

JANUARY 25, 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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Feast of St. Paul

Saturday	Jan. 24	6:00 P.M.	Henry and Martha Besetzny	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 25	9:30 A.M.	Edmund and Julia Filip	Moravia

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 31	6:00 P.M.	Mary & Joe Provazek	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 1	9:30 A.M.	Adolph B. & Adella Kutac	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Feb. 6	8:00 A.M.	Respect for Life	St. John
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First Saturday - Serra Club

Saturday	Feb. 7	8:30 A.M.	Vocations	St. John
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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 7	6:00 P.M.	A.C. Ivy	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 8	9:30 A.M.	August & Emilia Filip	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Feast of St. Paul

Readings: John 3:1-5,10 Psalms 25:4-9 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

The Ninevites heard the preaching of Jonah and repented of their evil ways thus experiencing the Lord's compassion. Do we repent when we hear the preaching of Jesus? Do we invest our lives in the world rather than in God's kingdom?

In this Jubilee Year marking the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth, the Mass celebrating The Conversion of St. Paul, apostle, as found in the Roman Missal for January 25, will be used today. The second reading of the Mass taken from the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and the Creed is said. The Year of Saint Paul concludes June 29, 2009. Plenary indulgence available. Readings: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 68:1 Corinthians 7:29-31: Mark 16:15-18

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28

Jesus came as one who spoke in the name of the Lord, teaching with authority. Let us listen to his voice and adhere to him above anything else.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Job7:1-4,6-7 Psalm 147:1-6 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 Mark 1:29-39

Job's cry of hopelessness stands in marked contrast to the hope of those who put their trust in Jesus, who "heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds". Such are the blessings of the good news. **World Marriage Day is celebrated today.**

The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

There is the story of the man who, after a long life, passed away quietly. Upon entering heaven, he was offered the grand tour by none other than St. Paul himself. As they made their way, the man noticed many familiar faces staring back at him in what appeared to be shock. But the faces were familiar because they had led infamous lives as terrible sinners on earth, committing horrible crimes and bringing misery to many. "But St. Paul," the man said, "I can't believe such people are in heaven." St. Paul put his arm around the man. "Do you see that look of shock on their faces? As they were with me, they're stunned to see you've made it, too!"

A follower of Christ, Stephen has been convicted of blasphemy against Moses and the Jewish church in Jerusalem. An angry crowd is summoned to carry out the punishment, death by stoning. They take off their robes and lay them at the feet of Saul of Tarsus for safekeeping; Saul has made a name for himself as one who would wipe out the fledgling Christian church. It wasn't until he was blinded by a light and heard the voice of Jesus while on his way to Damascus that Saul, later taking the name of Paul, realized his sins and asked for forgiveness; in return he would preach the Gospels himself with every breath.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that conversion - forgiveness and redemption of past sins - is most lovingly illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son. Despite a life of selfish pursuits, we will always be welcomed into the loving arms of the Father and the Church. On this feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, know that no matter the dire details of our past, we will find forgiveness if we ask for it in faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This week is Catholic Schools Week. We are very blessed to have several Catholic Schools in our area. They provide a well rounded Catholic education including daily prayer and religion classes, weekly Mass and chances for a variety of spiritual exercises. If you have not been to one of our Catholic Schools lately, please take the opportunity to visit one or all of them this week, especially Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and St. Rose in Schulenburg.

Let us keep praying for and supporting our Catholic Schools. The schools in our area are doing very well at this time.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John's church cleaning list for the month of February: Grace Sumbera, Josie Hermis & Evelyn Hermis.

PENNIES FOR LIFE

The pennies have all been counted with a grand total of \$356.97 collected in Pennies for Life Campaign sponsored by Catholic Daughters Court St. Rose #1597. Containers were placed in St. Rose Church, as well as churches in St. John, Moravia, Praha and High Hill. The children in the St. Rose School and CCD program also gave their pennies for the cause. Special recognition goes to the first grade class of St. Rose School for collecting a whole gallon of coins (\$99.47). This year's total is twice the amount collected the previous year. The money was sent to the Diocese of Victoria Respect Life Office. The Catholic Daughters Court thanks you all for your generosity.

WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT (SHINER)

The retreat will be on March 12-15. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church.

SPIRITUAL BOOK STUDY

You are invited to participate in reading & discussing *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by renowned author Fr. Henri Nouwen. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's painting of the encounter between the father & his wayward son sent our author on a long spiritual adventure. In his book he shares the deeply personal meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. We who join in this opportunity to study his work are sure to have our own encounter with God as we explore our life experiences in light of this familiar story from Scripture. Who do you most relate to - the father, the younger son or the elder son? Does it change for you? Come join us in this adventure and be enriched by the words we will read and the stories we will share on Wednesdays beginning January 7, 6:00 to 7:10 p.m. at Mary's House, which is the new meeting area at Sacred Heart. For book ordering information, call Pat Scherer at (979) 562-2252.

PRO LIFE CORNER

In the months and years that lie ahead, a very real danger exists that this new Congress will introduce a radical piece of legislation known as the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). If passed, and signed into law by the new president, this single piece of legislation would usher in a massive expansion of abortion "rights," the scale of which has not been seen since the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe vs. Wade*. We need to keep praying for the rights of our unborn human beings. By doing this, we are not only respecting human life, but we are also looking at our future and all that these young babies could be someday. From "Desk of Father John"

THE YOUTH CONNEXION FROM SACRED HEART - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

February 20: 5th-7th Grade Youth Lock-In. Details coming soon! Our youth are invited to be a part of this at Sacred Heart.

MORAVIA PARISH BINGO

The Moravia Parish Bingo is in need of volunteer help. If anyone is interested come to our parish bingo the first Saturday of every month after 6:00 p.m. mass. The next bingo is February 7th.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lillie Bohuslav

Ascension Building Fund

Erwin & Helen Chaloupka & family	\$10	Robert & Pam Besetzny	\$20
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Bujnoch	\$10	Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky	\$10
David & Dorothy Young	\$10		

Fr. John Peters' Seminary Burse

Richard & Wilma Schaefer	\$15
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SPIRITUAL BOOK STUDY

Spiritual Book Study will not meet next Wednesday, January 28. We will resume meeting Feb. 4. Feel free to join us at 6 p.m. in Mary's House at Sacred Heart. The book being reviewed at this time is *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen. You will be able to catch up even if you have never attended. For book ordering info and/or questions, call Pat Scherer (979) 562-2252.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION...IS IT FOR ME?

Sometimes people have the mistaken idea that spiritual direction is only for priests, deacons and religious. Our Church makes spiritual direction available for everyone, regardless of vocation. Spiritual direction is a confidential, individual opportunity to share with someone who has been trained to listen and perhaps offer suggestions that may enrich our prayer life. There is never any charge. This is a gift we give to each other as the Body of Christ. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call Pat Scherer (979) 562-2252.

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.

Next Bulletin: Feb. 8th, 2009

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5th, 2009