

October 26, 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. BARNABAS KYEAH, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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### MASS SCHEDULE

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#### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Oct. 25	6:00 P.M.	Adolph B. & Adella Kutac	St. John
Sunday	Oct. 26	9:30 A.M.	Jerome & Martha Hrcncir & Jerrilyn Kallus	Moravia

#### All Souls Day

Saturday	Nov. 1	6:00 P.M.	Deceased Parishioners	Moravia
Sunday	Nov. 2	9:30 A.M.	Deceased Parishioners	St. John

#### First Friday

Friday	Nov. 7	8:00 A.M.	Tom Farek	St. John
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#### Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Saturday	Nov. 8	6:00 P.M.	Ervin & Irene Mendel	St. John
Sunday	Nov. 9	9:30 A.M.	Willie & Albina Barborak & Irene	Moravia

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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#### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 18:2-4,47,51 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40

We are to love the Lord with our whole heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. By thus fulfilling these two great commandments, we hope to become models of faith and imitators of the Lord who gave himself totally for our sakes.

#### The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

Readings: Wisdom 3:1-9 Psalm 23:1-6 Romans 5:5-11 John 6:37-40 or 10:11-10:16

As suggested: The souls of the just are in God's hands. Christ, the Good Shepherd, died for us while we were still sinners. He is the resurrection and the life. Rooted in ancient Christian tradition, St. Odilo of Cluny established a memorial of all the faithful departed in 988. It was accepted in Rome in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

#### The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Readings: Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12 Psalm 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17 John 2:13-22

The waters flowing from the temple, the dwelling place of the Lord, bring forth life and growth. Jesus is the living sanctuary and we his living body in the Spirit.

Today marks the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome, on land owned by the Laterani family, by Pope St. Sylvester I, 9 Nov. 324; honored as the Episcopal seat of the pope as bishop of Rome; according to an inscription which Pope Clement XII (reigned 1730-1740) placed on the façade, this basilica is the "mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world" ("*omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput*"); residence of the popes from the 4<sup>th</sup> century until their moving to Avignon (1309); site of five ecumenical councils; Pope Innocent X commissioned the present structure in 1646; beneath its high altar rests the remains of the small wooden table on which according to tradition, St. Peter celebrated mass; dedicated to the Savior, later to St. John the Baptist.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### **FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN**

Recently Pope Francis held a Synod in Rome with various cardinals and bishops. Different policies were discussed and the media was given information that wasn't necessarily accurate. No decisions were made and the draft of the Synod was not accepted.

The Catholic Church cannot change any of the basic teachings of the Church and the Bible. The media continues to try to confuse people about the Catholic Church and to try to draw people away from the Church.

We need to be firm in our faith and continue to read Catholic literature and listen to Catholic programming to know what is really going on in the Church.

Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday in October, is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and to affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. Priesthood Sunday is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International, an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints Day. However, since it is on a Saturday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls Day. We will bless graves at Ascension of our Lord on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and at St. John the Baptist on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR NOVEMBER:** Carol Siegel, Evelyn Hermis and Donna Lux

**ST JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR NOVEMBER:** Jim Duffin, Eugene Pauler

**NOVEMBER CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MORAVIA CHURCH:** Judy Grones and Mary Kendall  
**NOVEMBER CHURCH USHERS FOR MORAVIA CHURCH:** Aubrey Shanks and Ervin Neskora Jr.

**ST. JOHN'S KJZT #9 ANNUAL MASS FOR LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS**

Flowers on Main Altar last Sunday were given by St. John's KJZT Society #9 in memory of all deceased society members.

**ST. JOHN ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING**

St. John Altar Society will have their annual meeting on November 16 in Church following the 9:30 Mass. All members please attend.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Oct. 25 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Rylie & Regan Lux, Alex Lozano  
Sunday, Oct. 26 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Miranda Shimek  
Saturday, Nov. 1 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlin Deem, Seth Eckhardt, Joshua Becan  
Sunday, Nov. 2 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie & Regan Lux, Dylan Goldberg  
Saturday, Nov. 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Alex Lozano, April Brossmann  
Sunday, Nov. 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Kenna Kubenka, Miranda Shimek, Blaine Besetzny

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to the Moravia KJZT Society #44 for their donation of \$100 to the Religious Education Program.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER - Catholics Care.Catholics Vote.**

We vote because we are citizens, but we vote consciously because we are people of faith. Our consciences are formed through studying Scripture and the teachings of the church, examination of the facts, and prayerful reflection. While there are many moral issues before us, every issue is not equal. As Catholic citizens, we should remember 3 things: respect for the dignity of each person, focus on the common good, and responsibility. We also should be true to the teachings of the church; to be well informed about issues; engage in reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue; contact our representatives in local, state and federal government and follow the dual calling of faith and citizenship in what it means to be a Catholic in the U.S. (Texas Catholic Conference {the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Texas} in October 2014 The Catholic Lighthouse). For more information, visit [www.txcatholic.org](http://www.txcatholic.org), [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).

