

September 1, 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. DANIEL DANSO, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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### MASS SCHEDULE

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#### Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Aug. 31	6:00 P.M.	Sheryl Janak	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 1	9:30 A.M.	Mathilda Stang	St. John

#### First Friday

Friday	Sept. 6	8:00 A.M.	George Barborak & Daniel Pargac	St. John
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#### Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 7	6:00 P.M.	Millie Berger	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 8	9:30 A.M.	Julia Jasek	Moravia

#### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 14	6:00 P.M.	Laddie Siegel	St. John
Sunday	Sept. 15	9:30 A.M.	Henry Tupa	St. John

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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#### Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Psalm 68:4-7, 10-11 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Humility and self-knowledge go hand in hand. Those who conduct their affairs with humility shall be exalted, while those who exalt themselves shall be humbled. The humble shall rejoice and exalt before God in the assembly of the heavenly Jerusalem.

#### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-6,12-17, Philippians 9-10,12-17 Luke 14:25-33

Who can comprehend the Lord's ways or conceive what the Lord intends? True wisdom leads us to acknowledge our limitations (a matter of "calculation") and our idols of materialism as we seek to follow the Lord without reservation. True discipleship calls us to forgive those who have wronged us. May we gain the wisdom of heart to discern more fully our call to take up the cross of Jesus.

#### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,17,19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Moses intercedes on behalf of the people who had turned away from the covenant. The Lord delights not in sin, but in turning back to him, for a contrite and humbled heart God will never spurn. He sent his Son into the world not to condemn but to save sinners.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

I spent one week in Ireland. It was a wonderful and relaxing experience. A highlight of the trip was a visit to Our Lady of Knock Shrine. It was in 1879 that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a small group of people in the village of Knock.

I concelebrated Mass with several other priests with about 3,000 people present. It was the feast of the Queenship of Mary.

I would like to share with you a few additional guidelines for Church etiquette, which is continued from the last bulletin:

1. Please refrain from reading the bulletin, e-mails, text messages, Twitter, or Facebook during Mass.
2. Please no MP3 devices, iPods, Nano or otherwise...
3. Please do not come late, scoot out after Holy Communion, or rudely leave before the Liturgy is concluded, including the priest's recessional.
4. Please participate in the Mass - body, mind and spirit, singing, speaking, praying, attending within the heart and in the body.

The question may be asked, "Why?" The answer is **reverence, respect, participation**. Our obligation is **not** bodily presence in the church during the time the Mass is being celebrated; our opportunity and obligation each Sunday and Holy Day is active participation in mind, heart and body in the Liturgy, in which the saving mysteries of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are celebrated in a way that we may enter into them...If that sounds heady, well it may be, but that's how it is, that is our privilege as Catholics to take part in by prayerfully lifting up our minds and hearts and offering ourselves with Jesus Christ at the altar.



### **ST. JOHN PICNIC APPRECIATION SOCIAL**

The St. John Appreciation Social and Meal for the picnic workers will be held at St. John Pavilion on Saturday, September 7, 2013, starting at 6:30 PM with the social and the meal being served at 7:30 PM. Please spread the word to all your helpers.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR SEPTEMBER** - Pam Besetsny, Peggy Mendel, Cheryl Brossmann

**ST. JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER:** Gary McBride and Brad Lux

### **MORAVIA CHURCH USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

September Church Ushers for Ascension Church: Ronald Technik and Phil Guenther

### **MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

September Church Cleaners for Ascension Church are Dolores Janak and Gladys Pucciarello

### **KJZT #44 MEETING**

Moravia KJZT Society #44 will have their annual social and meeting on October 6, 2013 at the parish hall beginning at 12 noon. Please RSVP to Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169 by September 30th. Please bring a dessert.

### **PRO-LIFE CORNER**

#### **Victory for the babies and for the taxpayers!**

Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast just signed a settlement agreement to end a lawsuit in which it was accused of fraudulently over billing Medicare in Texas. Planned Parenthood will now pay \$4.3 million to the state and federal government!

In addition to this stunning loss for Planned Parenthood's greedy and demonic bottom line, they also lost fraud cases in California, Washington, New York and New Jersey that totaled over \$24 million.

