

**March 2, 2014**

**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

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**MASS SCHEDULE**

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**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday	March 1	6:00 P.M.	Living & Dec. Members Moravia KJZT #44	Moravia
Sunday	March 2	9:30 A.M.	Parish Families of St. John & Moravia	St. John

**Ash Wednesday**

Friday	March 5	7:30 P.M.	Deceased Priests Who Have Served in St. John & Moravia	Moravia
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**First Friday**

Friday	March 7	8:00 A.M.	Deceased Members of Janik & Hermis Families	St. John
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**First Sunday of Lent**

Saturday	March 8	6:00 P.M.	Deceased Members of Julius Kutac Sr. Family	St. John
Sunday	March 9	9:30 A.M.	Frances & Jim Okruhlik & Margie Vacek	Moravia

**Second Sunday of Lent**

Saturday	March 15	6:00 P.M.	Arthur W. Spies, Sr. & Lillie H Spies	Moravia
Sunday	March 16	9:30 A.M.	Delaine Dittrich	St. John

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**THE WORD OF GOD**

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**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings: Isaiah 49:14-15 Psalm 62:2-3,6-9 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34

Our heavenly Father is with us, ever providing for our needs. He is always mindful of us; in him we shall never be disturbed. All should regard us as servants of Christ.

**First Sunday of Lent**

Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Psalm 51:3-6,12-13,17 Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Like Adam and Eve, Jesus was tempted, but did not sin. Our sinfulness is acquitted through one man, Jesus Christ, in whom we are justified.

**Second Sunday of Lent**

Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9

Abram places trust in God's promise of making his name and descendants great on earth. In Jesus' transfigured glory is revealed that life and immortality will rob death of its power.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN**

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Lent is the penitential season of the Church's year. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Lent has six Sundays. The sixth is called Passion or Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It commemorates the Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, reaches its high point at the Easter vigil and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Then the joyful Easter Season of 50 days begins.

Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

During the weekdays of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

All Fridays in Lent are day of abstinence. All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat. After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten-Easter Season.

**SAVE THE DATES**

I will be celebrating my 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, March 30 at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville at 3:00 p.m. with a Mass. Supper will follow at the Hallettsville KC Hall at 5:15 p.m. Everyone is invited. If you plan to attend please RSVP by signing the sheet in the Foyer of the church at St. John the Baptist or Ascension of Our Lord. Msgr John

**Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:** Sacred Heart – 6:45 a.m., 8:05 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 6:15 p.m. St. Mary's – 6:00 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT** - Each Friday at 7:00 p.m.

St. John - March 7, 21 & April 4                      Moravia - March 14, 28 & April 11

**PARISH MISSION:** We will have a parish mission for Lent at Sacred Heart, Monday through Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup> in the evenings. Father Bob Hogan will be conducting the mission.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER:** Remember, no issue is more important than whether the candidate is willing to do all he or she can to protect the Right to Life. We need public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public! (Jan-Feb Priests for Life Newsletter)

**DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY:** As explained on page one of the Catholic Lighthouse, this Lenten resource booklet published by Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament is offered throughout the U.S. using Disciples on the Journey as a study guide. St. John/Moravia will have these faith-sharing sessions on the Lenten Sunday Scripture readings. Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. John on March 7<sup>th</sup> followed by Disciples on the Journey. Call Elsie Farek (979-562-2159) a.s.a.p. to reserve books or to get details.

**KJZT DISTRICT MEETING:** St. Agnes Ammansville Society #24 cordially invites you, your society members and families to join us for the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT District II Meeting and Social on Sunday, March 9. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Memorial service and awarding of pins will be held. Luncheon and door prizes at the Ammansville KJT Hall.

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF):** Please remember, our March GOF will be at the 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass on March 5 at Moravia. After Mass, please check in with one of the catechists.

**ST JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS:** St John Church Cleaners for March: Agnes Berckenhoff and Jan Morin

**ST JOHN CHURCH USHERS:** St. John Church Ushers for March: David Kubenka and Larry Berger

**ST. JOHN PICNIC RAFFLE:** We will hold two raffles this year. We will have the regular \$1 tickets (or 6 for \$5), and a \$20 ticket for an ATV plus a few larger prizes. We need monetary gift commitments from parishioners to go towards the raffle of your choice. The \$20 tickets need to be printed in early March so we can begin selling them right away. Please contact Ann McBride at 561-6261 or [mcbride@cvctx.com](mailto:mcbride@cvctx.com) or Theresa Eckhardt at 743-4435 A.S.A.P. so we know how many prizes we will be able to offer. We appreciate your immediate response so we can get the ball rolling!

St. John Altar Society will again be quilting a quilt for the St. John 4th of July picnic. We will begin quilting at Alvin & Bernice Havel's home on March 6. If interested, please come and join in the fun of quilting!

