

March 1, 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

P.O. Box H ♦ Hallettsville, Texas 77964 ♦ (361) 798-5888 ♦ (361) 798-4970 Fax

Website: [www.shcatholicchurch.org](http://www.shcatholicchurch.org)

E-mail: [rectory@shcatholicchurch.org](mailto:rectory@shcatholicchurch.org)

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### MASS SCHEDULE

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#### Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Feb. 28	6:00 P.M.	Sylvia Bartosch	<b>St. John</b>
Sunday	March 1	9:30 A.M.	George & Bernice Vasek	<b>St. John</b>

#### Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 7	6:00 P.M.	Sylvester Janak & Sheryl Janak	<b>Moravia</b>
Sunday	March 8	9:30 A.M.	Alfons, Celestie & Robert Schwartz	<b>Moravia</b>

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 14	6:00 P.M.	Arthur W. Spies Sr. & Lillie H. Spies	<b>St. John</b>
Sunday	March 15	9:30 A.M.	Agnes Krohovjak	<b>St. John</b>

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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#### Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 Psalm 116:10,15-19 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10

Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiahship.

#### Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3,7-8,12-17 Psalm 19:8-11 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25 or for Year A (28): Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 Romans 5:1-2,5-8 John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a,40-42

The law liberates and leads us to freedom. It is to be trusted for it is a source of wisdom. Jesus speaks of the ultimate freedom to be won for us by his being raised up. He is the sign of the power and wisdom of God.

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 Psalm 137:1-6 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21 or for Year A (31): 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Psalm 23:1-6 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 or 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to deliver the world from exile.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

I was in Mexico City this past week from Monday to Friday visiting families that I know there. It was a good little break.

We are in the Lenten Season. Let us take advantage of this time to spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

During Lent, let us try to pray a little more than usual, giving God a little extra time. Let us fast and sacrifice to make ourselves spiritually stronger. Let us give of ourselves by being extra kind and forgiving and giving to those who are in need physically and spiritually.

Applications for Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School are still being taken. If you are interested or know of anyone interested in this position, please get a resume to me as soon as possible. At this time, we have two applicants.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

St. John – March 6, March 20

Moravia – March 13, March 27



#### YOUTH NEWS

If your child is interested in going on our summer trip to Steubenville on the Bayou, please contact Troy Spring at [troy@splashwaywaterpark.com](mailto:troy@splashwaywaterpark.com). More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MARCH:** Agnes Berckenhoff & Jan Morin

**ST. JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR MARCH:** Glenn Lux & Larry Berger

**MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MARCH:** Kathy Guenther and Dorothy Henke.

**MORAVIA USHERS FOR MARCH:** Anthony Hrcir and Thomas Brosh



## MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

Moravia Altar Society Meeting March 4th at 6:30 P.M. at Parish Hall. All members are asked to attend.

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 28 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – James Lofland, Alex Lozano, April Brossmann

Sunday, March 1 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Caleb Krischke, Seth Eckhardt, Caitlin Deem

Saturday, March 7 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Kenna Kubenka, Joshua Becan

Sunday, March 8 – 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Alex Lozano, April Brossmann, James Lofland

Saturday, March 14 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Caitlin Deem, Rylie & Regan Lux

Sunday, March 15 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Caleb Krischke, Seth Eckhardt, Dylan Goldberg

## PRO-LIFE CORNER

### Four Things

Four things in any land must dwell,

If it endures and prospers well:

One is manhood true and good;

One is noble womanhood;

One is child life, clean and bright;

And one an altar kept alight.

(from Salesian Missions Inspirational Books)

## ST. JOHN ATV RAFFLE

Monetary donations are currently being taken for the St. John ATV Raffle. In addition to the ATV there will be 4 - \$250 cash prizes offered. Deadline is March 8th to get in on this. Please contact Ann McBride if you are interested in donating toward this raffle 979-561-6261 or [mcbride@cvctx.com](mailto:mcbride@cvctx.com)

## LENTEN FISH FRY

Fish Fry, Friday, March 6, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville. Serving 5:00-6:30 p.m. Dine in or drive-thru plates to go. Golden Fried Fish Fillets, French Fries, Coleslaw, Pinto Beans and Hush Puppies - \$9 per plate. Tickets available at Hoffer's Drive-In or the K.C. Hall. Tickets will also be available at the door and the drive-thru. Another Fish Fry is scheduled for March 20.



