

## DECEMBER 27, 2009

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

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

Saturday	Dec. 26	6:00 P.M.	Thelma & Ann Spies & Alfred Becan	St John
Sunday	Dec. 27	9:30 A.M.	Clarence Haas	Moravia

#### Mary, Mother of God-New Year's Day

Thursday	Dec. 31	5:00 P.M.	Joycelyn Bunt & Lillie Pesek	Moravia
Friday	Jan. 1	9:30 A.M.	Laurie Kristinik	St. John

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	Jan. 2	6:00 P.M.	Joe & Jamie Tupa	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 3	9:30 A.M.	Annie Liebicher	St. John

#### Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	Jan. 9	6:00 P.M.	Rudolph & Eugene Berckenhoff	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 10	9:30 A.M.	Lorene Vaculik	Moravia

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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

Readings: Sirach 3:2-7,12-14 Psalm 128:1-5 Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 Luke 2:41-52

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Option: Hannah and Elkanah offer their son, Samuel, to God in the Lord's temple. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. He returns to Nazareth, obedient to them.

#### Octave of Christmas: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

We seek God's blessings as did Mary. Because of her Son, we can confidently call God, "Abba"!

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises, for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

#### The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30 Ti 2:11-14;3:4-7 Luke 3:15-16,21-22

On Jesus, the beloved of the Father, the glory of the Lord has been revealed. Salvation is offered to all, and the earth is renewed.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I hope that everyone had a good Christmas celebration with family and friends and was thankful to God for all His blessings. We continue celebrating this great season of Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Let us pray in a special way for all families that they will work together and pray together for God's help. Let us pray especially for our troubled families.

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28<sup>th</sup>, we remember the children killed by Herod in his determination to end the life of the Messiah. This can be a day of prayer for the innocents of today who are exploited and abused. Many people now pray on this day for the victims of abortion and an opportunity to think about bringing the compassion of Christ to those in need.

New Year's Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> is a day that almost instinctively lends itself to prayer. Many churches have prayer vigils, expositions of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction during this evening, watching for the New Year.

The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup> is both a feast honoring Mary, the Mother of God, and a day of Prayer for World Peace. Our celebration of the New Year can be deepened by prayer that our world will be open to the peace Jesus offers.

The Feast of the Epiphany is traditionally on January 6<sup>th</sup>-this year January 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Epiphany* means, "Manifestation," and so this feast is the celebration of God's glory being manifest to all nations, symbolically through the Magi. This is a good day to set the Magi in the nativity scene and share their story from the Gospel of Matthew. Epiphany is also a traditional day to bless homes. This blessing incorporates inscribing the year, bracketing the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar) above the door, usually in chalk, like this: 20+C+M+B+10. (Another tradition claims the initials stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this home.")

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the final “Christmas” feast, celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany, and commemorates God’s revelation of the divinity of Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan River. It’s a good day to celebrate our own baptism, our “new birth” in Christ and our entrance into his Church.

May you and your families have a very blessed and healthy New Year.

**ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL** by Donald & Karen Kutac for Deceased members of the Kutac & Valicek Families - \$20.00

**ST. JOHN MEMORIAL** in memory of Jimmy G. Sanchez by Knights of Columbus, Louise, TX: \$50

**MORAVIA KJZT MEETING**

The Moravia KJZT #44 will have its meeting on January 10, 2010 after the 9:30 a.m. mass.

**MORAVIA BINGO**

The Moravia Church Bingo has been cancelled for January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**USHERS FOR JANUARY**

Moravia - Phil Guenther & Robert Kendall  
St. John - Marcus Bujnoch & Patrick Chaloupka

**CHURCH CLEANERS FOR JANUARY**

Moravia - Barbara Janak & Angie Kubenka  
St. John - Evelyn Kusy & Monica Kusy

**PERPETUAL ADORATION**

Perpetual adoration at Sacred Heart will continue through New Year’s Day. If you will be unable to fulfill your regular adoration hour, please find a replacement or call your hourly captain. For questions, please call Charlene Bradbury 798-3224.

