

JULY 24, 2011

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. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	July 23	6:00 P.M.	James Winkler	St. John
Sunday	July 24	9:30 A.M.	Joe & Irene Drozd Barcak	Moravia

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	July 30	6:00 P.M.	Vera Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	July 31	9:30 A.M.	Bohumil & Lillie Bohuslav	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Aug. 5	8:00 A.M.	Rain	St. John
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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Aug. 6	6:00 P.M.	Alfons & Celestie & Robert Schwartz	Moravia
Sunday	Aug. 7	9:30 A.M.	Laurie Kristinik	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12 Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-130 Romans 8:28-30 Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

The person of true wisdom, like Solomon, will seek the reign of God and treasure it above all else. It is more precious than gold and silver. Thus one becomes conformed to the image of Christ, the Son.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 55:1-3 Psalm 145:8-9,15-18 Romans 8:35,37-39 Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus had pity on the crowd and miraculously feeds them. In his compassion the Lord answers all our needs, thus renewing his covenant of love with us. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a Psalm 85:9-14 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33

In the midst of our trials and tribulations, the Lord extends his hands to us and saves us. He calms our frightened hearts through his quiet presence. May our faith in the Lord draw God's chosen people to the new covenant in Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our two picnics are finished for another year. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make these two picnics a wonderful success.

It always takes a lot of preparation, hard work and cooperation. Many people give many hours to make it happen - before and after the picnic.

We thank parishioners from both parishes for helping each other. We thank our friends and neighbors and family members of parishioners for all the help.

Again, congratulations on two very successful picnics!

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY

Moravia Altar Society dues of \$5.00 per person need to be given or sent to Dorothy Olsovsky at 1721 CR 248, Schulenburg, Texas 78956.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute courses meeting the requirements for religion teachers & catechists will be offered at Sacred Heart Jr. High Library. August 2&4: Sacraments, 6-9 pm.

PRO LIFE

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty. (Mother Teresa)

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. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on 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.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 23 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, James Lofland

Sunday, July 24 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb Krischke, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

Saturday, July 30 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan

Sunday, July 31 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, James Lofland

Saturday, August 6 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem

Sunday, August 7 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Caleb Krischke, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

MEMORIALS

Ascension Building Fund

In memory of Charles Hrcir

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Pesek	\$25
Col. & Mrs. Oran Hrcir	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Wilton Hrcir	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Hines	\$30
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Dotson & family	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Reid Hughes	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Wink Bludau	\$50
Anonymous	\$1,000

Ascension Building Fund

In memory of James Winkler

Phil & Kathy Guenther	\$10
Ervin & Bernice Neskora	\$20
Mildred Hajek	\$10

St. John Building Fund

In memory of Julia Jurica

Melvin & Mary Ann Jurica	\$20
Virginia & Mark Jurica	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. James Kutash	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Jurica	\$20
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Mgrava	\$10
Mgrava Family	\$10
Joe & Geraldine Jurica	\$5
James Jurica	\$10

St. John Cemetery Fund

In memory of Julia Jurica

D.J. & G.D. Jurica	\$25
Virginia & Mark Jurica	\$25
Carol Jordan	\$10
Cathy Galipp & Duane Warnken	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Fojtik, Jr.	\$10
Anna Marie Huelner	\$10

Ascension Cemetery

In memory of Charles Hrcir

Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Bujnoch	\$10
Wendy Hrcir	\$5
Kubena Funeral Home	\$20

St. John CCD Program

In memory of Julia Jurica

Virginia & Mark Jurica	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Kristynik	\$15
Carol Jordan	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Royce Chudej	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Berckenhoff	\$10

St. John's Altar Society

In memory of Julia Jurica

Mr. & Mrs. James Jurica	\$15
Virginia & Mark Jurica	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Kristynik	\$15
Mr. & Mrs. Clint Kainer	\$20
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Krupala	\$25

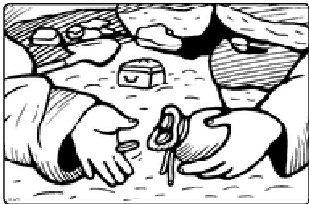
St. John Seminary Burse

In memory of Julia Jurica

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Olsovsky	\$10
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Prayer for Vocations – O Jesus, Good and Gentle Shepherd, grant that the men and women from our community may have the grace and the courage to hear and answer Your call to the priesthood and religious life. Give them the wisdom to realize that life is a gift. Let them realize their life is part of Your plan. Call forth those You have chosen to spread the Gospel message, and help them to freely respond to a life of service in the Church. May the parents and families of our parish, support and encourage our young men and women to search for, follow and answer the call of God in their lives. Amen.



The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Mt. 13:44

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

1 Kings 3:5, 7–12
Romans 8:28–30
Matthew 13:44–52

MONDAY

Matthew 20:20–28
"... the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..."

TUESDAY

Matthew 13:36–43
"The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man."