**YOUTH NIGHT:** Sunday, March 9 at Sacred Heart Church beginning with Eucharistic adoration at 5 p.m., followed by a great meal and fellowship at the Youth House! Interest has been growing for our summer trip to **Steubenville on the Bayou June 26-29**; however, we need solid commitments as soon as possible. Space is limited and may fill up quickly. If you are interested, email Troy Spring at [troy@splashwaywaterpark.com](mailto:troy@splashwaywaterpark.com) with your name, phone number and child's name. Commitments may be withdrawn up to May 5. Cost for the conference is \$300 with an early deposit of \$40 due upon registration. Fundraising and scholarships will be made available to those in need. Thanks and God bless!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY:** Hallettsville Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, Friday, March 7. Drive-thru 5:00-6:30 p.m. Dine-in 5:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets \$8.

**40 CANS FOR LENT:** Knights of Columbus Council #2433-Hallettsville will again sponsor the *40 Cans for Lent*. Last year 1,940 lbs. of food along with \$1,724 was donated to Manna Food Pantry. With your generosity we hope to exceed these numbers this Lent! KC Council #2433-Hallettsville, Thomas Wick

**St. Rose Parish Spring Festival,** Knights of Columbus Hall, Schulenburg – March 9<sup>th</sup>. Turkey Dinner served 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Adults \$8.00 – Children \$4.00. Drive-thru adult plates available. Live Auction 11:30 a.m. Sweepstakes 1:00 p.m. Cake Walk, Music, Surprise Packages. Come join the fun! Proceeds benefit St. Rose of Lima Church & School.

**Looking for former students of St. John-Assumption Seminary:** The Committee for the Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of St. John-Assumption Seminary would like to send former students a formal invitation to the celebration of 100 years of Ministry and Service. If you are a former student or know a former student, please contact Mike Davis at Assumption Seminary: [mike.davis@archsa.org](mailto:mike.davis@archsa.org) or 210-734-5137 with your contact information. Thanks.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, March 1 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny

Sunday, March 2 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie & Regan Lux, Dylan Goldberg

Saturday, March 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Alex Lozano, April Brossmann, Dylan Goldberg

Sunday, March 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, Kenna Kubenka, James Lofland

Saturday, March 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan, Seth Eckhardt

Sunday, March 16 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie & Regan Lux, Blaine Besetzny

**MEMORIALS – ASCENSION BUILDING FUND**

In memory of Patrick Kutac: Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky - \$20.

In memory of Bernard Kristynik: Phil & Kathy Guenther - \$15

In memory of Franklin Konvicka: Eugene & Irene Cerny - \$30; Richard & Wilma Schaefer - \$20.



Next Bulletin: Sunday, March 16, 2014  
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday March 13, 2014





