

January 4, 2015

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	Jan. 3	6:00 P.M.	Elo & Cecilia Anders	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 4	9:30 A.M.	Sylvester Janak & Sheryl Janak	St. John

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	Jan. 10	6:00 P.M.	George Kunetka	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 11	9:30 A.M.	Frank & Mary Sassin	Moravia

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 17	6:00 P.M.	L.A. & Vera Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 18	9:30 A.M.	Agnes Krohovjak	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mark 1:7-11 or in Year B: Isaiah 55:1-11 (Ps) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. Too him be all glory and praise! Option: All who are thirsty, come to the waters, to the Lord, the fountain of salvation. Jesus Christ came through water and blood. He is the Son in whom the Father is well pleased.

*After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19 Psalm 40:2,4,7-10 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20 John 1:35-42

Through baptism we have been joined to the Lord who calls us to be his disciples. How well do we listen to his voice? How willing are we to do his will?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. An old Catholic custom is the blessing of the home at Epiphany, especially the doorways. We can bless ourselves and the rooms of the home with holy water. We use chalk to mark the numerals and letters over doorways. The chalk reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The numerals consecrate the new year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar – and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May God bless this house):

20 + C + M + B + 15

There is a very good Catholic television station called EWTN. It is on our local cable on Channel 15. EWTN has very good Catholic religious programming. It has a variety of instructional programs, daily Masses, the praying of the Rosary, and many inspirational programs. If you haven't watched it before, I would suggest you give it a try.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to decorate the two churches for Christmas and set up the indoor and the outdoor Nativity Scenes. Thank you also to the organists and the choirs for a job well done.

Father Barnabas and I thank all of you for your kindness and generosity at Christmas. Thank you for the prayers, the cards, the gifts, the food and the extra good deeds you have done for us. May God bless all of you with a very blessed Christmas season and a blessed and happy New Year.

Mr. David Smolik, our principal for Sacred Heart Catholic School for the past 30 years, will be retiring at the end of this school year. We thank him for the love, support and the great work he has done for Sacred Heart Catholic School. He will still be principal through May.

I will be taking applications for the position of Principal. There is a process we follow through the Catholic Schools' Office. There will be a committee working with me on the selection process. Pray for this selection process.

If you are interested in this position or know of someone who is, please submit your application to me at the Rectory.

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Our Parish Pictorial Directories have arrived! If you have not yet received your directory, please contact Dorothy Berger.

YOUTH NIGHT

Happy New Year! We have lots of exciting opportunities for the Youth this spring and Summer. Our upcoming events include: Youth Night on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 5-7:30 p.m. (plus monthly youth nights) at Sacred Heart Church & the Youth House; The Annual Rally for Life in Austin, TX on Saturday, January 24; Annual Youth Spectacular in Victoria, TX –TBA (usually February); Summer Youth Conference Steubenville on the Bayou in Louisiana; June 26-28, 2015. *More information on each event in upcoming bulletins. God Bless!*

Sacred Heart Catholic School 2015 EXTRAVAGANZA, “The Orient at Nightfall,” Saturday, February 7, 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Hallettsville K.C. Hall. Tickets \$125 per couple (includes social with hors d’oeuvres, refreshments all evening, steak dinner and dance with live music by Southern Express. Purchase tickets at Sacred Heart School Office, Sacred Heart Credit Union or the Sacred Heart Rectory.

ASCENSION CHURCH CLEANERS FOR JANUARY: Angie Kubenka, Barbara Janak, Connie Burton
ASCENSION CHURCH USHERS FOR JANUARY: Phil Guenther and Robert Kendall

MEMORIALS

In memory of Jerry Novosad

Ascension of our Lord Bldg Fund

Milton & Pat Mache \$20
Patrick Fabian \$10
Ruth Fabian \$10
Anna J. Barrios \$50