**HALLETTSVILLE K.C. STAG STEAK NITE**

Hallettsville K.C. Stag Steak Nite, Monday, Oct. 27, Knights of Columbus Hall. All you can eat steak dinner, including beverages-\$12 per person. Doors open 5:30 p.m. There will be door prizes, sign up for the Big Buck Contest, and 101 Gun Giveaway Tickets. For information, call the K.C. Hall at 361-798-2311.

**PARISH GARAGE SALE**

Parish Garage Sale to be held under St. John Pavilion on November 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone welcome to come and try to sell their treasures. Small portion to benefit St. John Altar Society. Any questions call Carol Siegel at 562-2669.

**AREA CHURCH PICNICS**

**St. Peter Parish Festival, Blessing, Oct. 26.** Holy Mass 9:30 a.m. BBQ Turkey & Dressing Dinner begins 11am. Auction, country store, raffle

**GABRIEL PROJECT MEETINGS**

Gabriel Project Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., 101 W. Convent (behind St. Mary Church), Victoria. For information, call Barbara 361-649-1612 or email [barbaramccain85@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramccain85@yahoo.com).

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

Golden Crescent Workforce Solutions offering child care assistance for parent(s) who meet income guidelines, are employed, attending school/college or in an approved training component. For information, call 361-798-1046 or go to [www.gcworkforce.org](http://www.gcworkforce.org).

**PENNIES FOR LIFE**

During the month of October, Respect Life Month, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Rose #1597 is collecting Pennies for Life. Parishioners are asked to donate one penny for each year of their lives in thanksgiving to God for the life He has given them. Proceeds will be used for Respect Life activities in the Diocese of Victoria. You may place your donation in the container at the main entrance of the church. Thank you for your continued support of this project.



***Prayer for Rain** – Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear!*

***We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.***

# Growing in FAITH™

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

November 2014

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Andrew Dung-Lac

St. Andrew could also be the patron of the

persecuted. In 1785,

he was born in Vietnam to a poor family.

He converted, and became a Catholic priest

assigned to the missions. He

was swept up in the terrible religious persecution of the emperor, Minh-Meng. St.

Andrew and his companions

were arrested and tortured to

force them to renounce their

faith. They refused and were

martyred. Today, such religious

persecution continues in many

parts of the world.

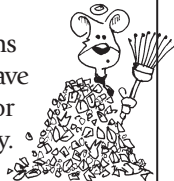


### Catholic Guilt

Popular culture often refers negatively to "Catholic guilt," implying that Catholics are weighed down by an unfortunate awareness of having done wrong. Sincerely acknowledging true guilt is the first step toward forgiveness.

### God, the Partner

When David faced insurmountable odds against the Philistines, he turned to God for help. He asked if he should fight, he followed instructions carefully, and he gave God credit for his victory.



## Stewardship is giving thanks

For many Catholics, we think seriously about stewardship when our parish or diocese raises money but real stewardship is about becoming more fulfilled and having a greater sense of purpose. It is giving back to God in gratitude for his gifts. And while it's not just about money, good stewards have all the money they need.

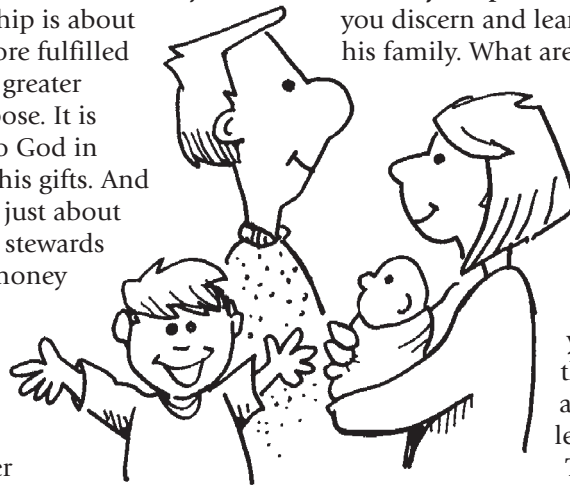
God's family comes first. All families come together in love to care for each other, enjoy each other, and support each other. In God's family, we come together in his love to care for each other, enjoy each other, and support each other. As good stewards, we meet the needs of God's family first, before

we spend time or money on anything else.