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 13:44–46
"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure..."

THURSDAY

Matthew 13:47–53
"The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous..."

FRIDAY*

John 11:19–27
"Your brother will rise again."

SATURDAY

Matthew 14:1–12
"... they regarded him as a prophet..."

*Alternate readings exist for this day.

What Do You Treasure?

During the perilous times of Roman occupation, it was a common practice to hide valuables in a field. In this last section of Matthew's parable narratives, the Gospel opens with the great joy that is experienced when a common laborer sold everything to purchase the field in which he had buried his treasure. This same joy filled the rich merchant. First he searched for a pearl of great value, and then he sold all he had to buy it.

These two parables proclaim that the reign of God is worth our all. The Kingdom of God or God's plan for restoring peace and justice on earth is the treasure for which we were created. One way we can know that we are tuned into the reign of God is the surprising joy that fills our spirit.

The parable of the dragnet is similar to that of the weeds and wheat in last week's Gospel. There is an additional dimension presented in this parable. At that time fishermen spun out the net into a great circle, pulling all sorts of fish and debris into its confines. Here we are reminded that God's love encircles all, the rich and poor, the good and the bad.

Just as Solomon prayed, not for riches or fame, but for the wisdom to judge what would be best for his people, we must seek a heart full of wisdom and understanding. True wisdom understands that the Kingdom is indeed the greatest treasure beside which all else fades. Today Jesus asks us: "Do you understand all these things?"



The Faith of the Church

The Church is founded upon the Good News of the coming of God's Kingdom proclaimed by the life and teachings of Jesus. While here and not yet, the mystery of the Kingdom of God is a way of understanding that God is continually calling us into union with him through Jesus. The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God through the gifts of the Spirit and witness of the life of Jesus (Cf. *Lumen gentium*, no 5).



Questions of the Week

The Gospel invites us to give our all, let go of everything else and choose the Kingdom as the focus of our lives. With this wise way of making choices, we will experience great joy even in times of distress. This proclamation of the Good News calls us to treasure God's way over and above our own.

Adults

What lifestyle changes could I make to focus more on the reign of God?

Children

What do I treasure?

Visit us at www.FaithFirst.com (click on "Gospel Reflections") and share today's Gospel reading as a family.

Responding to God's Word . . .

We make choices every day. Many are minute choices: what to wear, what to eat. Yet, each choice affects the lives of others. Each decision is an opportunity to center our energies on the treasure we value most. For example, when we choose our food, it has a ripple effect on local farmers, the industrial agriculture business, and on our health. Furthermore how we recycle and dispose the waste from the products we consume has a greater effect on our environment.

Of course, decisions that impact our being like changing jobs,

moving to a new location, choosing a school or a partner for life—all call for wisdom. One can pray for insight to recognize the 'pearl' in these major choices and then look at the ripple effect that comes from the various options. When a choice is made and there is peace in living out that choice, it is a good sign that it is in tune with God's reign.

Simply put, we often know when we make the right and wise choice by the joy we experience. Whenever there is deep joy in your heart, it is a sign that God's reign is present and active within you.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Have a dinner conversation about how you experience happiness when you make decisions that will build up and sustain the lives of others.

In the workplace or in school. Start a paper and cardboard recycling program in your workplace or school. Research where the waste goes and how it is reused.

In the community. Work together to create a neighborhood or parish garden in a common area. Encourage neighbors to compost their grass, leaves, and vegetable matter.



Meditation Moment

An elderly lady in Scotland was so poor her neighbors had to support her. They were happy to do this, but what bothered some of them was that her son had gone to America and become rich. The mother defended her son, saying, "He writes me every week and always sends me a little picture. See," she said. "I keep them in my Bible." Between the pages of her Bible were hundreds of U.S. bank notes. The woman had a treasure in her Bible, but didn't realize it.

For reflection . . .

To what extent do I need to rediscover the treasure of my Bible: Jesus Christ?

CHRIST IS NOT VALUED AT ALL
UNLESS HE IS VALUED ABOVE ALL.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Guide Us, God

Guide us, O God,
to choose wisely each
day. May our decisions
bring peace to a war-weary
world, justice to those who are
exploited, and compassion to the
suffering. Spirit of God, fill us with
passion for building your Kingdom
here on earth. Risen Christ, instill
in us the desire to let go of our
selfish desires in order to bring life
and love to others. Father, create
in our hearts a new way of seeing
and hearing your voice
throughout each day.
May we rejoice in
knowing you are
always near.
Amen.

*Carry this thought in your heart
as a guide for your faith journey
this week.*

**For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:21

Profile in Faith

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was begun in 2006 to address the issues of global climate change that affect all peoples. The principles of the organization include: thoughtful, deliberate, and reasoned action; concern for those least able to bear the burden of environmental degradation; and promotion of solidarity over self-interest.

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Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
March 28, 2011

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