

FEBRUARY 22, 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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 21	6:00 P.M.	L.A. Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 22	9:30 A.M.	Henry & Julie Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday	Feb. 25	7:30 P.M.	Living & Deceased Members Moravia KJZT Society #44	Moravia
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First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Feb. 28	6:00 P.M.	Dominic Loth	St. John
Sunday	Mar. 1	9:30 A.M.	Alfons Stang	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Mar. 6	8:00 A.M.	Laurie Kristinik	St. John
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Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Mar. 7	6:00 P.M.	Mary & Louise Filip	Moravia
Sunday	Mar. 8	9:30 A.M.	August & Rosie Konvicka	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25 Psalm 41:2-5,13-14 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12

In our repentance, the Lord remembers not our offenses. God, who is forever faithful, has sent us his Son. He is the sign of God's never ending healing love and forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday

Readings: Joel 2:12-18 Psalm 51:3-6a,12-14,17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Be reconciled and return to the Lord by means of prayer, fasting and deeds of loving service.

First Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25:4-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by flood waters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 Psalm 116:10,15-19 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10

Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiah ship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Before he began his public ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the desert. He prayed, fasted, confronted temptation, and prepared for the journey that was to come. During Lent, we imitate Jesus in self-denial. We pray, fast, and give alms. Using God's Word and centuries of spiritual practices and devotions, we can, little by little, set aside what distracts and harms us, open our lives to deep conversions to the Lord, and emerge ready to enter into the lasting joy of life with the Risen Christ.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with ashes - a traditional sign of mourning, grieving, and repentance for both Jews and Christians (Is. 58:5; Matthew 11:21). Through the early centuries of Christian history, those who committed serious sins had to do public penance, sometimes for years. Penitents were organized into an "Order of Penitents"; the process was ritualized and culminated on Holy Thursday, when the penitents were readmitted to the Eucharist.

One of the signs of a penitent was ashes or dirt on the person's head, often at the beginning of their penance. By the early Middle Ages, the practice became a more general Lenten tradition for all Christians, focused on the beginning of Lent. It became a way for Christians to publicly mark their sorrow for sin and to symbolically ready themselves to cast that sin away and open themselves to God during the weeks to come.

Today, as we receive ashes on our heads, usually traced in a Sign of the Cross, we're reminded of who we are: creatures in need of God's love and forgiveness.



The readings of Ash Wednesday offers us good guidance, not only for this day, but for the journey we are taking throughout the next few weeks.

- Joel calls us to return to the Lord through our prayer and fasting.
- Paul appeals to us not to “receive the grace of the Lord in vain” (2 Cor.5:20-6:2).
- Jesus reminds us to pray, fast, and give alms with an eye to please only God, not impress other people (Mt.6:1-6;16-18).

Fasting and Abstaining

During Lent, Catholics are required to fast, and abstain on certain days, in imitation of Jesus’ fast in the desert. Church law defines “fasting” as eating one regular-sized meal and two small meals. “Abstaining” is refraining from eating animal flesh. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence, and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

Of course, Church laws are designed to guide a broad range of people in various states of life. We are always welcome to go beyond the minimum by perhaps engaging in a more vigorous fast, abstaining from another food if you are a vegetarian, or fasting an extra day during the week. Wednesday, for example, has been another traditional fasting day for Christians throughout history.

Traditionally the observance of Lent have been structured around three practices: Fasting, Praying & Almsgiving. Christians throughout history have found these to be the building blocks of Lenten spiritual growth. They work in two ways: they help cleanse our lives of what distracts us from God, and that new space gives God’s grace more room to take root and flourish.

Our Lenten hope and prayer is that in imitating Jesus’ sacrifice, we become more like him in every way.

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY

It’s time to reserve study guides for our Lenten “Disciples on the Journey.” In the past we have met in church after Friday evening Stations of the Cross for this study of the following Sunday readings. Call Elsie Farek (979-562-2159) to reserve your text for 2009 Fridays of Lent “journey” beginning February 27.

PRO LIFE CORNER

Thank you for signing the FOCA protest cards at Mass on February 14 and 15!

The Freedom of Choice Act would take away all protection for parents and children, and nullify all laws that have been passed by all the states over the last thirty years since Roe vs. Wade. It would make killing unborn babies at any stage of development a national right. In addition, it would attack all religious institutions that try to help protect mothers and their babies and would provide millions of our tax dollars to the abortion industry. PLEASE continue to PRAY for the Defense of Life! Keep track of FOCA, so when this bill or any like it are introduced and debated in Congress, you can again and again protest its passage.

MEMORIALS

St. John Building Fund

In memory of Marzaline Krupala by Harvey & Evelyn Hermis \$25

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT AT 7:00 P.M.

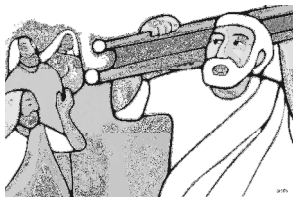
Moravia – February 27, March 13, March 27. **St. John** – March 6, March 20, April 3.

MORAVIA PARISH BINGO REPORT

Bingo Cards - \$204.21; Pull Tabs - \$38.25; Kitchen - \$208.40; Total \$450.86

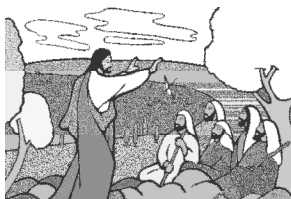
PRAYER FOR RAIN

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.



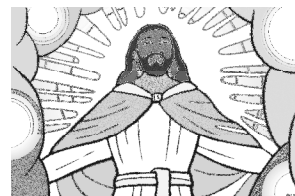
Jesus said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.” He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.” — *Mt 9:1-12*

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



After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” — *Mt 1: 4-15*

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



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. — *Mt 17:6-8*

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