

DECEMBER 14, 2008

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH  
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

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MASS SCHEDULE

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**Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete (Rejoice)**

Saturday	Dec. 13	6:00 p.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 14	9:30 a.m.	Bohumil Bohuslav	Moravia

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday	Dec. 20	6:00 p.m.	Daniel Spies	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 21	9:30 a.m.	Lebert & Leona Berger	St. John

**Christmas – the Nativity of the Lord**

Wednesday	Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Ascension Parish Family	Moravia
Thursday	Dec. 25	9:30 a.m.	St. John Parish Family	St. John

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Saturday	Dec. 27	6:00 p.m.	Thelma & Ann Spies	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 28	9:30 a.m.	Jerome & Martha Hrnecir	Moravia

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THE WORD OF GOD

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8, 19-28  
John witnesses to One Who is to come, One far mightier than he, One who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await His coming in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38  
David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the Son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To Him be glory and praise forever.

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

Readings: (Midnight) Isaiah 9:1-6 / Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13 / Timothy 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-14. Darkness is scattered for God's grace has been revealed in the birth of the Messiah. (Dawn) Readings: Isaiah 62:11-12 / Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12 / Timothy 3:4-7 / Luke 2:15-20. Out of love for us, God became flesh, for our Savior has appeared. Light dawns for us all! (Day) Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10 / Psalm 98:1-6 / Hebrews 1:1-6 / John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14. God has spoken to us through His Son, the Word made flesh. Thus has salvation been revealed to all the nations.

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 / Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9 / Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40. Mindful of His covenant, God blesses the faith of Abraham and Sarah in their son, Isaac. The child Jesus and His parents are blessed by Simeon.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Today, we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us make the most of our time of preparation. If we have not done much spiritual preparation, we still have time. We can still go to confession and cleanse our souls for a worthy reception of Jesus in Holy Communion at Christmas. We can still visit someone in the hospital or nursing home or someone who is alone or lonely at home. We still have time to go out of our way for others. We still have time to share God's love and God's blessings with others.

On behalf of Fr. Michael and myself, I want to wish all of you and your families a very blessed Christmas Day and Christmas season.

Confessions for Christmas – Saturday, December 20th, 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. in Moravia

Monday, December 22nd, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in St. John

**ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Christmas flower donations in memory of loved ones for St. John's Church, contact Joyce Janda at 562-2682.

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CLEANERS**

St. John's Church cleaning list for the month of December: Gladys Besetzny and Sharon Bujnoch.

**MORAVIA CHURCH FLOWERS**

Christmas flower donations in memory of loved ones can be given to Dorothy Olsovsky for Ascension Church. Call (979) 562-2169.

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH**

The Christmas Session on December 17 will include a small lesson on the meaning of Christmas followed by prayer and song in the Ascension of Our Lord Church. All are welcome. The teachers will bring casserole dishes and the parents are asked to bring either bread, crackers or Christmas goodies.

**ST. JOHN CRIB**

Volunteers to put up the Crib and Christmas decorations are asked to stay after 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 21.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Christmas cards of Ascension of Our Lord Church are on sale after the weekend Masses. These cards have a beautiful picture of the Moravia Church on front.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

“American Catholics have long sought to assimilate into U.S. cultural life. But in assimilating, we have too often been digested. We have been changed by our culture too much and we have changed it not enough. If we are leaven, we must bring to our culture the whole Gospel, which is a Gospel of life and joy. That is our vocation as believers. And there is no better place to start than promoting the beauty and sanctity of human life.” (U.S. Bishops LIVING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE, 1998, n.25)

**THE YOUTH CONNEXION FROM SACRED HEART**

**December 14:** High School Youth gathering & Christmas party has been moved to December 21 after Firefall.

**December 21:** Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church followed by High School Youth gathering & Christmas Party at the Youth House. Those who would like to participate in the White Elephant Gift Exchange need to bring a \$10 gift that is suitable for anyone.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**

Stop by the Sacred Heart Rectory Gift Shop and browse through our selection of Nativity sets, Advent Wreaths, ornaments, statues & other Christmas items. We also have bibles, rosaries, medals and much more.

**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. 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.

**AREA PENANCE SERVICES**

Yoakum – Monday, December 15, 5:30 p.m.

Shiner – Tuesday, December 16, 5:30 p.m.

Hallettsville – Thursday, December 18, 5:30 p.m.

Moulton – Friday, December 19, 5:30 p.m.

**MEMORIALS**

**St. John Building Fund**

In memory of Alfons Stang:

- Patrick & Kathy Pilat \$10
- Marvin & Della Filip \$15
- Mr. & Mrs. Elroy Demel \$5
- Thomas & Rose Ann Brosh \$5
- Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Filip \$5

**Moravia Building Fund**

In memory of Alfons Stang:

- Donna Hajek & family \$5
- David & Dorothy Young & family \$10
- Edward J. Filip \$5
- St. John CCD Program**
- In memory of Alfons Stang:
- Harold & Susie Kalich \$10



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." — Jn 1:26-27  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." — Lk 1:35  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." — Lk 2:11-12  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

**Next Bulletin: December 28, 2008**  
**Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2008**

Merry Christmas! Vesele Vanoce! Frohliche Weihnachten!  
Feliz Navidad!