-5374 or email charlenebradbury@hotmail.com. (Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment.) Pecans & sugar are needed! If you have any to donate, call Barbara Grahmann 798-4167 as soon as possible. They may be dropped off at SHS Office or the Rectory.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS St. John Church Cleaners for October: Jo Marie Krupala and Gladys Surman

ST. JOHN CHURCH USHERS St. John Church Ushers for October: Gary Mendel and Harold Kalich

MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS Moravia Church Cleaners for October are: Bernice Neskora & Dorothy Olsovsky

MORAVIA CHURCH USHERS Moravia Church Ushers for October: Phil Guenther and Perry Deem.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING: Monday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall.

MORAVIA KJZT SOCIETY #44: Annual social and meeting on October 6 at the parish hall beginning at 12 noon. Please RSVP to Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169 by September 30th. Please bring a dessert.

PRO-LIFE CORNER: St. John and Moravia parishioners are invited to participate in a Public Square Rosary Crusade at the gazebo on N. Main St. in Schulenburg on **Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.** Sponsored by America Needs Fatima, the goal is to counter the destructive secular agenda in this country, asking God to guide every aspect of society. On its website (www.americaneedsfatima.org) ANF states, "without prayer, and specifically the Rosary, we will not find solutions to our nations many problems." America Needs Fatima plans for 10,000 such rallies on Oct. 12-the Saturday closest to Oct. 13 anniversary of when God worked the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 28 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Alex Lozano, Jenna Kubenka
Sunday, Sept. 29 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny
Saturday, Oct. 5 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan, Dylan Goldberg
Sunday, Oct. 6 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie & Regan Lux, April Brossmann
Saturday, Oct. 12 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Alex Lozano, Jenna Kubenka
Sunday, Oct. 13 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny

CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE BOWL will be held Sunday, Oct. 20th, 2013 from 5-6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Gymnasium. Consider forming a team. Registration forms are in the foyer of the church. Please register by Sept. 30.

MEMORIALS: **ST. JOHN CHURCH – In memory of Erwin Mendel:** J. M. Adamcik-\$50. **REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS SEMINARY BURSE – In memory of Kathy Proski Spradling:** Ervin & Bernice Neskora - \$20.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation): Classes will meet on Thursdays in the Sacred Heart Family Center, 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning October 3. These classes are for those interested in learning more about the Catholic Church and possibly joining the Catholic Faith. If interested, please call the Rectory (798-5888) and leave your name and telephone number.

AREA PICNICS AND FESTIVALS:

Sept. 29: St. John the Baptist Church, Koerth, Sweet Home Community Center. Stew & Sausage Dinner.
Oct. 6: Sacred Heart Parish, Flatonia. Turkey & Dressing Dinner 11am-2pm, dine in or take out. Silent Auction
Oct. 6: Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn. Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11am. Auction, games, booths, music
Oct. 6: St. John Church, Hungerford Hall. BBQ Beef, Chicken, Sausage Dinner 10:30am. Auction, booths.
Oct. 6: St. Roch Church, Mentz. BBQ Beef, Pork & Sausage Dinner 11am-2pm. Music, auction, booths.
Oct. 6: Holy Cross Church, KC Hall, Bay City. Turkey & Dressing Dinner 11am-1pm. Auction, booths, music.

Diocese of Victoria Fall Pastoral Institute Extended Program: Sacraments of Healing and Vocation, Oct. 15-Nov.19, Ron Friedel, Instructor. Cost for six-week course is \$20 and will be offered 9:15-11:30 a.m. & 7:00-9:15 p.m. at the Chancery, Holy Cross-East Bernard, & St. Ann-Point Comfort by distance learning. This course is an introduction to the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick) and the Sacraments of Vocation (Marriage & Holy Orders). The purpose of the sacraments of healing is to continue Jesus' work of healing and salvation. Holy Orders and Matrimony are directed towards the salvation of others and thus contribute to personal salvation. To register, call 573-0828 ext. 2223 or email Margaret at pisecretary@victoriadiocese.org.



Growing in FAITH™

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

October 2013

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Venerable Pierre Toussaint

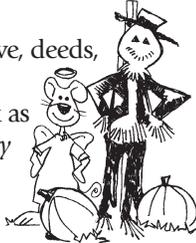
Pierre Toussaint was born a slave in Haiti. To escape civil unrest, he and his master came to the United States and Pierre was apprenticed to a hair dresser in New York City. Pierre became a popular stylist loyal to his owners. He cared for his master's wife after she was widowed and was freed shortly before her death. Pierre married, and he and his wife attended daily Mass and devoted themselves to caring for the sick and orphaned.

Father is waiting

In the prayer, "Our Father," we are reminded that our true Father lives in Heaven – our eventual home. We are only temporary travelers on Earth. By asking us to pray this particular prayer, Jesus helps us to keep our eyes on our home where our Father waits patiently for us.

From St. Therese of Liseux

"Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing." (*Story of a Soul*)



We can make a more peaceful world

Ordinarily we think of violence as physical – a blow, a gunshot, a bombing. It seems that we hear and read about acts of war every day. But wars escalate from everyday acts in homes, neighborhoods, and communities that can be as subtle as words or gestures that dampen the spirit of another person. As Christians, we can prevent violence by living our faith.

