

JANUARY 10, 2010

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIocese of Victoria in Texas



REV. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

REV. MICHAEL ROTHER, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 16	6:00 P.M.	L.A. & Vera Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 17	9:30 A.M.	Charles & Julie Neskora	St. John

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 23	6:00 P.M.	Alphonse Berger	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 24	9:30 A.M.	Jerry Tupa	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 96:1-3,7-10 John 2:1-11

At Cana in Galilee, Jesus performed the first of his signs, revealing his glory to his disciples, and later to the nations. He has revealed as well the manifestation of the Spirit who distributes different gifts as he chooses.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19:8-10,15 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14,27 Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

Ezra proclaims the word of the Lord, which gives spirit and life. Jesus proclaims himself the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. In him we have become one body with many members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We will be having a special Respect Life Novena January 14-22 at 7:00 p.m. each evening in Sacred Heart Church. This novena is in conjunction with novenas happening all over the country in anticipation of the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision. We ask you to come and pray for an end to abortion. Come and pray the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet.

On Thursday, January 21, 2010 plan to attend a Respect Life Prayer Service and Vigil at the Hallettsville KC Hall. This is a Hallettsville Deanery service for all who wish to participate. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with a power point presentation, procession with the Blessed Sacrament and other prayers and reflections. Please come and show your support for Respect for Life and invite your family and friends.

Eric Genuis, pianist, will be in concert at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20 at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. Eric's concert will also feature the vocals of Krista Adams Santilli, violinist, Renata Steve, and cellist, Mary Beth Hussey. There is no admission charge, only a free will offering.

Thank you all for your generous donations in the collection for Daniel and Carolyn Etzler when they lost their home to fire. At St. John, \$516 was donated and at Moravia, \$640 was donated.

GABRIEL PROJECT WORKSHOP

Gabriel Project Angel Workshop and Training, January 26, Holy Family Church Education Building, Victoria, 6:30-9:30 p.m. RSVP by January 22 to Becca (361) 564-3887 or Martha (361) 571-7130. Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Victoria. Next meeting: January 12.

SACRED HEART YOUTH GROUP

The yellow Discount Cards that the youth have been selling are now \$5.00 each. The cards offer discounts at various local businesses and can be used repeatedly through September 30, 2010. The cards are available at the Rectory. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Youth Group.

MORAVIA KJZT MEETING

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

MEMORIAL ST. JOHN BLDG. FUND

In memory of Jimmy Sanchez by Robert & Sally Janak \$10

The Youth ConneXion

JANUARY 10: Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. Youth gathering and Christmas party for 8th-12th graders at the Youth House after Firefall. If participating in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift suitable for anyone.

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

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY

Moravia Altar Society will have a meeting on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall.

PRO LIFE

Elizabeth McClung, organizer of the Austin 40 Days for Life & Director of the Austin Coalition for Life, will be guest speaker at Sts. Cyril & Methodius parish Hall, Shiner on Tuesday, January 12, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. 40 Days for Life is a pro-life movement where people volunteer a period of time to pray in front of an abortion clinic. With the help of these volunteers, there is continual prayer in front of chosen clinics for 40 days without interruption. Everyone is invited.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The old African-American spiritual “Michael Row the Boat Ashore” has one verse that goes, “Jordan’s river is chilly and cold/hallelujah/chills the body but not the soul/hallelujah.” We don’t know what the temperature of the Jordan River was when Jesus stepped into it in front of John the Baptist. But Luke’s Gospel relates that after He had been baptized and while He was praying the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. A voice from heaven was heard, saying, “You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

It is unlikely that any such explicitly miraculous events occurred at our own baptism, or any that we may have attended. But something just as momentous did take place when we were baptized. In our baptism we became intimately connected to God; we became God’s own children, just as Jesus is the Father’s beloved Son. And when we were baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon us - not as a dove, but as the Spirit of God that always dwells in our hearts. That connectedness to God never disappears. Even when we are guilty of the worst sins, God is with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, helping us to act more and more like Christ as we reaffirm our baptismal commitment.

