

MARCH 8, 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

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Mar. 14	6:00 P.M.	Evelyn Novosad	St. John
Sunday	Mar. 15	9:30 A.M.	Lillie H. & Arthur Spies Sr.	St. John

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Mar. 21	6:00 P.M.	John & Angeline Trlica	Moravia
Sunday	Mar. 22	9:30 A.M.	Joe & Irene Drozd Barcak	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3,7-8,12-17 Psalm 19:8-11 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

The law liberates and leads us to freedom. It is to be trusted for it is a source of wisdom. Jesus speaks of the ultimate freedom to be won for us by his being raised up. He is the sign of the power and wisdom of God.

Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Romans 4:13,16-18,22 Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a or Luke 2:41-51a An heir of David and son of Joseph and Mary, Jesus brings forgiveness through the gift of faith. Joseph: honored on March 19 since the end of the 10th century; declared patron of the Universal Church in 1870 by Pope Pius IX; patron of workers and carpenters; also of Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, Canada, Mexico Peru and (south) Vietnam; mentioned in the Roman Canon.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 Psalm 137:1-6 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to deliver the world from exile.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

There will be an Altar Server Practice for all new and current servers on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Moravia. This is for St. John & Moravia Servers.

During Lent you might want to give God and yourself a little more time together. The image of an hour with Jesus has been part of Catholic Tradition since the very beginning. Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, mournfully asked His disciples, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

A Holy Hour gives us the opportunity to honor Our Lord's request and place ourselves before Him. We join our own prayers, works, joys, and sufferings with His and "by the mercies of God, present (our) bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is (our) spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1).

There are many ways to celebrate a Holy Hour. All that is required is to make ourselves as present as we can be to God. For instance, we may choose to focus on the offertory we celebrate at each Mass. We know that, in addition to the bread and wine that is offered to God on the paten and in that chalice, we also offer ourselves. When we make that offering, our Eucharistic Lord does with us what He does with the Eucharist: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26:26)

In the same way, Jesus takes our lives, our gifts, our talents, even our weaknesses, all of which we bring to Him during our Holy Hour. He gives thanks to His Father, breaks us, and offers us as food for the world. This "breaking" comes in the form of refining, purging, challenging, and "growing" us into the people He calls us to become. During our Holy Hour, we can become aware of this refining, this formation, of which Isaiah spoke: "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations." (Isaiah 42:6)

At its most basic, however, a Holy Hour can be summed up in a simple story: A visitor to a Catholic parish noticed an old man just sitting in the back of the parish with his eyes on the tabernacle. After some time, curiosity got the better of the visitor and he asked the old man, "What are you doing?"

The man replied, "I look at Him, and He looks at me."

A perfectly good Holy Hour can be made simply by sitting in the presence of God. Place yourself in front of the tabernacle or monstrance, and just be. Quietly allow the silence: just you and Jesus, sitting in each other's presence. Some Catholics have jokingly described this simple exercise as "spiritual radiation therapy," because being in the presence of Christ, with a heart open to His love, can change and heal you.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT

Internationally renowned Christian musician John Michael Talbot will be in concert on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville. John Michael's concert ministry has blessed millions over the past thirty years and thousands of lives have been transformed. Admission to the concert is \$10.00. For information, please call 361-798-5888.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Moravia - March 13, March 27

St. John - March 20, April 3

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John cleaning list for the month of March: Agnes Berckenhoff and Jan Morin.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our next gathering for Generations of Faith will be on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th, at St. John Religious Education Center at 6:00 p.m. The topic will be: The Eucharist - Walk through the Mass. Hamburger, chips and dips will be served for the meal.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY

The Moravia Altar Society will hold their annual Spring Social Sunday, March 29 starting at 11:00 A.M. A short meeting will be held at that time. A catered meal will begin at 11:30 A.M. Members are asked to bring a dessert to add to the meal. Please call Kathy Guenther at 979-562-2124 or Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169 if you plan to attend.