# LENT 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>		<b>March</b>	<p><b>5</b> Ash Wednesday <small>(a day of fast and abstinence)</small> Wear ashes today as a sign that you are seeking both forgiveness and eternal life from Christ.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Start a prayer book and record those for whom you pray or for what you pray. Also keep track of how God answers your prayers.</p>	<p><b>7</b> It is our Christian responsibility to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent as a form of penance.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Choose for your Lenten sacrifice something that will truly challenge you.</p>
<p><b>9</b> After Mass today, go to breakfast with other parishioners from church.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Read the seven penitential psalms in the Old Testament book of Psalms that express remorse for sins: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Pope Benedict once said, "We are not owners but rather administrators of the goods we possess." Find a way to share what you have.</p>	<p><b>12</b> The Bible teaches us to deny ourselves and give instead to those in need. Read Matthew 6:1-4 to learn more about sacrificial almsgiving.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Grow in faith by believing that God is there for you. Pray about what worries you and know that God will take care of it.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Support your parish's special Lent collections, whether it is the Bishop's Lenten campaign, Operation Rice Bowl or a mission collection.</p>	<p><b>15</b> The season of Lent is solemn. Read Matthew 26 and 27 to gain a true understanding of the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice.</p>
<p><b>16</b> Go to Mass early so you can take a drive to visit a friend you haven't seen in a long time.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Jesus was killed despite his innocence. Pray a Rosary for all unborn children so they don't suffer the same fate through abortion.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Look for someone who has fallen on hard times and send an anonymous card with a cheering message and a grocery store gift card.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Root out anger from your heart and bring in kindness. Do one small thing for someone today to show God reigns in your heart.</p>	<p><b>20</b> When older people become less active, they can also become forgotten. Visit a senior you know, take one to lunch, and just listen.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Attend a "Stations of the Cross" service if your parish offers one. If not read through them here: <a href="http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/devotionals/stations-of-the-cross/index.cfm">http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/devotionals/stations-of-the-cross/index.cfm</a>.</p>	<p><b>22</b> To avoid sin, one must understand what God expects. Refresh yourself on the 10 Commandments in Genesis:20.</p>
<p><b>23</b> Make Sunday special. Invite friends and neighbors over for a potluck brunch after Mass.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Consider making today a day of fasting. When you feel hungry, remind yourself of those for whom hunger isn't a choice.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Mother Teresa once said, there is a terrible hunger for love. "The poor you may have right in your own family. Find them. Love them."</p>	<p><b>26</b> Jesus taught us to serve others. Do one nice thing for someone today without the expectation of thanks or appreciation.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, given to the world through St. Faustina to help repair the hurt caused by sin. Find it at <a href="http://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Lent is a demanding time for parish priests. Call your parish office to offer extra support or help.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Becoming more aware of sin helps to avoid it. Make a list of all you do today putting what would please God in one column and what wouldn't in another.</p>
<p><b>30</b> Go to a later Mass so you can wake up slowly, have a leisurely breakfast and enjoy a good book.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Spend time before the Eucharist in prayer and adoration. If there is no adoration chapel close by, find time when the church is open to be with Jesus.</p>	<p><b>1 April</b> God made Eve so that Adam would not be alone. What can you do today to be a good friend to someone?</p>	<p><b>2</b> Perform Corporal Works of Mercy during Lent: feed the hungry, shelter homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, give drink to the thirsty, bury the dead.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Consider giving more time to God by volunteering in your parish. Take action to join the choir or become a lector, usher or Eucharistic Minister.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Show Jesus you are willing to carry your cross by tackling something difficult you've been putting off.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Perform an examination of conscience and seek healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation today.</p>
<p><b>6</b> Enjoy beauty. After Mass, stop by a store and pick up some flowers to cheer up your home.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Ask St. Thérèse of Lisieux to inspire you to show "little ways of love" to those around you today.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Deny yourself something you would like to buy. Then, give the money you saved to the poor.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Evaluate your day. Did you add to someone's sense of peace today? Did you do anything to take peace away?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Turn off the TV, computer, or other electronics for 30 minutes today. Offer this time to God in prayer or reading the Bible.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Children are the future of the Church. Explore ways to support your parish religious education program or youth group.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Light a candle to represent the light Jesus brought to the world. Let the light dwell in you by spreading the good news of salvation to others.</p>
<p><b>13</b> Use your Palm Sunday palms to make a cross to place in a prominent area in your home or car.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Add prayer to your day by praying the Rosary or Chaplet of Divine Mercy during your commute today, while waiting in line, or during your lunch hour.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Pray today and each day this week for the catechumens coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Pray for someone you know who is facing a challenge.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Early Christians visited seven basilicas in Rome on Holy Thursday as a pilgrimage. Make a pilgrimage to churches in your area today.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Today is Good Friday, a day of fasting and abstinence. Read and compare all four Gospel accounts of the passion and death of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Jesus suffered and died so that we would have hope. Today, make a list of everything for which you have hope in this life and the next.</p>

# Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2014

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Patrick

Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped as a teenager and brought to 5th century Ireland as a slave to a warlord. He worked as a shepherd for six years before he escaped. Back home, he became a priest and returned to the land of his captivity as a missionary. While many legends are told about him, it is enough to say that St. Patrick eventually became bishop of Ireland and is credited for having established the Church there.



### A hearty welcome

Welcome is part of our Christian life. We are asked to extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be new or unfamiliar to our parish church. Jesus said, "whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me" (Matthew 10:40).

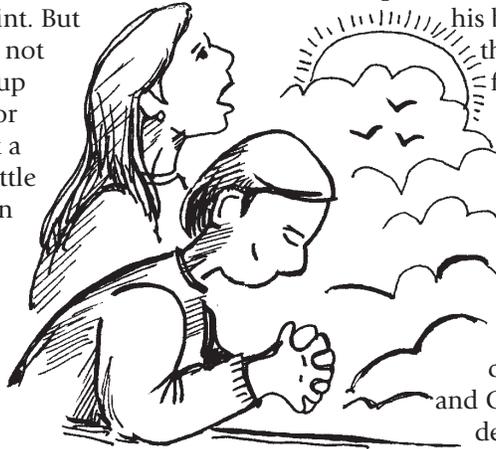
### Our choice

"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of the wicked" (Psalm 84:11).



## Plunge into the desert during Lent

Humans are doers. When faced with a problem, we want to make a list, clean it up, or put on a fresh coat of paint. But during Lent, it's not enough to give up a favorite food or drink and call it a season. That's little more than a thin coat of paint. Lent is when we can do battle with sin in our lives, eliminate it, and greet Easter as creatures born anew.



rewarded by God's grace to begin to live differently.

