

SEPTEMBER 6, 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

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 5	6:00 P.M.	Clarence Haas	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 6	9:30 A.M.	Gladys Lux	St. John

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 12	6:00 P.M.	Charles & Emilie Halata	St. John
Sunday	Sept. 13	9:30 A.M.	Rain	Moravia

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 19	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 20	9:30 A.M.	Bohumil & Lillian Bohuslav	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146:7-10 James 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37

The advent of the age of salvation is upon us: the deaf hear, the blind see, and those bowed down are raised up. The kingdom is made manifest around the Eucharistic table, where rich and poor alike are invited to feast.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Tuesday, Sept. 8

Readings: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 Psalm 13:6 Matthew 1:1-16,18-23 or 1:18-23

Let us rejoice in the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was predestined to give birth "by the strength of the Lord". This 5th century feast marks the anniversary of the dedication of a basilica in Jerusalem built, according to tradition, on the location of the home of St. Anne (July 26), the mother of Mary.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 50:5-9a Psalm 116:1-6,8-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35

Isaiah would suffer and call upon the Lord for help. Jesus speaks of his own suffering and death and of the demands of discipleship. What use is faith, to confess that Jesus is the Christ without works of love?

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Monday Sept. 14

Readings: Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 78:1-2,34-38 Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up". "God highly exalted him" and made him Lord. How unforgettable are his deeds! The feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher was built by the Crusaders in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress, St. Helena (Aug. 18), in 320.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wisdom 2:12,17-20 Psalm 54:3-4,5,6-8 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37

Jesus speaks of his own rejection, torture, and shameful death. True discipleship, he says is concerned not with status but with service to the poor, with justice and peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

School has begun. Our students and teachers are back in school. Let us pray for them as they all move forward this year, academically, physically, mentally and hopefully spiritually and morally.

Thank you to the ladies in charge of the pictorial directory picture taking. Thank you also to all who had your picture taken for the directory. This is a very special book for all of us.

THANK YOU

Thank you to John & Gladys Pucciarello for donating one of the picnic tables for Moravia. We have 6 more tables that were not yet donated.

Thank you to Fowlkes Equipment Company for donating several loads of dirt for the addition to the Moravia Picnic Hall.

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. 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 rivers will sing Your praises, and the heart of men will be made glad. Amen.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

We had a great time at the Generations of Faith Retreat/VBS! Our next GOF will be Sunday, September 20, 2009 at St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Center immediately after the 9:30 a.m. Mass and should last until about 1:30 p.m. All generations are encouraged to attend. We will be discussing an Introduction to Catholic Social Teachings. *Our Sunday Visitor* states that, "We are all called to give time, talent and treasures, even through times of change, such as economic downturns or parish consolidations". OSV also recommends the book, "The Catholic Vision for Leading Like Jesus," by Owen Phelps, Ph.D., that shows how being a good steward is intertwined with roles of servant and shepherd. **It is important that parents attend this GOF meeting. The general GOF, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation guidelines will be presented and discussed. The mandatory Safe Environment education for students and their parents will also be presented in the Technical Center during this GOF program. Any student missing the Safe Environment Program will be required to attend a make-up.** Please don't forget to bring your lunch and drinks for your family. We look forward to another exciting program; you won't want to miss the introduction to this year's programs! For questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry 979-562-2381, Kim Lofland 979-562-2267 or Janis Hrcncir 361-596-7525.

The catechists would like to thank St. John's KJZT Society #9 for their annual cleaning of the Rectory/Religious Education Center and their generous donation of four CD players so that we can enjoy music in all the GOF centers! They are truly our angels!

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 5 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann

Sunday Sept. 6 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Hayden & Blair Besetzny, Logan Eckhardt

Saturday, Sept. 12 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann

Sunday, Sept. 13 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Logan & Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny

Saturday, Sept. 19 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem & Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, Sept. 20 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Jared & Caleb Krischke, Hayden Besetzny

PRO LIFE CORNER

The moral gravity of procured abortion is apparent in all its truth if we recognize that we are dealing with murder. (52)...a person who actually procures an abortion incurs automatic (latae sententiae) excommunication. The excommunication affects all those who commit this crime with knowledge of the penalty attached, and thus includes those accomplices without whose help the crime would not have been committed. (62) (JOHN PAUL II in EVANGELIUM VITAE)

The Youth ConneXion

September 13: Champs meeting in the Youth House starting at 3:00 p.m.