DONATION

Dennis and Barbara Janak have donated a heater to the new bathroom at the Moravia Parish Dining Hall. It is greatly appreciated.

ST. JOHN KJT SOCIETY #32 MEETING

St. John KJT Society #32 meeting will be held on Sunday, March 29th at 11:00 A.M. at the Religious Education Center at St. John. The society will sponsor a parish donut and coffee social immediately after the 9:30 mass at St. John.

MORAVIA CHURCH CLEANERS

Church cleaners for the month of March are Kathy Guenther and Dorothy Henke.

PRO LIFE CORNER

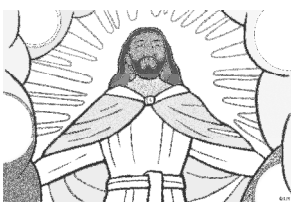
With the Pro-Death crowd in charge of the White House, Senate and House of Representatives, people are asking what can we do? Besides praying and fasting, it is time we educate ourselves and our friends and relatives about the moral issues that plague our society. Can you explain why same-sex marriage is wrong? Give a moral defense of marriage? Chastity? Natural Family Planning? Or: Pornography? Embryonic Stem Cell Research? In-Vitro Fertilization? The Pill? Contact LIFE AND FAMILY ADVOCATES to obtain brochures on the moral issues of today and let us change the society around us. Call 361-578-2002 or e-mail pmtasin@hotmail.com. (from February 2009 Life and Family Advocates News)

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.

ST. JOHN PICNIC MEETING

There will be a St. John Parish Picnic Meeting on Sunday, March 15 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.



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. — M X 9: 7 - 8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1978 CCC

Next Bulletin: March 22nd, 2009
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19th, 2009

And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." — J c 2: 14 - 17

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

Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2009

One Minute Meditations

Follow the crowd?

Many of us feel tempted to follow the crowd to be accepted and admired. That means letting others make our choices. The difference with following God instead is that he doesn't want to make our choices. He wants us to choose the good and not the evil, but he wants us to be the ones who choose. Following God frees us to be completely ourselves.

Unforgivable sin

Is there something you have done that you fear God won't forgive? Do you think God's justice is greater than his love? Jesus made it clear that God forgives sins if we repent, confess our sins, and turn to him in faith for his forgiveness. God is eager to forgive us if only we will ask.

Mother Teresa said ...

"The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love and

The fruit of love is silence."



Jesus always gives more than you ask

In his mission on earth, Jesus always exceeded people's expectations. He always gave more than was asked – but exactly what was needed.

A paralyzed man looked for a cure but Jesus gave him what he really needed (Mark 2:1-12). When a man's friends brought him to Jesus for a cure for his paralysis, Jesus said, *"Son, your sins are forgiven."*

As God, Jesus has the power to heal. As a man, he identifies with our deepest needs or sufferings and gives us what we really need to overcome them.

People were hungry and Jesus used a small meal to feed thousands (John

6:1-15). Phillip told Jesus he thought feeding such a large group was impractical yet five loaves and two small fish fed them all.

Don't allow your estimate of a task keep you from taking it on. Let Jesus provide the resources.

A widow was about to bury her son but Jesus restored him to life (Luke 7:11-17). The widow couldn't have imagined that such a miracle was possible.

Yet, *"When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her ..."* God's love for us is bigger than we can imagine and moves him to shower us with miracles. Don't hesitate to ask him for what you need and praise him when he delights you with the result.



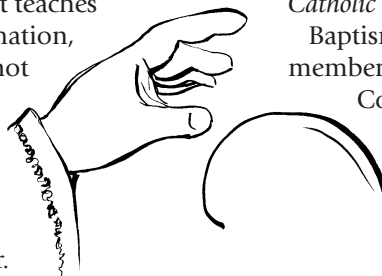
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe some Sacraments can't be repeated?

