

May 12, 2013

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. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord (Mother's Day)

Saturday	May 11	6:00 P.M.	Adolph B & Adella Kutac	St. John
Sunday	May 12	9:30 A.M.	Joe & Jamie Tupa	Moravia

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday	May 18	6:00 P.M.	Millie & Lad Breska & Bitalia Family	Moravia
Sunday	May 19	9:30 A.M.	Ross, Diane & Devon Goldberg	St. John

The Most Holy Trinity

Saturday	May 25	6:00 P.M.	Irene Mendel	St. John
Sunday	May 26	9:30 A.M.	Julia Jasek	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

The Ascension of the Lord

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28;10:19-23 Luke 24:46-53

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Jesus ascended to his Father amid cries of gladness, entering into the heavenly sanctuary. We are to be his witnesses, mindful of the great hope to which we are called.

Pentecost Sunday

Readings: Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1ab,24ac,29bc-30,31,34 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 or Romans 8:8-17 John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16,23b-26 All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit, and live by that same Spirit. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to remind them of all that Jesus said and did, and to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, "to renew the face of the earth".

The Most Holy Trinity

Readings: Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalm 8:4-9 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

We are at peace with God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, who is Wisdom itself, will lead us into all truth. How wonderful the name of our God in all the earth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. Today we also celebrate Mother's Day. We pray for all mothers, living and deceased. We present a corsage to the oldest mother and the mother of the youngest child at each of the Masses this weekend. We also present to each of them a rosary made by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #797.

Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. On this feast day, we celebrate the birthday of the Church.

ST. JOHN PICNIC RAFFLE DONATIONS

St. John is now taking raffle donations for the picnic raffle. Please contact Theresa Eckhardt 979-743-4435 or Ann McBride 979-561-6261 or mcbride@cvctx.com with raffle donations.

MORAVIA PICNIC RAFFLE DONATIONS - July 21, 2013

If you would like to donate a raffle prize for the church picnic, please contact Arlene Becan at 798-9320 or by email, aaajbec@yahoo.com by May 31, 2013.

ST. JOHN PICNIC CLEAN UP DAY

There will be a clean up day at St. John Picnic grounds on Saturday, May 18th at 7:30 a.m. Trees are in need of trimming. Bring your trucks, trailers, chainsaws, etc. Thank you for your cooperation.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Please congratulate and pray for Rylan and Ryder McGehee who received the Sacrament of Baptism at Ascension of Our Lord on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Please congratulate and pray for Trista Michna who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday, May 10, 2013. Please also congratulate and pray for Trista Michna and Rylan McGehee who will receive the Sacrament of First Communion on Sunday, May 12, 2013 at Ascension of Our Lord.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Life Within

O Mary, Mother of the Life within,
all life we entrust to you;
The life of every expectant mother
and the child within her womb;
The life of every human body,
The life of every human soul;
The life of every newborn child
and the life of all grown old..
You held the Lord to your own heart,
And drew Him so close in.
So draw us now in all our needs,
O Mother of the Life within. Amen

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 11 - 6:00 p.m. St. John - April & Clayton Brossmann, Dylan Goldberg
Sunday, May 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Seth Eckhardt, Miranda Shimek
Saturday, May 18 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Kenna Kubenka, James Lofland, Josh Becan
Sunday, May 19 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie Lux, Megan Lux, Dylan Goldberg
Saturday, May 25 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - April & Clayton Brossmann, Alex Lozano
Sunday, May 26 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Seth Eckhardt, Miranda Shimek

Moravia Centennial Cookbook is available for purchase at Hallettsville General Store.

NEW HALL MANAGER AT ASCENSION PARISH, MORAVIA- MARCIA HRNCIR

Cell Phone - 832-331-2096; Home Phone - 361-798-5774; Chamber of Commerce Phone - 866-504-5294 (Toll free)
979-743-4514

TRUCK RAFFLE TICKETS

Truck Raffle Tickets for sale at the Sacred Heart Rectory - \$100 each. The 2013 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 Z-71 4-door truck is on display at Grafe Chevrolet GMC in Hallettsville. Drawing will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Spring Picnic on Sunday, May 26. *Come by the Sacred Heart Rectory to get your tickets while supplies last!*

Please pray for the blessing of 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.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS:

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with You in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You Who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.

Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Amen.



Happy Mother's Day! We love you, Mom!



Jesus said to his disciples: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. You are witnesses of these things." — Lk 24:46, 48

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

Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2013

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

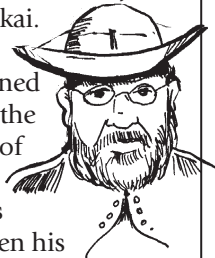
Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Fr. Damien of Molokai

The Year of Faith saint for May is Fr. Damien of Molokai.

Born in Belgium in 1840, he joined his brother in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. When his brother couldn't serve the lepers on the Island of Molokai (those with Hansen's disease), Fr. Damien went instead. Horrified by the conditions, Fr. Damien built schools, churches, hospitals and sanitation facilities. He bestowed dignity and hope and served until his death from the disease in 1889.



Truth or white lie?

When a friend asks your opinion, have you hesitated to tell the truth because you fear hurt feelings? When asked, a true friend always speaks the truth. It is gentler to hear a hard truth from a caring friend.

"How beautiful is the gaze with which Jesus regards us - how full of tenderness! Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God."

Pope Francis



Make a difference in the world

Jesus expects us each to do something great in the world, and he doesn't mean just the millionaires or heads of state. Pope Benedict XVI said, "The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

Start now. If we think that our contribution can't make a difference or that others will take charge, nothing will get done. Start today, and believe that God will strengthen your efforts. "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Share your love. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one" and your kindness may influence others.

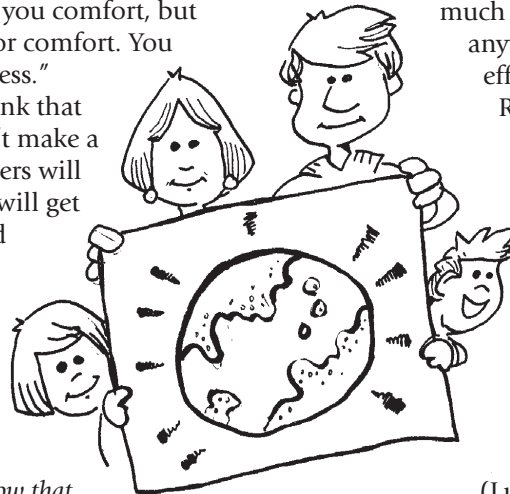
Commit. Find a parish ministry or charity you love and adopt it. Your contribution will benefit the future.

Give your mite. If you don't have much to give, give anyway - time, effort or funds.

Remember the widow's mite: "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest ... from her poverty has offered her whole livelihood"

(Luke 21:3-4).

Empower others. Be generous with praise and stingy with criticism. Offering sincere praise and encouragement helps others achieve goals and adds value to the world.



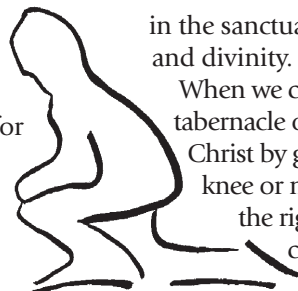
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we genuflect in church?

Most Catholic Churches have a tabernacle in the sanctuary. The tabernacle contains consecrated hosts for people in the hospital or nursing homes, and those in danger of death. Therefore, Jesus is present

in the sanctuary: body and blood, soul and divinity.

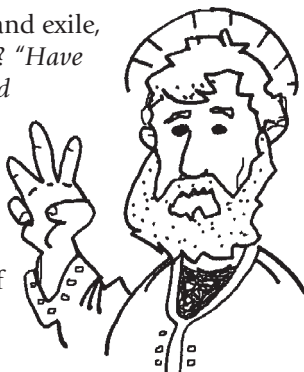
When we cross in front of the tabernacle or enter a pew, we honor Christ by genuflecting on the right knee or making a deep bow. We use the right knee because that is considered the side of honor.



A 3-step cure for stress

St. Paul knew stress. He spent time in prison and exile, experienced frustration and conflict. His advice? *"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:4-7).

"Have no anxiety at all." Step 1 – Rid yourself of worry. There is a difference between concern, which leads us to take steps to be prepared, and



worry, which produces nothing but stress.