Ascension of our Lord Cemetery

R. L. & Elsie Orsak \$10
Kubena Funeral Home \$20

In memory of Bernice Vasek

St. John Cemetery

George & Rose Krupala \$100

MORAVIA PARISH HALL MANAGER

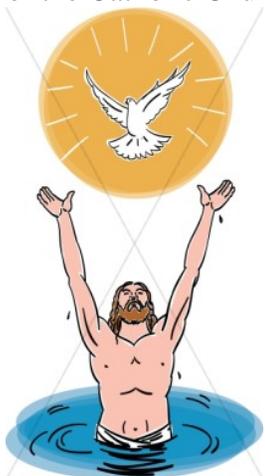
When I was first asked to manage the Moravia Parish Hall, I agreed to try it for 2 years. During the past 2 years, my responsibilities at the Schulenburg Chamber have increased dramatically. I’ve started a nonprofit organization called Peter’s Place, and we’ve bought a home in Schulenburg that has to be completely remodeled. Needless to say, I don’t have the time to devote to the Moravia Hall any longer. The amount of commitment that the hall requires isn’t overwhelming; it’s just that I don’t have any spare time. If you’re interested in taking over the hall management or if you just want to find out more about it, please call me at 832-331-2096. Marcia Hrcir

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 3 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Joshua Becan, Caitlin Deem, James Lofland
Sunday, Jan. 4 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Dylan Goldberg, April Brossman, Alex Lozano
Saturday, Jan. 10 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Alex Lozano, Rylie & Regan Lux
Sunday, Jan. 11 - - 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan, James Lofland
Saturday, Jan. 17 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Kenna Kubenka, Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny
Sunday, Jan. 18 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John - Dylan Goldberg, April Brossman

PRO-LIFE CORNER

A parent’s marriage and instruction will influence a young person’s future call to marriage. Emphasis should be on “the dignity of married love, its role and its exercise, so that, having learned the value of chastity, they will be able at a suitable age to engage in honorable courtship and enter upon a marriage of their own.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church #1632]



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” — Mk 1:9-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2015

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. John Neumann

The first American bishop to be canonized was

born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1811. St. John did missionary work in New York, was ordained at 25, and joined the Redemptorists at 29. At the age of 41, he became bishop of Philadelphia. He attracted teaching orders to the city and turned the parochial schools into diocesan schools, greatly increasing the number of students. St. John also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.



Thanksgiving

What better way to start the New Year than in the spirit of thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is what the word "Eucharist" means. There's no better way to show thanks to God than by living our lives in a new way beginning with Mass each week.

Transformation = Joy

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever"

Psalm 16:11.



Becoming who we were meant to be

Happy New Year! These words represent an opportunity for us to transform ourselves into the people that we hope to be. The people God knows we can be. This year, we can bring true joy to our lives by transforming ourselves for God.

Start by seeking God everywhere. Whether it is by acknowledging the constant generosity he shows toward his children or by accepting opportunities to receive him in the Sacraments, God is waiting for us to seek his presence in our lives. All we have to do is look and listen.

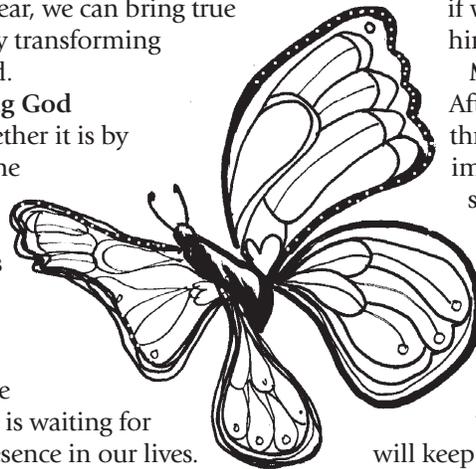
Nurture a healthy faith. To strengthen our faith we must separate ourselves from the habits that distract us from our spiritual needs. That can mean turning off the TV or computer,

reevaluating friendships or just accepting our struggles as opportunities for grace.

Transformation by God can only come if we give ourselves to him completely.

Maintain a clean slate. After we are cleansed through Confession, it is important to quickly surround ourselves with graces, such as receiving the sacraments more frequently, or studying religious materials. These "vitamins" for the soul will keep us spiritually sound.

Aspire to the greats. Throughout history, the saints have experienced every situation we can imagine. When we look for inspiration, we can look to them and let them guide us by their examples.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

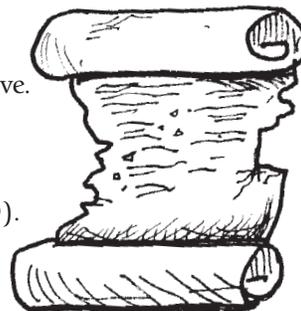
Why do Catholics say the Nicene Creed at Mass?

