

FEBRUARY 8, 2009

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



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MASS SCHEDULE

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 7	6:00 P.M.	A.C. Ivy	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 8	9:30 A.M.	August & Emilia Filip	Moravia

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 14	6:00 P.M.	Charles & Julie Neskora	St. John
Sunday	Feb. 15	9:30 A.M.	Daniel S. Spies	St. John

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 21	6:00 P.M.	L.A. Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 22	9:30 A.M.	Henry & Julie Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7 Psalm 147:1-6 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 Mark 1:29-39

Job's cry of hopelessness stands in marked contrast to the hope of those who put their trust in Jesus, who "heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds". Such are the blessings of the good news. **World Marriage Day is celebrated today.**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 Psalm 32:1-2,5,11 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Mark 1:40-45

Jesus manifests the powerful, healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by Jewish legislation. He turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy. We are called to imitate the healing and compassionate Jesus.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25 Psalm 41:2-5,13-14 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12

In our repentance, the Lord remembers not our offenses. God, who is forever faithful, has sent us his Son. He is the sign of God's never ending healing love and forgiveness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This coming Thursday & Friday evening, February 12th & 13th at 7:00 p.m. we will have a mini mission at Sacred Heart given by Fr. Denis Wilde from Priests for Life. He will also celebrate an 8:00 mass on Saturday morning. He will be speaking at all of the weekend Masses at Sacred Heart next weekend.

We need to hear what he has to say about respecting life and about our responsibilities in protecting life. I encourage each of you to attend this mini mission. It is extremely important, especially in our day and time when respect for life is being challenged from all sides.

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY

It's time to reserve study guides for our Lenten "Disciples on the Journey." In the past we have met in church after Friday evening Stations of the Cross for this study of the following Sunday readings. Call Elsie Farek (979-562-2159) to reserve your text for 2009 Fridays of Lent "journey" beginning February 27.

SPIRITUAL BOOK STUDY

You are invited to participate in reading & discussing *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by renowned author Fr. Henri Nouwen. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's painting of the encounter between the father & his wayward son sent our author on a long spiritual adventure. In his book he shares the deeply personal meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. We who join in this opportunity to study his work are sure to have our own encounter with God as we explore our life experiences in light of this familiar story from Scripture. Who do you most relate to - the father, the younger son or the elder son? Does it change for you? Come join us in this adventure and be enriched by the words we will read and the stories we will share on Wednesdays beginning January 7, 6:00 to 7:10 p.m. at Mary's House, which is the new meeting area at Sacred Heart. For book ordering information, call Pat Scherer at (979) 562-2252.

PRO LIFE CORNER

“Respect for the dignity of the human person demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum...yet abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others...” (U.S. Bishops, “Living the Gospel of Life,” 1998,n.5)

THE YOUTH CONNEXION FROM SACRED HEART - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

February 15: *Firefall* at 6:00 PM in Sacred Heart Church. Youth gathering at the Youth House afterwards.

February 20 & 21: 5th-8th Grade Youth Lock-In.

February 22: High School Youth Spectacular, Holy Family Parish, Victoria.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Stanley Loth, Brother of Leroy Loth

Ascension Church Building Fund

Arthur Spies and family	\$50	Mary Ann Spies	\$30
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THANK-YOU'S

Thank you to Dennis and Barbara Janak for donating \$115.00 to have the Christmas Cards produced for the Ascension of Our Lord Church in Moravia.

\$208.50 Total Cards Sold

- \$45.00 Taken out for extra Christmas Trees

\$163.50 Total Profit

Also Thank-You to Hostyn Nursery for donating the 4 poinsettia trees in Ascension of Our Lord Church.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was in May of 1873 that a young Belgian priest scaled through a rocky mountainous ridge and first set eyes on the village to which he was called to bring the Word of God. There, 816 people lived isolated from society; the priest not only ministered to their spiritual needs but to their physical needs as well. He did his best to provide medical assistance, he built houses, and he even dug graves, a task too frequently needed because this little village was named Kalaupapa on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai, where those afflicted with leprosy were banished to live. Father Damien contracted the disease as well, but continued his missionary work until his death in 1889 at the age of forty-nine.

Today's reading from the Gospel of Mark tells of Jesus accompanying James, John, Andrew and Simon to see Simon's mother-in-law, who was sick with fever. Jesus relieved her suffering, and then left to pray in solitude. When His disciples found Him, He instructed them that they would now begin traveling to other villages in towns in the area, as it was His mission to spread His great news as far and wide as He could, especially to those who would need the saving grace of God the most.

We are taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that the Holy Spirit is the leader of the principal mission of the Church, to reach out to the spiritually and physically poor, thus unfolding the path of Christ, a way of service and self-sacrifice even unto death (CCC 852). In our lives, we are presented with opportunities to walk this path with Christ every day. By accepting our mission to reach out to others who need us, we are assured that we will never walk that path alone.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION...IS IT FOR ME?

Sometimes people have the mistaken idea that spiritual direction is only for priests, deacons and religious. Our Church makes spiritual direction available for everyone, regardless of vocation. Spiritual direction is a confidential, individual opportunity to share with someone who has been trained to listen and perhaps offer suggestions that may enrich our prayer life. There is never any charge. This is a gift we give to each other as the Body of Christ. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call Pat Scherer (979) 562-2252.

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, 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.



He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

— Mk 1:38-39

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

Next Bulletin: Feb. 22nd, 2009
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19th, 2009



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

— Mk 1:40-41

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