Make no mistake: the less money Planned Parenthood has - especially of your and my tax dollars - the more babies that will live! [Jodie Brown, President and Cofounder, American Life League]

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Aug. 31 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia- Caitlin Deem, Dylan Goldberg, Joshua Becan

Sunday, Sept. 1 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John- Rylie and Regan Lux, and April Brossmann

Saturday, Sept. 7 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia- Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan, Rylie Lux

Sunday, Sept. 8 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia- Blaine Besetzney, April Brossmann, Dylan Goldberg

Saturday, Sept. 14 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John- James Lofland, Alex Lozano, Jenna Kubenka

Sunday, Sept. 15 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John- Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Regan Lux

### **AREA PICNICS & FESTIVALS**

**Sept. 1: Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville.** Country Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner with homemade dressing – serving 10:30 am-1:30 pm. Drive-thru plates to go 10:30 am-1:00 pm (Adult plates only). Adults \$8 & Children \$4. Inside air-conditioned K.C. Hall, bingo (noon-6:00 pm), cake walk, country store & religious articles booths. Auction begins 1:00 pm. Kiddie games & rides all afternoon. Washer Pitch Tournament begins 5:00 pm. Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, funnel cakes, popcorn & cold refreshments all afternoon. Polka Music: Kovanda Czech Band 11:00 am-1:00 pm on Main Pavilion; Dujka Brothers & Red Ravens 1:00-9:00 pm on Polka Pavilion/Biergarten. *Fun for all ages!!!!*

**Sept. 1:** Sts. Cyril and Methodius - Shiner

**Sept. 1:** St. Mary- High Hill

**Sept. 15:** Our Lady of the Gulf Parish Festival, Bauer Community Center on TX Hwy 35, Port Lavaca. Seafood Platter- Fried Shrimp and Fish, coleslaw, German potatoes, and hush puppies. Serving 11:00 am to 1:30 pm dine in or carry out (\$8.00 per plate). Auction, games, ethnic food booths and more!

### **DRAWING FOR 2013 POLARIS RANGER**

A drawing for a 2013 Polaris Ranger Crew 550 seating for 4 with 12' trailer will be held at the Sacred Heart Fall Picnic, K.C. Hall, Hallettsville on Sunday, September 1. Tickets are \$35 each or 3 for \$100 and are available for purchase at the picnic.

**Rediscover Your Marriage** – Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information or to register for the September 6-8 program, call John or Jennifer Vincent (361) 580-2770 or email: jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).



**Please pray for the blessing of beneficial rainfall!** 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.

# Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2013

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Blessed Junípero Serra, O.F.M.

The Year of Faith saint for September is Blessed Junípero Serra.

Not content with being an acclaimed Franciscan preacher in Spain, Blessed

Junípero left everything behind to become a missionary. He landed in Vera Cruz, Mexico and walked 250 miles to Mexico City despite injury and illness. He founded 21 missions and taught the Native Americans trades, from farming to crafting. He also established the foundation for protections for the Native Americans and brought them the gift of faith.



### "God bless you"

When you sneeze, think of Pope St. Gregory, the Great. In 590AD, the bubonic plague was spreading to Rome. To combat the disease, the pope requested unceasing prayer. "God bless you!" in response to a sneeze was part of that effort.

We are all needed in order to build this Temple. No one is secondary ... We are all equal in the eyes of God." Pope Francis I



## Do you love God or fear God more?

Is your relationship with God dominated by guilt and fear, or by love? Do you worry how he thinks of you and dread praying to him? Yet Jesus taught us to always meet God joyfully in prayer and worship and to be confident of his love.

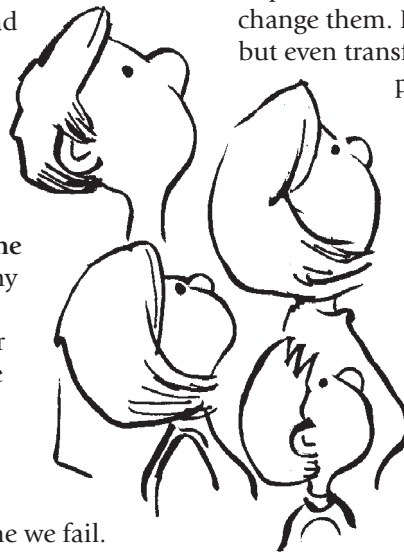
**Don't fear God in the wrong way.** It is healthy to be in awe of God as our creator and creator of the universe. But we should never be afraid of God becoming angry every time we make a mistake or punishing us every time we fail.