The Council of Trent teaches that Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders cannot be repeated because they place upon the soul an indelible sign. Their power leaves a distinctive mark that lasts forever. (See the *Catechism of the*

Catholic Church, 1582.)

Baptism marks us forever as members of the Body of Christ, Confirmation marks us as soldiers of Christ, and Holy Orders marks someone as a priest of Christ. No matter where we go or what we do, these marks remain.



Tune in to God

The Holy Spirit is everywhere but the fast pace of our lives may make it hard to find him. Try these tips to open up and tune in to the Holy Spirit in your life.

Slow down. Most of us move at a fast pace that is often dictated by the demands of modern life. If we are to be attentive to the Spirit, we have to close the day planners and turn off the phones and computers for a time every day. God wants us to pay attention to him. Remember, he knocked St. Paul to the



ground to get his notice.

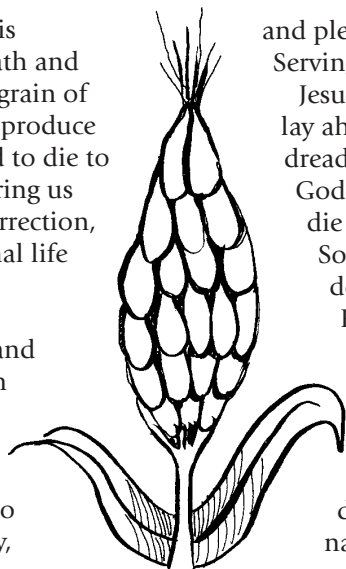
Put on the brakes. Create silence so you can listen for God's voice. Try deep breathing, slow walking, Eucharistic Adoration – whatever helps you avoid distraction both inside and outside your mind.

Reorganize. Where does the Holy Spirit fit in your life? If you have trouble finding him, you may need to reorder your life to remove the barriers between you and the one who loves you most.

from Scripture **John 12:20-33, Obedience yields new life**

Jesus tried to warn his disciples about his death and prepare them for it. A grain of wheat dies in order to produce new life, and Jesus had to die to pay for our sins and bring us new life. With his resurrection, he proved he has eternal life and can offer it to us.

Then he said that we must "hate" our lives and be willing to lose them so we can live. He meant that we have to be ready to lay aside our attachment to goods, worldly security,



and pleasure to serve God freely.

Serving God brings eternal life.

Jesus knew that his crucifixion lay ahead and being human, he dreaded it. He also knew that God sent him into the world to die for our sins in our place.

So, Jesus said no to his human desires in order to obey his Father. Although we will never have to face such a difficult task, we are still called to obedience.

Whatever the Father asks we should be willing to do and bring glory to his name.

Q How can I keep & from losing steam during Lent?

Lent can seem like a long penitential season but it is meant to be the Church's gift to you. Instead of just giving up a favorite food or a bad habit, try thinking

of Lent as a time for changing your perspective.

Lent is a great time to reorder our priorities. The Gospel call is to provide only what

you need and share the rest. We all need food, clothing, and shelter. Beyond that, see what you can share with others who have less.

What can you move out of your way so you can grow closer to God? For example, fasting from television or computers during Lent will free up time you can spend in prayer. Giving up a favorite food like chocolate or beer makes you more conscious of people who always do without.

When you say "no" to something during Lent, say "yes" to something better. For example, the extra time you spend in prayer may bring you greater peace or a renewed sense of God's love for you.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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Feasts & Celebrations

March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel (1955). A Philadelphia heiress, St. Katharine Drexel gave up her fortune to become a nun. She established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states and founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first university for African-Americans in the U.S.

March 4 - St. Casimir (1483). Born a prince of Poland, St. Casimir's strong conscience was instilled by a great teacher, John Dlugosz. When Casimir's father sent him to take over Hungary, fifteen-year-old Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his

troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again.

March 17 - St. Patrick (493). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. Although he escaped, he later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is established the Church there.

March 20 - St. Joseph (?). Husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