## Gabriel Project Workshop & Training, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mary's House, 300 S. Dowling, Hallettsville.

Light breakfast, lunch & free materials will be provided. For information or to register, call Theresa Kostelnik 361-772-4153 or email [takostelnik@att.net](mailto:takostelnik@att.net). The Gabriel Project is a ministry providing help to pregnant women in need. Become a Gabriel Angel – accompany a woman throughout her pregnancy; serve as positive role model for parents-to-be; assist with collection of monetary, maternity and baby items from parishioners; maintain inventory of donated items; work telephone hotline; prepare meals for new mothers; provide childcare for children of the mother; provide money management instruction; pray for mothers and volunteers of The Gabriel Project.

*Friday's during Lent are days of abstinence from meat.*

## A PRAYER FOR LENT

*Dear Lord,*

*We are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin to realize anew that these are the days of salvation, these are the acceptable days.*

*We know that we are all sinners. We know that in many things we have all offended Your infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert.*

*Help us now, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sin.*

*Bless our efforts with the rich blessing of Your grace.*

*Make us realize ever more our need of penance and of mortification.*

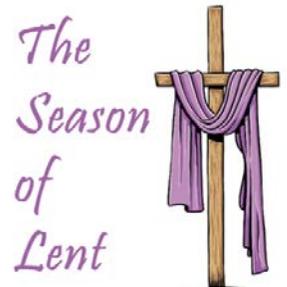
*Help us to see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up for past infidelities.*

*Every day we are so often reminded in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless generosity to us.*

*Help us to realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over.*

*Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning.*

*Amen.*



# Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2015

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Agnes of Bohemia

Imagine refusing marriage proposals from not one but two kings and the Holy Roman Emperor. For Agnes, daughter of Queen Constance and King Ottokar I, none but the King of Heaven could win her heart. In 1236, after financing the construction of a Poor Clare monastery in Prague, she entered this monastery with seven other noblewomen. Agnes became known for prayer, obedience and mortification. She turned her back on her fortune and embraced poverty and kindness.

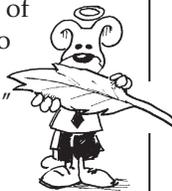


### Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis declared this the Year of Consecrated Life. Celebrate the Church's treasure of those in consecrated life. (See [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for details.)

"Dear brothers and sisters, may (the) Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution, the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ."

Pope Francis



## Follow the Holy Spirit to Heaven

During Lent, Catholics everywhere sharpen their consciences to prepare for Easter. As temples of the Holy Spirit, it is critical that we keep ourselves in mint condition. Nevertheless, even the most diligent caretaker can miss something. Fortunately, we have the Holy Spirit to assist with our Spring tune-up.

### Give God full attention.

Whether it's by meditating on the limitless nature of his love, or by making sacrifices like turning off music or TV to better hear the whispering of the Holy Spirit (1 Kings 19:12), occasional silence is essential to learn how the Holy Spirit wants to work in our lives.

Read love letters from the Lord. Since

humans were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the Bible, studying it is like having a conversation with the Lord. What better way could there be to strengthen our relationship with him than by reading and meditating on his very words?

**Open the floodgates of grace.** Growth in our relationship with God comes through grace. For example, we obtain grace by receiving him in the Eucharist at Mass, or

obtaining guidance and forgiveness from him in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The means by which we may receive grace are endless. The Holy Spirit guides the Catholic Church, so it makes sense to make the Holy Spirit our guide, too.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics call Jesus, "Lord"?

The word "lord" refers to someone having power or authority. When we call Jesus, "Lord," we acknowledge his power over sin and death as evidenced by his Crucifixion and Resurrection. We dedicate ourselves to his service.