*"But you, our God, are good and true, slow to anger, and governing all with mercy"* (Wisdom 15:1). God appreciates honest effort.

**Let God help you change.** Most of us have areas in our lives that need improvement. If we ask, God will change them. It isn't always pleasant but even transforming change is possible when we allow God to work in our lives.

**Don't carry guilt.** The problem with guilt is that it can keep us from God. Instead, use it to take responsibility for sins, make amends, and start fresh – then let the guilt go. Catholics are blessed to have access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Use it often so you can meet God joyfully in love and peace which is what he prefers.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do we say the "Fatima Prayer?"

When our Blessed Mother appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917, she asked them to add this prayer after each decade of the Rosary: "Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have

most need of Thy mercy." While we all need God's mercy, those who have abandoned their faith, lead mortally sinful lives, or reject the teachings of the Church need prayers for conversion and repentance.



## Make distractions a plus in prayer

There is no better way to stay close to God than through prayer. Yet when we become distracted during our prayer, we can become discouraged and give up. Try these ideas for turning distractions into blessings:

**Gently return.** Start your prayer by placing yourself in the presence of God. When you wander, gently bring yourself back. Avoid shaking yourself like a wet dog.

**Develop the discipline of recall.** St. Frances de Sales said, "When your mind wanders or gives way to distractions, gently recall it



and place it once more close to its Divine Master. If you should do nothing else but repeat this during the whole time of prayer, your hour would be very well spent and you would perform a spiritual exercise most acceptable to God."

**Make the distraction part of your prayer.** If you start thinking about people and events unrelated to your prayer, pray about them and then return to the original subject of your prayer.

Pray out loud. When distractions overwhelm you, pray out loud.

### from Scripture

### Luke 16:19-31, Our brother's keeper

This is one of the clearest and most direct parables Jesus told. It starts with Lazarus, a beggar who lay suffering, miserable and ignored outside the home of a rich man. By contrast, the rich man had a wonderful and comfortable life on earth oblivious to what was happening outside his very door. In the afterlife, however, it is the rich man who suffers torment and begs for relief.

The rich man was condemned not because he was wealthy, but because he had become blind to the suffering of



others. He knew what Scripture and the prophets said what God expected of him but he didn't do it. His suffering in the afterlife was just punishment.

The Bible makes it plain that he wants us to love each other as he does. When we live our faith, we transform our prayers into deeds of love just as Jesus asked. As he

demonstrates in this parable, the reward for doing what Jesus asked will be eternal joy.

### Q & A What does it mean to create scandal?

The Fifth Commandment forbids murder and instructs us to work to protect and preserve life. But also included in this commandment is the necessity to protect the others' souls, as well. Leading others to believe that evil or sinful behavior is acceptable and not morally wrong is to cause scandal and could lead to the death of their souls. While this charge applies to all of us, those who will be held especially responsible are people in positions of trust - parents, employers, public officials, teachers, church officials, etc.



Scandal can be created through words and persuasion but also through bad example and behavior. Someone who acts in a sinful way and convinces others that his behavior is not sinful or evil is guilty of creating scandal.

Governments and institutions can cause scandal by creating laws or policies that legitimize sinful actions and requiring citizens to obey them. For example, at one time in the United States, slavery – a great moral wrong – was legal and protected by law.

### Feasts & Celebrations

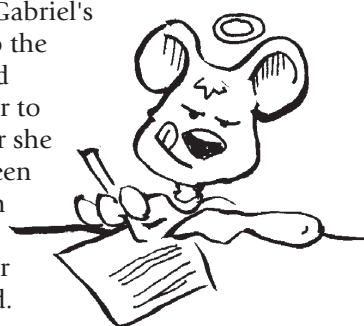
**Sept. 13 - St. John Chrysostom (407).** A powerful public speaker, he was a brutal critic of clergy who abused their office and royals who turned a blind eye to the suffering of the poor. He died in exile as a result.

**Sept. 27 - St. Vincent de Paul (1660).** St. Vincent de Paul, was devoted to the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick. He founded several hospitals, and ransomed over 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa.

**Sept. 21 - St. Matthew.** Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. He left everything when Jesus

called him to spread the Gospel. He wrote the Gospel According to Matthew.

**Sept. 29 - St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael, the Archangels.** Members of the third hierarchy of angels around the throne of God, archangels are entrusted with important missions to mankind such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother to tell her she had been chosen as the mother of God.



### Our Mission

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