While we celebrate the signs and wonders at the Jordan that herald Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of His public ministry, we also recall that our own baptism begins the call to minister in this world. Our baptismal call is to act like Christ, to be His hands, and voice, and heart in this world. When we act like Him, we can be assured we too will hear the Father’s voice, “with you I am well pleased.”

PRO LIFE CORNER

Website of the month: ManhattanDeclaration.com. It contains three principles we, as Catholics, are called to uphold.

1. The sanctity of life
2. The dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife
3. The rights of conscience and religious liberty

Pull up the website and add your name to the over 316,000 clergy and lay people supporting the declaration. (Complete text is in December Life and Family Advocates NEWS.)

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY BINGO

Bake Sale	\$518.50
Cards	\$ 98.96
Kitchen	<u>\$131.25</u>
Total	\$748.71

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

- 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
- Saturday, Jan. 16 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan
- Sunday, Jan. 17 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny, Seth Eckhart
- Saturday, Jan. 23 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann
- Sunday, Jan. 24 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Logan Eckhart

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alphonse Berger

<u>St. John Seminary Burse</u>		<u>St. John Cemetery Fund</u>	
Lillian Besetzny	\$10	Milton Dittrich	\$10
Joe & Loretta Cernoch	\$5	Anton & Georgie Kalich	\$10
Allen & Marilyn Cerny	\$5	M/M Marcus Bujnoch	\$10
Alphonse & Josie Kubenka	\$10	Arnold & Dorothy Berger	\$20
Melvin & Dorothy Zapalac	\$10	Larry & Patricia Berger	\$20
		M/M Vincent Respondek	\$10
		Frank & Therese Janacek	\$20
		Stanley & Jeanette Kubenka	\$10
<u>St. John CCD Program</u>		<u>St. John Building Fund</u>	
Harold & Susie Kalich	\$15	Leo & Joyce Janda	\$20
		Pam & Robert Besetzny	\$25
		M/M Billy Beiersdorfer & Lillian Mazoch	\$10
		M/M Royce Chudej	\$20
		Elreed & Lillie Dittrich	\$10
Eugene & Bernice Pauler	\$10		
David & Lorine Kubenka	\$10		
Juanita Adamek	\$5		
Dorothy Janacek	\$5		
Scotty & Cheryl Brossmann	\$10		
Alphonse Besetzny	\$10		
Patrick & Janice Sokol	\$10		

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF):

Our next GOF will be Sunday, January 17, 2010 after Mass at the Rectory/Religious Education Center and should last until about 1:30PM. All generations are encouraged to attend. We will continue our discussion of Catholic Social Teachings with the " Dignity of Human Life." This study is so important during the month of January, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Adults will continue their Bible Study of Acts. There will be a brief Confirmation Meeting immediately after GOF. Please be sure to bring your snack or lunch and drink. We look forward to seeing you for another fun-filled learning experience about your faith.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

DONATED BY:

Elsie Farek
Barbara Appelt
Leo & Joyce Janda
Eugene & Jo Marie Krupala & family
Arnold & Dorothy Berger
Evelyn Kusy
Alphonse Besetzny
Diane Kutac
Alvin & Bernice Havel
Royce & Jeanette Chudej
Marcus & Sharon Bujnoch
Harvey & Evelyn Hermis
Lillian Besetzny
Patrick & Karen Chaloupka family

IN MEMORY OF:

Tom Farek
Gene D. Slavik and Edward & Martha Appelt
Deceased members of Berger & Janda families
Leon Sitka, Jerome & Willie Mae Krupala
Schmidt & Berger families
Edward & Stephen Kusy
Henry & Martha Besetzny & Leo Schramek
Adolph & Adele Kutac
Alfred & Emma Kalich and Cyril & Mary Havel
Victor & Emily Jurica
Victor Bujnoch
Frank & Ludmilla Janik & sons and Fred & Martha Hermis
Edgar Besetzny and Henry & Martha Bestezny
Philip & George Chaloupka