Embrace diversity – don't just tolerate it. Different as we are, we are all made in God's image and likeness. There is great diversity in the communion of saints.

Develop more empathy – see situations from another's perspective. It's the best way to understand the impact of our actions on those affected

by them.

Treat everyone with dignity – don't ignore others as a way of expressing anger or disapproval. Giving the "silent treatment" instead of working out problems denies much needed human contact and fails to solve conflict.

Choose entertainment carefully – a steady diet of violent entertainment and media helps us become comfortable with violence and

to see people as characters rather than humans. Instead, pray for victims of violence and for the souls of those who perpetrate it.

Detach – value people more than things. Share what you have. Don't take more than you need. Don't get so attached to achieving an outcome that you forget that love matters more.

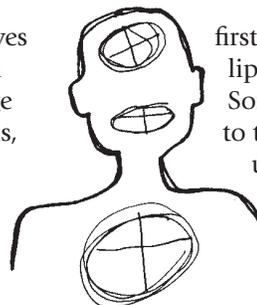


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we cross our forehead, lips, and chest before hearing the Gospel at Mass?

One reason we cross ourselves before listening to the Gospel is to ask God to let its message dominate our thoughts, words, and feelings.

Before the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel, we trace the sign of the cross



first on the forehead, then the lips, and finally over the heart. Some even say a prayer similar to this, "May the Lord purify my understanding, my speech, and my heart, so that I may receive the words of the Gospel."

5 tips for greater holiness

Achieving holiness requires a constant effort like climbing a mountain. To stop trying, even for a little while, is to lose ground. Daily effort will pay off with results.

1. **Become aware of Jesus' presence every day.** If you struggle to find him, ask for his help. Not only will awareness of him help you grow in love and kindness toward everyone, you will find it easier to control your faults.

2. **Don't be afraid of work or suffering.** Jesus experienced both in his time on Earth and used



them to pave our way to Heaven.

3. **Give God your full attention.** Speak to him, ask him for help, express sorrow for your mistakes, tell him you love him. Visit him regularly in Church.

4. **Nurture your faith.** Just as air and food keep our bodies alive, faith feeds our souls. It's the bond that unites us to God. Read Scripture every day. Learn about the saints. Listen to the Pope.

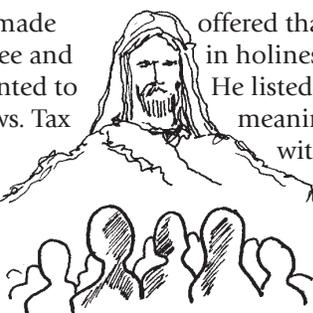
5. **Practice patience.** It's the first step toward holiness.

from Scripture

Luke 18:9-14, God wants only love

Imagine the impact Jesus made when he compared a Pharisee and a tax collector. Pharisees wanted to be emulated by everyday Jews. Tax collectors were usually Jews who collaborated with the hated Romans to collect unfair taxes from fellow Jews – and often cheated to gather a little extra for themselves. Yet in Jesus' example, the Pharisee didn't fare so well when both approached God in prayer.

The Pharisee marched up to a position of honor in the temple to pray, presumably to be seen and admired. He focused his prayer on himself and



offered thanks that he was superior in holiness to all around him.

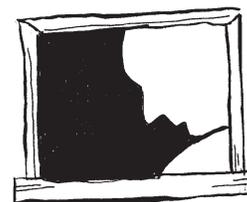
He listed his many good (but meaningless) deeds, and looked with disgust upon the tax collector.

By contrast, the tax collector humbled himself before God and offered only a simple prayer casting himself on God's mercy. He was aware of God's graciousness in loving him despite his sinfulness. Jesus said that only the tax collector went home in a right relationship with God.

He said that our sincere love matters more than anything else.

Q & A Why does God make us suffer?

As Catholics, we know that God is infinitely perfect and incapable of doing evil. In fact, he created us out of love so that we could share in his own blessed life. It was his plan for us to live in harmony with him.



When our first parents sinned, they disrupted the harmony by which we were protected from suffering and death. The world we have now is not the original perfection of God's creation but a fallen one with sin and evil that God didn't put here. We suffer because of the disorder created by that Original Sin compounded by our own sin, not because God makes us suffer.

Sometimes God does allow us to suffer, though. The purpose of our lives on Earth is to determine where we shall be for eternity, either with God or separated from God. Sometimes God allows suffering in order to awaken us to the fact of our sin, our impending death and judgment, to help us repent and turn back to him.

Feasts & Celebrations

In October we celebrate the Rosary with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. The Rosary helps us meditate on the mysteries of our salvation – Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

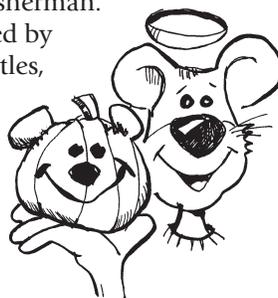
Oct. 15 - St. Teresa of Avila (1583). Teresa founded a strict religious order whose nuns wore rough brown habits and sandals instead of shoes. St. Teresa established more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

Oct. 17 – St. Ignatius of Antioch (1st century). Succeeded St. Peter as the

second bishop of Antioch. St. Ignatius encouraged obedience to the world's bishops and reminded people that Jesus is present in the Church and in each other.

Oct. 28 – St. Simon and St. Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman.

After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



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