**The Youth ConneXion**

**Youth Christmas Party:** January 10, Youth House (8-12 Graders).

**Music Practice:** Mondays, 6:00 pm, Youth House.

**PRO LIFE CORNER**

In light of Our Country’s financial, political and health care problems, let us pray The Healing Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola: O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us. For, living close to You, we shall see Your Hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things. Amen.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Dec. 26 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan  
Sunday, Dec. 27 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny, Seth Eckhart

Saturday, Jan. 2 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, James Lofland  
Sunday, Jan. 3 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Hayden & Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke

Saturday, Jan. 9 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann  
Sunday, Jan. 10 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth & Logan Eckhart & Jared Krischke

**FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

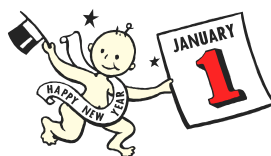
The Feast Day of the Holy Innocents Celebration, December 28, Raphael’s Refuge, 2715 West US Hwy 90, Flatonia. Mass at 2:00 p.m. followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy. For information call, Midge at 361-865-3021 or 361-258-1514.

**Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. To register for the Feb. 12-14 program, call 979-543-3493 or email lbconner@sbcglobal.net.



Jesus said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. — Lk 2:45-50

Next Bulletin: January 10th, 2010  
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” — Mt 2:16-3

**Happy New Year!**

# Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2010

## One Minute Meditations

### A fresh start

The New Year offers the chance to make a fresh start. Choose one area you would like to change in yourself or your life, making sure it is reasonable and doable. Each day, renew your commitment to the change you chose. Then partner with the Holy Spirit to make a fresh start.

### People of God

What do people of God look like? *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience"* (Colossians 3:12). People of God are the hosts, not the guests. They comfort rather than seek comfort. They give rather than demand. People of God look like Christ.

### God's shoulders

As Catholics we know that we can trust God to give us what we need, but do we really trust God? *"Do not be afraid; just have faith"* (Mark 5:36). Lean on God with your whole weight. His shoulders can take it.



## God gives credit for good effort

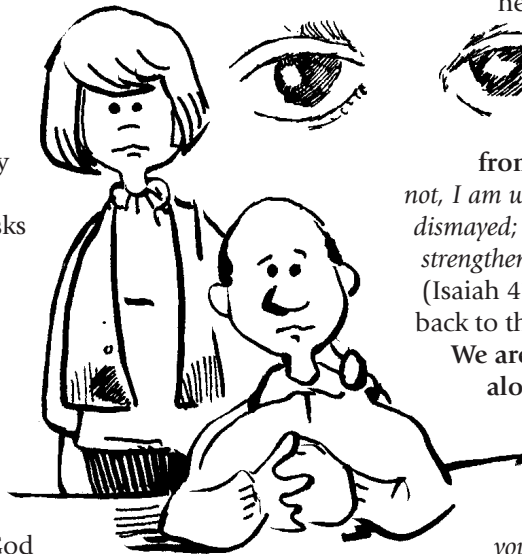
Even though we intend to grow in holiness, life sometimes gets in the way.

Household expenses can leave little for charity, work may take away from family time, daily tasks encroach on prayer time, and so on. It can be discouraging when we stumble, but it's important to keep trying. God

watches our efforts with loving eyes. **God knows we won't always get it right.** Our Father understands that we are human and that we struggle. Even Peter, Jesus' close friend, promised complete devotion to Jesus but then

denied even knowing him (John 13:37-38). Not only did Jesus forgive him, he made Peter the first head of his beloved Church. **Don't let fear of failure keep you from trying again.** *"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you"* (Isaiah 41:10). The key is to get back to the plan.

We aren't meant to do it alone. Jesus is our partner and wants to help us get it right. *"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me"* (John 15:4). *"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10).

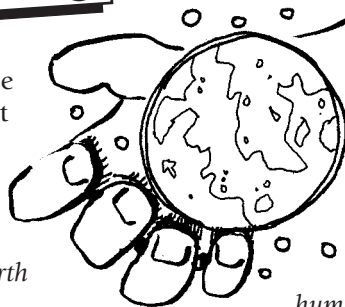


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics believe God created the world?

How God created the world is a mystery but the Bible tells us he did. The first words are, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ..."* (Genesis 1:1).

