

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



REV. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

REV. MICHAEL ROTHER, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 6	6:00 P.M.	Thelma, Ann Spies & Daniel Spies	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 7	9:30 A.M.	Evelyn Novosad	St. John

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 13	6:00 P.M.	Elizabeth Richardson	St. John
Sunday	Feb. 14	9:30 A.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday	Feb. 17	7:30 P.M.	Parish Family of St. John & Ascension	Moravia
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First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Feb. 20	6:00 P.M.	L.A. Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 21	9:30 A.M.	Dominic Loth	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8 Psalm 138:1-5,7-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8,11 Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah, a man of unclean lips, beholds the Lord's glory in the temple and is sent on mission. Simon, a sinner, responds to the mission of Jesus by becoming a disciple. Paul, the persecutor, speaks of his call to preach nothing but Christ crucified and risen.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8 Psalm 1:1-4,6 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20 Luke 6:17,20-26

Blest are they who trust and hope in the Lord. Blest are they who are poor and who endure insult, for their reward shall be great: eternal life.

Ash Wednesday

Readings: Jl 2:12-18 Psalm 51:3-6b,12-14,17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Be reconciled and return to the Lord by means of prayer, fasting and deeds of loving service.

Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fast and abstinence in the Church.

First Sunday of Lent

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 91:1-2,10-15 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13

Moses recounts great events of salvation history which find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We confess him to be Lord, for God raised him from the dead. He is ever faithful, resisting temptation to forsake his Father's mission, trusting in God's love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas has just ended and here we are preparing for Lent already. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Lent's holy drama stirs the senses: the purple banners and vestments; the hush during the Stations of the Cross; the feel of the wood on the crucifix during veneration...and, yes, even the unforgettable fried fish in the KC Hall on Friday night...all create memories your family will hold in their hearts. Create even more memories with your children this year so that "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" become more than just big words for "no video games for 40 days." Turn these three basic elements of Lent into deep, holy experiences for your family.

Prayer

Seek Sacrament. Those in your family who have made their first reconciliation should go to celebrate the sacrament during Lent. Help little ones think about to whom they should say "I'm sorry" each day.

Behold the Cross. Move your family's crucifix so it is near your front door (or whichever door you use most). It will serve as a daily visual reminder of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Fasting

Fasting is so much more than giving up food. During Lent, we fast from things we like to do (eat sweets) or things we should not do (roll our eyes while another is talking). By fasting, we make a sacrifice for God.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is so much more than giving money. During Lent, we can give of ourselves. And we can honor Mary, who gave the world the greatest gift - her son, Jesus. Mary's "yes" to God to be the mother of Jesus is a reminder that we all have gifts to give.

Fasting and Abstinence

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both abstinence and fasting.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (abstaining from meat).



- Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter, but Lent is considered 40 days long, because Sundays are not counted as days of Lent. The reason? Fasting was considered inappropriate on Sundays, the day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next GOF will be Sunday, February 21, 2010 after Mass at the Rectory/Religious Education Center and should last until about 1:30PM. All generations are encouraged to attend. We will continue our discussion of Catholic Social Teachings with "Peace." As the U.S. Catholic Bishops explain, ". . .Peacemaking is not an optional . . .requirement of our faith. We are called to be peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus. The content and context of our peacemaking is set not by some political agenda or ideological program, but by the teaching of His Church." Adults will continue their Bible Study. All GOF attendees, please be sure to bring your snack or lunch and drink as usual.

Confirmation students, their parents, and/or sponsors will spend the day after Mass in a retreat instead of attending GOF; lunch is provided for the retreat. We look forward to seeing you for another fun-filled learning experience about your faith.

The Youth ConneXion

February 14: Youth meet in Sacred Heart Church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. Gathering to follow in Youth House.

Discount Cards are now \$5.00 each & offer discounts at various local businesses & can be used repeatedly through Sept. 30, 2010. Cards are available at the Rectory. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Youth.

Music Practice: Mondays, 6:00 pm, Youth House.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY

The Moravia Altar Society Spring Social will be held Sunday, March 7, 2010, at the parish hall. A catered meal will be served. Each member is asked to bring a dessert. Dues can be paid at this time. The meal will be served around 11:30. Please come out and enjoy the social. Call Kathy Guenther at 979-562-2124 or Bernice Neskora at 361-596-7420 if you plan to attend.

MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS AND USHERS

Moravia church cleaners for February: Arlene Becan & Janis Hrcir

Ushers for February: Dale Janak & Hilbert Henke Jr.

PRO LIFE

National Pro-Life Alliance members have long pointed out that a Life at Conception Act would overturn Roe vs. Wade by legislatively establishing that life begins at the moment of conception and therefore is entitled to protection under the law.

In its own Roe vs. Wade decision, the High Court wrote, "If this suggestion of personhood be established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the (14th) Amendment."

A Life at Conception Act - such as Senator Roger Wicker's S. 346 and Congressman Duncan D. Hunter's H. R. 881 - does just that. It declares the unborn to be "persons" under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and therefore entitled to the rights to life guaranteed therein. NOTE: Write to our Senators and Representative urging them to co-sponsor the bills. (Newsletter of the National Pro-Life Alliance - Winter 2010)

PENNIES FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

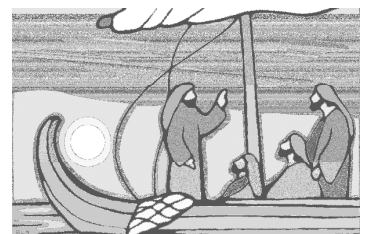
"The pennies have all been counted with a grand total of \$412.71 collected in the Pennies for Life Campaign sponsored by Catholic Daughters Court St. Rose #1597. Containers were placed in St. Rose Church, as well as churches in St. John, Moravia, Praha and High Hill. The children in the St. Rose School and CCD program also gave their pennies for the cause. The money was sent to the Diocese of Victoria Respect Life Office. The Catholic Daughters court thanks you all for your generosity."

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE DIOCESE:

St. John the Baptist -	Parish Goal - \$21,607.00
	Total Number of Parishioners Pledging - 40
	Total Amount Pledged - \$38,620.00
	Total Amount contributed so far - \$21,323.00
	Total Rebate Paid to the Parish so far - \$4,264.60
Ascension of Our Lord -	Parish Goal - \$27,666.00
	Total Number of Parishioners Pledging - 42
	Total Amount Pledged - \$40,355.00
	Total Amount contributed so far - \$18,659.57
	Total Rebate Paid to the Parish so far - \$3,731.91

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 6 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann
 Sunday, Feb. 7 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Logan Eckhart
 Saturday, Feb. 13 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Caitlyn Deem & Joshua Becan
 Sunday, Feb. 14 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Logan Eckhart
 Saturday, Feb. 20 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan
 Sunday, Feb. 21 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Seth Eckhart



Growing in FAITH™

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

February 2010

One Minute Meditations

A warm "hello"

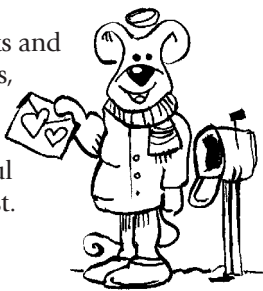
Mass is a community celebration. Try to arrive five to ten minutes before Mass is to begin and greet the people around you. Stay for the entire Mass and visit after it is over. Making others who may be new to your parish feel welcome strengthens the entire Body of Christ.

Amen

The word "amen" shares the same root as the Hebrew word for "believe." When we say it at the end of our prayer, we affirm our belief in what we just said. "To believe is to say 'Amen' to God's words, promises, and commandments" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1064).

Your harvest

When you plant tomato seeds in a garden, you will harvest tomatoes. In the same way, whatever is planted in your heart and mind will be your harvest. Avoid seeds like violence, negativity, and self-indulgence. When you plant positive thoughts and attitudes, you will reap a beautiful harvest.



Catholics leave their mark on the world

As Catholics, we believe that it is possible to build a just society despite the challenges of modern life. In fact, the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching can help us to understand how we can work to create a better world. As Lent begins this month, why not use these principles to figure out

where you can make a greater difference:

Life and dignity of the human person. People are the clearest reflection of God among us. That makes human life sacred and Catholics act to uphold the dignity and rights of all people.

Call to Family, Community, and the Common Good. Catholics work for the good of everyone, especially working to support marriage and family.

Rights and Responsibilities. All people have a right to life and basics required for human decency such as food, shelter, health care, education, and employment.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

Jesus brought hope and compassion to the less fortunate, and he asked that we continue his work.

Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers. The economy exists to serve people, not the

other way around. Workers have the right to productive work and to fair wages

Solidarity. Loving our neighbor recognizes no boundaries.