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH

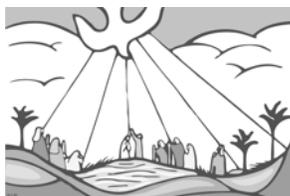
DONATED BY:

Mary Ann Spies
Leroy & Lillie Loth
Mildred Hajek
Royce & Jeanette Chudej
Robert & Diana Svetlik
Robert & Mary Kendall
Evelyn & Barbara Haas
Arthur Spies Jr.
Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky
Dyrel & Arlene Holmes
Dennis & Barbara Janak
Franklin & Henrietta Filip
Pargac Family
Phil Guenther Family

IN MEMORY OF:

Daniel Spies
Dominic Loth
John & Angelina Trlica and Joe & Larry Zatopek,
George, Sylvia & Darryl Chudej
Emith, Irene & Daniel Orsak
William & Loretta Kendall and Robert & Mary Dodge
Clarence Haas
Thelma & Ann Spies
Timothy & Mark Olsovsky
Parents Konvicka & Holmes
Charles, Mary & Alex Hrnecir
Joe & Vlasta Holik and Leroy Rehak, Sr.
Raymond, Mary & Daniel Pargac
L.A. & Vera Wenglar

Next Bulletin: January 24th, 2010
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21st, 2010



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. — Lk 3:21-22

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



“Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. — Jn 2:10-11

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

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

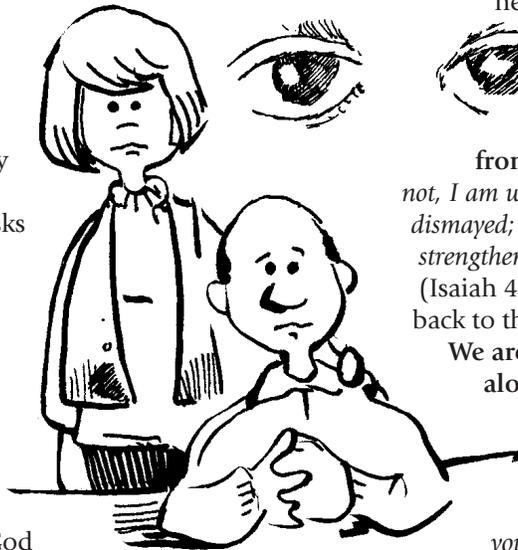
Even though we intend to grow in holiness, life sometimes gets in the way.

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).

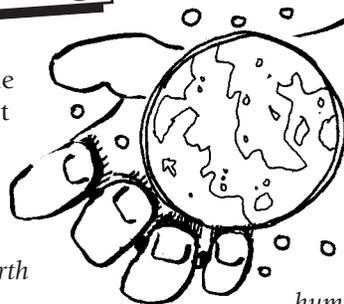


Why Do Catholics Do That?

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



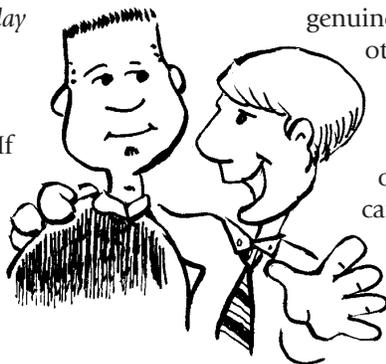
include, *"... Look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things; and in the same way the human race came into existence"* (2 Maccabees 7:28).

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."

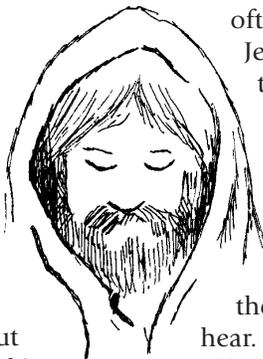
from Scripture

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.



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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

Protect Conscience

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate on the final bill are expected in January.

Act today! Thank You!