Further references throughout



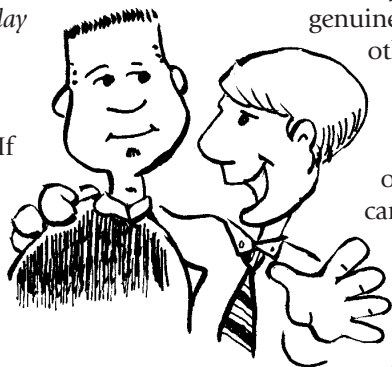
include, *"... Look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things; and in the same way the human race came into existence"* (2 Maccabees 7:28).

## No greater love ...

There wasn't much Jesus wouldn't do for his friends. He said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Consider these suggestions for becoming a better friend:

**Make spending time together a priority.** If schedules are a problem, combine visits with other activities. Meet after Mass on Sunday. Run errands together. Have coffee before going to work.

**Help others feel important.** Give your full attention in conversation, and show appreciation for what is said.



**Celebrate your friends' successes.** A true friend is genuinely happy when something good happens in the other's life.

**Value differences.** Don't try to change your friends. Celebrate their diversity.

**Apologize when necessary.** You may let each other down once in a while but a sincere apology can bring friends closer together.

**Don't forget old friends.** Call someone you haven't been in touch with for a long time.

Don't know what to say? Try, "I don't want another moment to go by without being in touch. I've missed you."

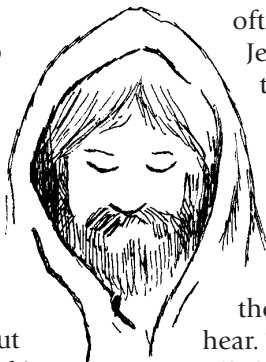
### from Scripture

### Luke 4:21-30, Live the truth

From the time God promised a Messiah, his people imagined a triumphant king with extraordinary abilities who would defeat Israel's enemies. They didn't expect someone ordinary, or even familiar, like Jesus.

Still, his friends and neighbors heard reports about his amazing deeds and were excited when he read Isaiah's prophesy about the Messiah and announced its fulfillment in him.

All of that changed when they heard the tough message Jesus had for the children of Israel. They wanted a



comforting message from him, not one that reminds them of how often they failed God. And when Jesus mentioned God's grace to the Gentiles, people they thought inferior to themselves, the people became angry and threw him out. They forfeited his blessings because they rejected his word.

There is no substitute for the truth, even when it is hard to hear. Turning our backs on the truth will close the doors to the kingdom to us. For a follower of Jesus, there is no substitute for the truth. Living it is the only way to enjoy God's blessings and grace.

### Q & A What is wrong with talking about other people?

Talking about other people can hurt you and them.

Even if you meant no harm but disclosed something that wasn't true and caused a negative impression of someone, you could be guilty of a serious sin called, "calumny." Plus, fixing what you created is nearly impossible.



If you believe the negative reports you hear about others without verifying the facts, you will be guilty of rash judgment. False reports contributed to Jesus' condemnation and death. Having suffered from them, one can imagine that Jesus takes a dim view of calumny and rash judgment.

"Detraction," is another serious sin that involves disclosing someone's faults or misdeeds to listeners who didn't know about them, without an objectively good reason. Such a disclosure almost always impacts a reputation.

Rather than risk hurting someone or sinning yourself, follow grandma's wise advice, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

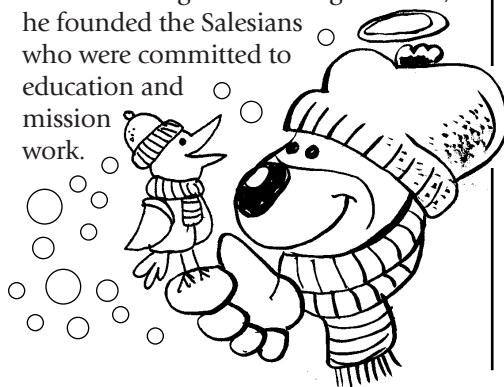
### Feasts & Celebrations

In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "...at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). The English letters IHS –the first three Greek letters in Jesus' name – used to be written over the doors of Christian homes.

**January 3 – Epiphany of Our Lord.** Epiphany is Greek for "manifestation." When they honored the infant Jesus, the three wise men bore witness to the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior.

**January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord.** Jesus began his public ministry by

getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. **January 31 – St. John Bosco (1888).** St. John Bosco taught young men and women how to incorporate their spiritual life into their work and play. He opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for boys in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



### Our Mission

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