"Make your requests known to God." Step 2 – Carry everything to God in prayer. St. Paul added the phrase, "with thanksgiving," to remind us to put our trust completely in the Lord to provide for us.

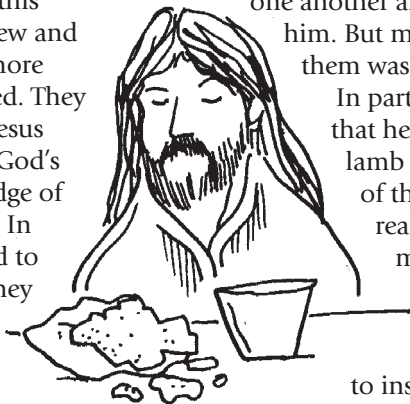
"The peace of God ... will guard your hearts and minds." Step 3 – Keep your mind on God and experience his peace. The perfect peace that only God can give will come to those who keep their minds and hearts focused on Jesus.

from Scripture

John 16:12-15, the coming of the Holy Spirit

This reading is from St. John's account of the Last Supper. By this point, the Apostles knew and accepted that God is more than they had imagined. They also understood that Jesus had a special place in God's plan but their knowledge of his role was imperfect. In this reading, Jesus tried to explain to them that they would understand in time.

By the time the Last Supper took place, the Apostles had spent three years with Jesus, traveling, listening, speaking, and learning from him. Some of what Jesus



taught was quite clear – love God, love one another and tell others about him. But much of what Jesus told them was hard to understand.

In particular, Jesus told them that he would be the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. The Apostles really struggled what this meant. But Jesus let them know the "Spirit of truth" (the Holy Spirit) would come to instruct them and to make everything clear.

The same is true for us. When we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, much becomes clear.

Q & A What are the precepts of the Church?

The five precepts of the Church are designed to bring us closer to God through the Mass and penance.

We're to attend Mass on Sundays. As members of the Body of Christ, we're strengthened when we worship together.

We're to confess our sins at least once a year. We all commit sin, often on a daily basis. Yet we see a lack of the sense of sin in our society. Confession brings us to recognize our sinfulness and return us to a state of grace.

We're to receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter season. There are those who think they're never worthy to receive the Eucharist and who never would without this precept.

We're to keep the Holy Days of Obligation. These feasts honoring the Lord, the Blessed Virgin, and the saints who teach us more about our faith.

We're to observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence. These acts of penance take us out of our comfort zone so we can focus on our relationship with Christ.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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

Feasts & Celebrations

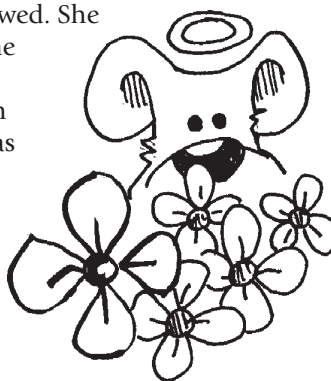
In May we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. On May 31st, we commemorate the Visitation when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth to share her joy at being favored by God.

May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker. Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

May 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena (1444). As Franciscan, his boundless energy and joy was put to use running the local hospital during the great plague in Europe. Then, after a dozen

years in solitude, he journeyed across Italy preaching. The symbol of the sun with IHS, the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek, is attributed to him.

May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia (1457). Unwillingly married off to a cruel husband at the age of twelve, St. Rita spent eighteen unhappy years before being widowed. She then became an Augustinian nun and was known for her devotion to prayer and charity.



The Year of Faith

Eucharistic Procession

in honor of the

Solemnity of the

Body & Blood of Christ

June 2, 2013 – 6:00 PM

Sacred Heart Church
Hallettsville, TX



What is a Eucharistic Procession? A Eucharistic Procession is a liturgical procession of the Church by which we take our Lord's Body and Blood truly present in the Blessed Sacrament and place it in a monstrance (a special gold holder that displays the Blessed Sacrament) and carry it about, usually into the streets of the city, as a sign of our faith in the Eucharist. In the tradition of the Church, a Eucharistic Procession is recommended by the Church's liturgical law for the feast days of the Body and Blood of Christ or *Corpus Christi* (which is after the Easter Season – this year being June 2, 2013) and of Christ the King (which is the last Sunday of Ordinary Time before Advent begins). Another form of the Eucharistic Procession is required at the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper to transfer the Blessed Sacrament out of the church as a symbol of Christ leaving the room of the Last Supper to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane with the Apostles.