Care for God's Creation. Out of love for God, we care for the earth and all that he created.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics observe Lent?

Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church year. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Easter Triduum, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before his



public ministry.

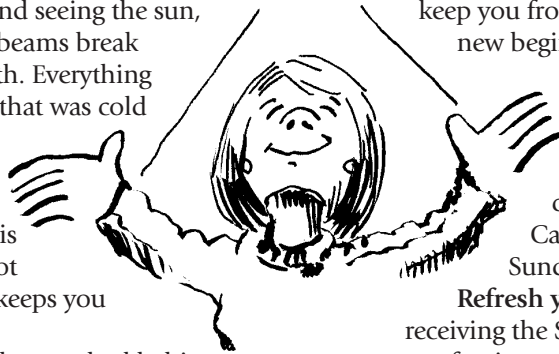
This helps us remember the great events of salvation history. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Stand in the Light during Lent

Imagine looking up to the sky and seeing the sun, so powerful and bright that great beams break through any gray to touch the earth. Everything that was dark is now light and all that was cold feels warmth.

Jesus is like that sun. His glory shines rays of hope on each of us, warming us with the strength of his love. During Lent this year, why not remove anything in your life that keeps you from standing in his light?

Refresh your sight. Eliminate whatever bad habits



keep you from seeing Christ's light. Let Lent be a new beginning to your lifelong journey down the right path.

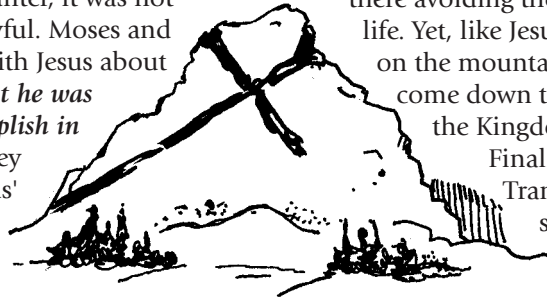
Refresh your faith. Find your way to the light. Recommit to the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation. (You can find them at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: www.usccb.org.) Sunday Mass can help you stay on track.

Refresh your soul. Clear your way to the light by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is ready to forgive us if we ask.

from Scripture

Luke 9:23-36, Linger on the mountaintop.

While the Transfiguration was a fantastic encounter, it was not particularly joyful. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." They referred to Jesus' death, as the shadow of the Cross loomed.



Like Moses' exodus from slavery in Egypt however, Jesus' exodus would deliver his people from the slavery of sin.

When he offered to build shelters for the three men, Peter clearly wanted to remain on the mountaintop in this holy moment. Sometimes we have an

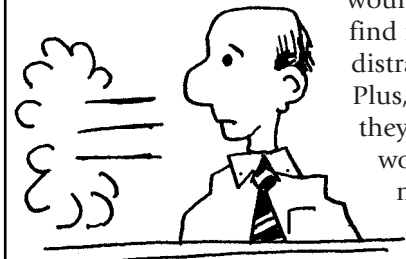
inspiring experience and want to stay there avoiding the realities of daily life. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot linger on the mountaintop but must come down to take our place in the Kingdom.

Finally, God used the Transfiguration to speak a message – the same one he spoke at

Jesus' baptism. He confirmed Jesus as his son, the Messiah, and added, "Listen to him." The son of God has God's power and authority. If we believe that Jesus is the son of God, then surely we will want to do what he says.

Q & A Is it permissible to leave Mass early after Communion?

Imagine if some of your dinner guests gobbled their food and bolted when they finished. Not only would you think it rude, your other guests



would find it distracting. Plus, they would miss out on

the rest of the evening.

The same is true for Mass. Jesus is present for the entire Mass, so ducking out before it is over means walking out on him. Can you imagine meeting with an earthly king and leaving before he concluded your time together?

Lastly, participating in Mass is intimately linked to our call to go forth and live the Gospel. The final blessing and dismissal prepares us to share what we have received with our brothers and sisters. If we leave directly after Communion, we miss this important component.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858) A heavenly lady who called herself, "The Immaculate Conception," appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France. After the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spring with miraculous healing waters emerged from a nearby cave.

February 17 – Ash Wednesday. Marking the first day of Lent, ashes from the palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. One form of Lenten observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross, meditating on

Jesus' walk to Calvary.

February 22 – St. Peter's Chair (1st century). We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).

As Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before being martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



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