

NOVEMBER 30, 2008

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIocese of Victoria in Texas



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MASS SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Nov. 29	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	Nov. 30	9:30 A.M.	Special Intention C.H.	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Dec. 5	8:00 A.M.	Tom Farek	St. John
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Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 6	6:00 P.M.	Julius & Annie Holub Drozd	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 7	9:30 A.M.	Martha Hermis	St. John

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (Monday, Dec. 8th Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday	Dec. 7	6:00 P.M.		St. John
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Third Sunday of Advent **Graudete (Rejoice)**

Saturday	Dec. 13	6:00 P.M.	Mass of Thanksgiving	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 14	9:30 A.M.	Bohumil Bohuslav	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19, 64: 2-7 Psalm 80: 2-3,15-16,18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37 If our faith lives have become "withered like leaves" let God's word instill new life in all of us. The first words spoken by the Lord Jesus in the Gospel set the tone for this season of expectant longing: "Be watchful! Be alert!"

Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth and peace.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Psalm 98:1-4 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38

Chosen by God, Mary reverses the sin of Eve. Because of her obedience, God's salvation is made known to all the nations.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab Jdt 13:18bc,19 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

As suggested: A woman, clothed with the sun, daughter of the Most High God, proclaims the greatness of the Lord, the One who comes to dwell with us. She is the servant of the Lord. Today's feast recalls the apparitions of Mary at the hill of Tepeyac from Dec. 9-12 1531 to the native convert, Juan Diego (Dec. 9); known to the Aztecs as Tecoatlaxope (or de Guadalupe in Spanish), meaning "she will crush the serpent of stone"; declared patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII and raised to the rank of a feast for all the countries of the Americas by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, March 25, 1999.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This weekend we begin a new church year with the first Sunday of Advent. A very good practice for the Advent season is the use of the Advent wreath.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal - one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

CHRISTMAS EVE SINGING

All parishioners of St. John and Moravia are invited to join the Christmas Eve Choir for one performance-The Christmas Eve Mass at Ascension of Our Lord. Practice is scheduled for December 9 at 6 p.m. in the choir loft. You do not have to know Czech and you do not have to have a magnificent voice. Remember, those who sing-pray twice. Contact Lorene Deem (361) 596-4231 or Janis Hrcir (361) 772-4309 if you have any questions.

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.

THANK YOU TO CATECHISTS

St. John & Moravia are blessed with a great bunch of religion teachers this year. We want to thank the following individuals for helping to share and spread the Catholic faith. Larissa Tesch, Tia & John Meitschleager, Kristen Jahn, James and Dana Daughtry, Kim Lofland, Anthony Hrcir and Janis Hrcir.

ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

REHEARSAL of before Mass carols and of Mass selections will be held AFTER 6:00 p.m. MASS on Sat., December 13. Sign up sheet is on St. John bulletin board. Please make every effort to come to this ONE rehearsal. "He, who sings, prays twice." (St. Augustine)

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.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY BAKE SALE

Moravia Altar Society will hold their annual bake sale at the parish monthly bingo, December 6, 2008. All members are asked to donate homemade baked or canned goods to the sale. Please bring items by 4:30 p.m. Hall will open at 5:00 p.m.

MORAVIA CHURCH FLOWERS

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

PRO LIFE CORNER

Thank God for the Pro-Life victories!!! Colorado changed their Constitutions; "person" to include any human being from the moment of fertilization and thus closing all abortion clinics in the state. Arizona, California & Florida all banned "Gay Marriages." Their Constitutions now say that only a man and a woman can get married. Arkansas' Ban on Gay couples Adopting Children keeps unmarried "sexual partner(s) from adopting children (both opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples). {from Nov. 2008 Life and Family Advocates News}

THE YOUTH CONNEXION FROM SACRED HEART - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

December 7: Chicken Noodle Soup/Bake Sale fundraiser at the Youth House after 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses.

December 13: CHAMPS meet at 2:30 p.m. in church.

December 14: Youth gathering at 4:00 p.m. at the Youth House; meeting to follow.

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.

KJT MEETING

KJT Society 32 meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the St. John Church Rectory on FM 957 in St. John. Christmas social at 11:00 a.m. with a meeting at noon. All members are encouraged to attend.