**Escape distractions.** God often sent his best prophets into the desert to prepare for important tasks he chose for them. Consider Lent your trip to the desert. There are minimal distractions in the desert – no electronics, no fancy food, no daily concerns. Just you and God. Create a Lenten desert by removing as many distractions as are practical during the season.

**Do battle daily.** Determination to avoid sin and embrace virtue is a war that requires daily battle. Start in Lent by committing to new prayer habits for morning, afternoon, and evening prayer. Stay faithful and you will be

**Take the long view.** Life can be difficult and painful but it won't last forever. Life in Heaven will. Eliminate whatever you may have chosen to make this life bearable if it distracts from your goal of Heaven.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## How do we define "neighbor"?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that our neighbor is someone whose origins we know and who deserves particular attention. This includes our relatives since they share our origins. Fellow citizens



share residence in our country. Anyone who is baptized is a fellow child of our mother the Church and shares our spiritual origin. And every person is another child of God.

By all these definitions, we are responsible for looking after anyone who needs our help or care.

# The Eucharistic Dance

The celebration of Mass is not confined to our minds, hearts, and voices, but is meant to involve our bodies as well. Like a joyful dance, each posture is significant and has meaning.

**Standing.** Standing is a sign of respect, so we stand when the celebrant – representing Christ – enters and leaves. We also stand for the Gospel, and the bishops of our country decided to have us stand when receiving the Eucharist.



**Kneeling.** From the early days of the Church, kneeling has been a gesture of penance but more recently has come to show adoration. Thus we kneel for the Eucharistic prayer.

**Sitting.** We sit for the pre-Gospel readings and the homily in a posture of listening and meditation.

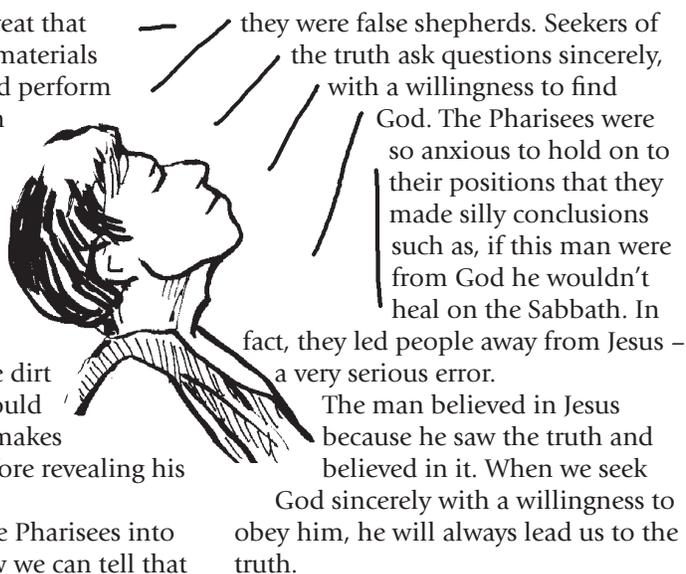
**Bowing.** In our culture a bow usually expresses reverence and honor, and the bishops have decided that we are to bow before we receive Communion.

*Note: for more information ask your parish priest or refer to Postures and Gestures at Mass, available from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (202)542-3000, www.usccb.org.*

## from Scripture

### John 9:1-41, A blind man sees the truth

God's power is so great that he can take ordinary materials like dirt and water and perform miracles. A blind man came to Jesus for healing and Jesus made a paste out of clay and saliva and spread it on the man's eyes. Then he encouraged the man to wash to cleanse the dirt from his eyes so he could see. Sometimes God makes us uncomfortable before revealing his truth to us.



This miracle sent the Pharisees into a tizzy and this is how we can tell that

## Q Who goes to & Purgatory after death?

Sincere repentance includes a desire to repair the damage done by our sins. That may or may not be complete before we die. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (1030). The Church calls this final purification, "Purgatory," since this is our last chance to be purged of our sins.

There is suffering during this purification because the souls in Purgatory long to be with God, but there is also joy. Purgatory is a sure stepping stone to Heaven.

What is important is that we recognize Jesus' power over our eternity. When the world ends at the Final Judgment, there will be only two possibilities: Heaven or Hell. We who celebrate Jesus' Resurrection look forward to sharing in that victory, and we pray that our loved ones may do the same.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel (1955).** A Philadelphia heiress, St. Katharine Drexel gave up her fortune to become a nun. She established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states and founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first university for African-Americans in the U.S.

**March 4 - St. Casimir (1483).** Born a prince of Poland, St. Casimir was endowed with a very strong conscience by a great teacher, John Dlugosz. When his father sent him to take over

Hungary, fifteen-year-old Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again.

**March 5 - Ash Wednesday.** To mark the first day of Lent, ashes from the burnt palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on foreheads as a sign of penance.

**March 19 - St. Joseph (first century).** Husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.



### Our Mission

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