"The New Testament uses this full sense of the title 'Lord' both for the Father and...for Jesus, who is thereby recognized as God himself" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #446). Therefore, Christians bend our knees to him as our Lord and no one else.

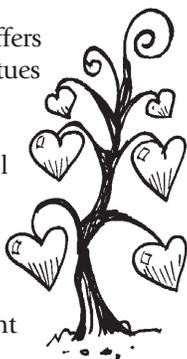
## Accept your gifts from the Holy Spirit

To guide us in our spiritual growth, the Holy Spirit offers us gifts of sanctifying grace. These gifts perfect basic virtues that will lead us to Heaven. When properly used, we stay focused on God.

**Wisdom:** This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and his plan for us.

**Understanding:** Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart, not just the mind.

**Counsel:** Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh all the alternatives to make the right choice.



**Fortitude:** The ability to remain firm against all pressures. (Also called courage.)

**Knowledge:** A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

**Piety:** Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve him.

**Fear of the Lord:** The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect him and all his creations.

**Accepting these gifts means identifying and using them.** Just don't forget to call on the Holy Spirit for guidance when you do.

### from Scripture

### Mark 14:1-15, 47, Make Jesus' Passion our own.

It is important to recall the events of Jesus' Passion. It is even more important to share in his suffering and great love during his Passion.

St. Paul said, "We hold this treasure in earthen vessels ... always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body" (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

He means that everything that happens in our lives – the good and the bad – can be part of our bond with Jesus.

Every day our frustrations, our fears, our loneliness, our temptations, can

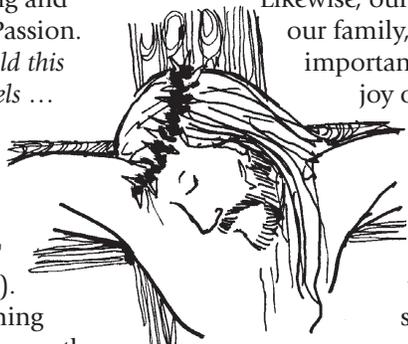
become ways in which we share in the suffering and death of Christ.

Likewise, our joys, our good health, our family, our friends, are all important ways to share in the joy of his Resurrection. The

point is to offer everything to Christ.

St. Alphonsus wrote, "We should consider not so much the sorrows Jesus suffered as the love with which he bore

them." Disciples of Jesus can have the same attitude toward suffering as he did and can share in his joy of Resurrection.



### Q & A Are Christians required to be pacifists?

Jesus told his disciples, "... offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well" (Matthew 5:39). He



wanted his disciples to strive for peace when confronted with violence because he knew that "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52). We are never to use violence to solve problems.

That doesn't mean, however, that we are required to stand by while others attempt to deny either the individual citizen or particular governments fundamental rights, including that of self-defense. War can be morally justified as a last resort but we should do everything possible to avoid war before it starts.

Certainly Christians must speak out against acts that provoke war. Too, we are required to fight racial, ethnic and religious discrimination. Better still, when we fight injustice, we actually work to promote peace. That's the Christian way. In fact, Jesus turned the violence of the Cross into the ultimate act of love.

### Feasts & Celebrations

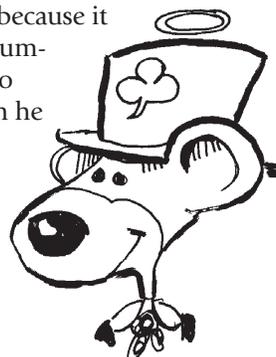
**March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440).** Although she preferred a life of service, Frances' parents selected a nobleman as her husband. She and a new sister-in-law formed a society of women to serve the poor. Frances continued to honor her family and serve the poor.

**March 17 – St. Patrick (493).** Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned as bishop of Ireland and is credited for establishing the Church there.

**March 23 – St. Toribio de Mogrovejo**

(1606). A brilliant scholar, he was working as a professor when chosen to lead the archdiocese of Lima in Peru. He was ordained priest and bishop and worked to strengthen his diocese.

**March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.** The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion because it recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. It marks the beginning of Holy Week.



### Our Mission

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