September 13: Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00. Youth gathering at the Youth House after Firefall

Music Practice: Mondays, 4:00-5:30 pm, Youth House.

SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN

IWBS Sisters are hosting a "Come & See" visit for single Catholic women (high school graduates to 50), Sept. 19 at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria. For information, call 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com.

ADOPT A STUDENT PROGRAM

The Adopt-A-Student Program is a tuition assistance program. Your gift to this fund helps Sacred Heart Catholic School students receive a Catholic education. For more information, please call the school office at 798-4251.

GABRIEL PROJECT WORKSHOP

Gabriel Project Workshop is on September 22 at Holy Family Church, Victoria from 6:30-9:30 p.m. RSVP to Martha at 571-7130.

PICNICS - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic, KC Hall, Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner, homemade dressing & all the trimmings 10:30a.m.-1p.m. Drive thru plates to go 10:30a.m.-1:30p.m. Adults \$7, children \$4. Auction 1pm Bingo (Noon-6 pm), cake walk, country store, religious articles, kiddy rides, game booths, washer pitching tournament 5pm, delicious food & more! Music on Main Pavilion 11am-1pm by Kovanda's Authentic Czech Music. Free dance 1-9pm on Polka Pavilion/Biergarten by Red Ravens & Dujka Brothers. *Bring your entire family & join your friends for a great time at the picnic!!!*
- Shiner Picnic
- High Hill Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 20 - Moulton Church Picnic, KC Hall



Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. — Mk 7:34-35

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

Next Bulletin: September 17th, 2009
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20th



He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." — Mk 8:34-35

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

Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2009

One Minute Meditations

Pass on the gift

In the encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI said, "Love is God's greatest gift to humanity; it is his promise and our hope." As Catholics, we convey God's love to others through charity. To find more ways to practice charity, visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: www.usccb.org/jphd.

Why a Catholic Bible?

Choosing a Catholic Bible ensures that you get the whole story. A Catholic edition includes all the Church's sacred books, plus there are introductions and notes to help understand what is read. And it carries assurance that it is free of errors in Catholic doctrine. So you get nothing but the truth.

Our "Call"

When God calls, his children respond. The Father called a chosen people, prophets, and kings to service. They responded. Jesus called his apostles and disciples. They responded. God calls each of us. Have you responded? Are you where he wants you to be?



The most important thing

When Jesus promised to be with us always, he wasn't just talking symbolically. He meant that he would stay with us – body, blood, soul, and divinity. In fact, when we go to Mass, we meet Jesus himself "truly, really, and substantially contained" in Holy Communion (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, sec. 1374*). He is there every time.

We meet the one and only Jesus. The Jesus we meet in Holy Communion is the same person who now sits at the right hand of the Father. How this happens is a mystery but we know it through faith – a faith deepened by Holy Communion.

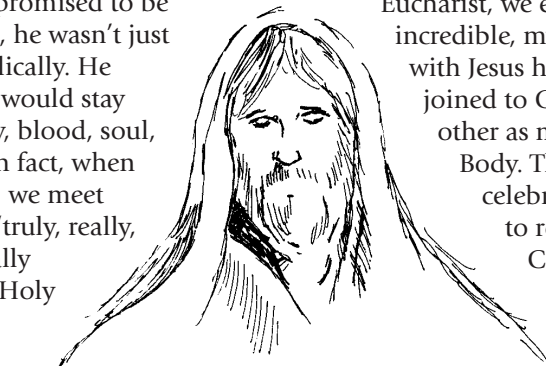
We are joined to Jesus. At Mass, we aren't just spectators. By celebrating the

Eucharist, we enter into an incredible, mystical relationship with Jesus himself. We are joined to Christ and to each other as members of his Body. The best way to celebrate the Eucharist is to receive Holy Communion devoutly and frequently.

We believe in Jesus. After we hear the words, "The Body of Christ," and "The Blood of Christ," we say, "Amen" derived from the Hebrew word meaning

"confirm." Saying "Amen" means that we believe what we are about to receive is truly the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ.

That makes receiving Holy Communion the most important thing we do.



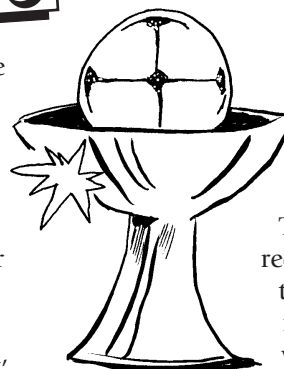
Why Do Catholics Do That?