What is the significance of a Eucharistic Procession or even any liturgical procession? By its very nature, a procession requires movement from one place to another place. In a liturgical procession, as in the Eucharistic Procession, the movement by the people from one place to another place is meant to symbolize our entire lives and our destiny, which is to be a movement towards eternal union with God. Therefore, the procession is an image of our pilgrimage to God.

What will we do in a Eucharistic Procession? In a procession, as in life, everyone has their particular roles to play. The priest, being the representative of Jesus, will carry the Blessed Sacrament. A special canopy is held above the Blessed Sacrament during the procession. This canopy is symbolic of the Holy Spirit who hovered above Christ at His Baptism in the Jordan. And it also symbolizes that the True Presence of Christ is travelling with us. In the Old Testament, a cloud would settle above the Ark of the Covenant to indicate that God was dwelling with His people. The canopy is like the cloud. Altar servers will lead the procession with the customary processional cross and candles. Two altar servers with burning censers will incense the Blessed Sacrament all throughout the procession as a sign of our worship. Six altar servers will accompany the Blessed Sacrament with lighted torches as in the parable where the wise virgins accompanied the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Two servers will ring bells as during the consecration to draw attention to the Eucharist. First communicants from the parish will be the special escorts of our Lord. Sodalties such as the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, and the Christian Mothers will be represented in the procession. And all

others will join in singing the praises of our Eucharistic Lord during the procession led by a choir. At the conclusion of the procession, the Rite of Eucharistic Benediction will be celebrated back in the church.

What is the Rite of Eucharistic Benediction or simply Benediction? The word “benediction” simply means blessing. In the Rite of Eucharistic Benediction the priest blesses all the people with the Blessed Sacrament. He wears a humeral veil over his shoulders to cover his hands as a sign that this blessing does not come from him, but comes directly from the Lord who is present in the Eucharist.

When is the Eucharistic Procession? The Eucharistic Procession for our parish will be on Sunday evening, June 2, 2013, beginning in the church at Sacred Heart at 6:00 PM. We will begin with the Rite of Exposition, celebrate a short Liturgy of the Word, and then begin the procession to the courthouse square and back to the church for Benediction.

Who should attend? All Catholics who wish to witness to our Eucharistic faith should plan to participate in this procession! That means ALL CATHOLICS: young and old! Invite friends and family members to join us even if they are not necessary parishioners of our churches. Remember to make this a family event. What better way could you spend a Sunday afternoon, which is the Lord’s day, than for your family to pray together and then “take a walk” with the Lord in this Eucharistic Procession? Recall that Sundays still belong to the Lord and we need to witness to that fact.

What if I can’t walk that far? For those who are not capable of walking to the courthouse square, they may remain in the church and pray a communal rosary which will be led by a leader. Then when the procession returns, the Rite of Benediction will be celebrated.

What do I receive for participating in the Eucharistic Procession? In order to promote the devotion of Eucharistic Processions, the Church grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who “devoutly participate in a solemn Eucharistic procession, held inside or outside a church, of greatest importance on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ” (*Manual of Indulgences*, no. 7.3 under Grants). The usual conditions must be met to gain the plenary indulgence, in addition to performing the indulgenced work (this case being participating in the Eucharistic Procession) and to be free from the attachment to sin, even venial sin: 1) to receive the sacrament of confession; 2) to receive Holy Communion; and 3) to pray for the intentions of our Holy Father, the Pope. Confession can be received either several days (usually about 7 days) before or after the procession. Communion should be received at Mass on the Solemnity. And prayer for the Holy Father should be offered that day. If the conditions are not met, then the indulgence is only partial.

What about after the Eucharistic Procession? A fellowship supper will be provided for all who participate in the Eucharistic Procession in the Family Center. This is a time for our parish family to gather together to extend the celebration of our Eucharistic faith from the church into our “regular” lives. Please plan to stay to enjoy each other’s company!

Let us witness firmly to our Catholic faith and

show our love for our Lord who gave us His Body and Blood to be our food and drink,

by participating in the Eucharistic Procession on June 2!