**Find your place.** Ask God to help you discern and learn your place in his family. What are you to do with your gifts?

**Take your seat at the table.** Find out where you can put your talents to work in your parish. Talk with your pastor, with the rectory staff, and with parish leaders.

**Think before spending.** Before you commit your time or money to any purpose, make sure you have taken care of the needs of God's family first. Everything we have and everything we are comes from God. He deserves the best we have to give in return.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics offer Masses for the dead?

Judas Maccabee ordered prayers and sacrifices for Jewish soldiers who died in sin (2 Maccabees 12:38-46). St. Paul prayed for Onesiphorus after his death (2 Timothy 1:18). Catholics believe that prayers and sacrifices benefit the dead.



When we die in God's friendship we eventually go to Heaven, but if we haven't properly atoned for certain sins we have to be purified in Purgatory first. We pray for the souls in Purgatory to help them pass through faster than they would otherwise.

## The Catholic plan for world peace

Our world is often turbulent but the Church believes a just and fair world is possible when seven key principles are embraced:

**Life and dignity of the human person:** We were created in God's image, therefore all life is sacred. This belief is the foundation for a just world.

**Call to family, community, and participation:** People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the well-being of all.

**Rights and Responsibilities:** Everyone has a right to life and to what is necessary for human decency.



**Option for the poor and vulnerable:** We are to treat as urgent the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

**Dignity of work and workers:** The worker has a right to productive work, to decent and fair wages and to the protection of basic rights.

**Solidarity:** We are one human family. We are to love our neighbors as brothers and sisters and work for justice and peace everywhere.

**Care for God's creation:** We show our love for God by protecting his creation.

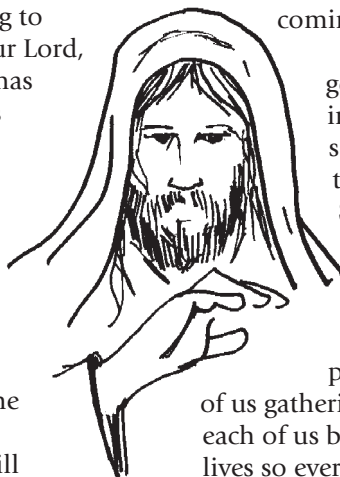
### from Scripture

#### Mark 13:33-37, Be watchful, be alert

This gospel is from the first Sunday of Advent. We are preparing to celebrate the birth of Our Lord, his first coming. Christmas is a time of joy, for Jesus came to us in human form to redeem us from our sins.

But Advent is a time for us to prepare for when Jesus comes again.

In the Creed we say, "...he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." We don't know when this will happen. It could be tomorrow; it will certainly be when we die. Jesus' message



is to be watchful and alert for his coming.

To be watchful involves getting our individual lives in order. Christ gave us the sacraments so we can do this, especially the Sacrament of Penance. Being in a state of grace means we are prepared to meet Jesus.

However, this preparation involves each of us gathering the harvest. It means each of us being a missionary in our lives so everyone may come to know and love the Lord when they come face to face with God.

### Q & A

#### Why does God make us suffer?

When the disciples asked Jesus whose sin resulted in a particular man being born blind, Jesus replied, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible



through him" (John 9:2-3). God doesn't send it, but he uses our suffering to draw us to him.

Suffering comes from living in a world made imperfect by sin. Jesus points out that God doesn't want our needless suffering and will help us through it. "Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Matthew 7:9-11)? And he leaves in his wake a trail of discarded crutches, bandages, and bonds to prove it.

### Feasts & Celebrations

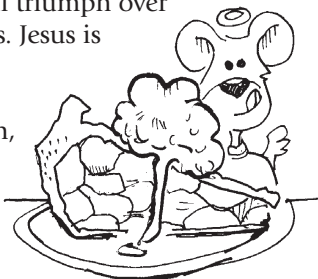
The first day of Advent falls on Nov. 30 this year and begins a new year in the Church calendar (Cycle B). The Advent wreath is lit in households all over the world as we anticipate the birth of our Lord.

**Nov. 1 – All Saints Day.** In the early Church, each saint and martyr was assigned a feast day. However, the persecution of the Christians became so great that there weren't enough days in the calendar for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All

Saints Day.

**Nov. 2 – All Souls Day.** This is a day when we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to Heaven faster.

**Nov. 23 – Our Lord Jesus Christ the King.** A solemnity that commemorates Our Father's promise to his people of a king who will triumph over their enemies. Jesus is our King. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are brought under his kingship.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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