First, ensure that you are free from grave sin. If in doubt, receive the Sacrament of Penance first.

Then, fast from food or drink for at least one hour prior to receiving the Eucharist.

When the priest, deacon,

What is the right way to receive Holy Communion?



or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion says, "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ," answer, "Amen." Then put out your hands to receive the host or extend your tongue to receive it by mouth, and grasp the cup with two hands.

Let go of the good life

Who doesn't want to live the "good life?" Wouldn't it be great to have all the money you need, go on exotic vacations, and own your dream home? Yet, ask people who have all the world can offer and most will say they still don't have everything they want. This is because the good life doesn't exist here on Earth.

This world isn't perfect and can't give us true happiness despite the money or comfort we may have here. As Catholics,



we know that the good life is only possible when we are with God. Trying for anything else will cause us to lose our way.

St. Paul said, "No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Catholics know that the good life isn't where we are, it's where we are going.

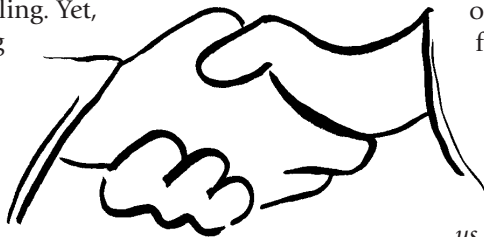
from Scripture

Mark 9:38-48, Be ruthless with sin

The disciples were jealous of an unfamiliar man who healed in Jesus' name. It seemed that they were more concerned about losing the spotlight than in healing. Yet, we do the same thing when we refuse to participate in good works because the people are unfamiliar, those in charge don't do things the way we'd like, or we fear our efforts won't get recognized. Competitiveness and ego have no place in the Christian community.

Jesus was very clear; we must be ruthless in removing sin from our

lives. Giving up a relationship, job, or habit that keeps us from God may seem just as painful as cutting off a hand, but the consequences of our choices last forever.



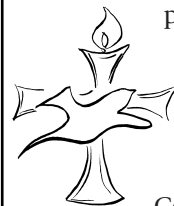
Being lukewarm toward Jesus is not possible. "For whoever is not against us is for us." Not all of Jesus'

followers resemble each other or belong to the same groups. But all who are on Jesus' side have the same goal to build up the kingdom of God. Our differences should never interfere with the work of the kingdom.

Q & A What is RCIA?

Every year thousands of adults choose to join the 1.13 billion Catholics in the world today. They embark on this journey of conversion through RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Started in 1972 by Pope Paul VI, the process has four stages, beginning with a Period of Inquiry. This step is the personal reflection of one's own life and their journey into a life of Catholic Christian faith.



The Catechumenate phase, for those never baptized, concentrates on the spiritual formation of the individual. It allows them to explore the Catholic Church and decide how they can grow as part of the Catholic community.

The Election phase prepares individuals for the sacraments. It begins with the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent and leads to Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Additional education continues into the Mystagogy or final stage. It focuses on the liturgy, sacraments and Catholic teachings. It is also the time where new Catholics review their lifelong mission to love and serve the Lord.

Feasts & Celebrations

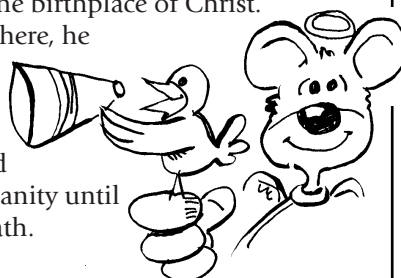
Sept. 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. The birth of Mary marks the approach of salvation. She was born pure and holy with the privilege of becoming the Mother of God.

Sept. 9 – St. Peter Claver (1654). St. Peter was a Jesuit who left his native Spain to become a missionary in the West Indies. He focused his work on providing care and showing God's love to the thousands who were brought there to be sold as slaves. It is said that Claver instructed and baptized about

300,000 slaves during his 40 years of service.

Sept. 29 – St. Jerome (420). St. Jerome, known for his intellect, was called by God and given the task of going to Rome and revising the Latin Bible. Upon completion, Jerome spent his life visiting each spot significant to Christ's life. He eventually settled in Bethlehem, living in the cave believed to be the birthplace of Christ.

From there, he used his pen to uphold Christianity until his death.



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