Reciting the Nicene Creed at Mass helps to remind us what we believe.

The Nicene Creed was finalized at the Councils of Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD). The beliefs expressed in the Nicene Creed are the same as those in

the Apostles' Creed, but are more detailed because it was written to express what the Church taught regarding the heresies of the time.

"Whoever says 'I believe' says 'I pledge myself to what we believe'" (CCC 185).



Aim for perfect faith

Imagine if you had perfect certainty that God was with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, or hardships if you were convinced that God was in all of it and would use it for good. Worry would be a thing of the past. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how.

Believe in God's love. God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in his love. If God loves you, then he wills your good. *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out*

fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love" (1 John 4:16). Perfect faith comes from believing in God's love.

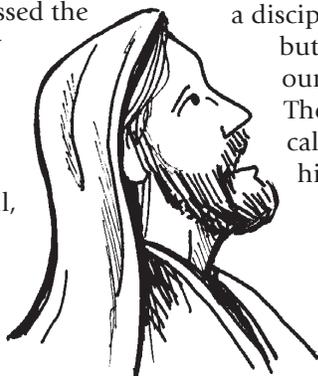


Practice makes perfect. Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Practicing the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in him grows.

from Scripture

Mark 1:14-20, The common call.

When we read about the way Jesus gathered his followers, it seems almost casual. For example, he passed the Sea of Galilee, saw Andrew and Simon and called them. It's as if these men left their homes and livelihoods to follow Jesus with little thought. After all, he was a stranger to most. We must conclude that there was something very compelling about Jesus and his call to them.



With hindsight, we know that Jesus' message was worth leaving everything behind. In fact, we know that true discipleship means leaving

everything and surrendering to the will of God. He will provide whatever a disciple needs to follow him but nothing comes before our relationship with God. The compelling part of his call is the chance to serve him and be close to him.

Jesus chose twelve special people to be his closest followers and he became their leader. They went where he told them and did what he asked. Jesus

is still calling people to follow him today. In fact, he has called each of us to follow him.

Q & A What is my responsibility to God?

Once you have come to know God, and what he has revealed about



himself, he must come first in your life. *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind"*(Matthew

22:37). This is not oppressive.

On the contrary, if we love someone, we make changes so they can have a meaningful part of our lives. Their joys and sorrows become our own, and vice versa. This is true of God, whose very nature it is to love.

Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). If we truly love him, we would do what he tells us to do: *"Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (John 15:12-13). God loved us enough to create us, suffer and die for us, rise from the dead for us, redeem and forgive us. How can we ignore a love like that?

Feasts & Celebrations

In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. *"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Philippians 2:10). In fact, the English letters IHS – representing the first three Greek letters in Jesus' name – used to be written over the doors of Christian homes.

January 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also Jesus, as God.

January 4 – Epiphany of Our Lord. "Epiphany" is Greek for

manifestation. When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (1274). Kept prisoner for a year by his mother to prevent his priestly ordination, St. Thomas Aquinas became one of the greatest theologians of the Church, honored with the titles, "Doctor of the Church" and "Angelic Doctor." His writings are still fundamental to Christian education today.



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

Lead Me into the Deep, Lord



Location: Sacred Heart Family Center, Hallettsville, TX

Dates: January 29, February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23

Time: 6:30pm-9pm Thursday Evenings

God's Embrace Renewal Centers will begin and has opened registration for an amazing journey with the Holy Trinity *"Lead Me into the Deep, Lord"*; a twelve week spiritual formation program. The program for Sacred Heart Catholic Church and surrounding parishes will be held at Sacred Heart Family Center-Hallettsville, TX on Thursday evenings beginning January 29, 2015. The Program will meet twice a month from 6:30pm-9pm for a presentation of the session, brief discussion on what God is telling you through the presentation, sharing from your journal notes from your daily prayer with scripture and spiritual reading at home, and group discussion over any topics mentioned in the session; **A wonderful journey to embark on to renew your Catholic Faith and deepen your relationship with God!** Manuals will be available at your first program session. To register for the program or more information please contact Sandy Reese at 979-541-6881 or sandy.reese@godsembrace.org .

www.godsembrace.org

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Registration for Seadrift-"Lead Me into the Deep, Lord"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____