

## JANUARY 24, 2010

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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#### 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

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 30	6:00 P.M.	Mass of Thanksgiving Leo & Dorothy Henke 40 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 31	9:30 A.M.	Adolph & Adella Kutac	St. John

#### First Friday

Friday	Feb. 5	8:00 A.M.	Parish Family	St. John
Saturday	Feb. 6	8:30 A.M.	Serra Club Mass for Vocations	St. John

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 6	6:00 P.M.	Thelma & Ann Spies, Daniel Spies	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 7	9:30 A.M.	Evelyn Novosad	St. John

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### THE WORD OF GOD.

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#### 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.

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19 Psalms 71:1-6,15,17 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13 Luke 4:21-30

“No prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.” Thus did Jeremiah and Jesus encounter opposition and lack of faith; thus did both place their hope in the Lord. Paul speaks eloquently of the greatest of all the gifts: love.

#### The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Day)

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrew 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Jesus, the King of glory, yet like us in all things, comes to his temple to be a light for all the nations. The feast originating in 4<sup>th</sup> century Jerusalem, came to be celebrated in Rome by the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century under its Greek title, “Feast of the Meeting”, known also as Candlemas Day.

#### Wednesday Blaise, Bishop, Martyr

Readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17 Psalm 32:1-2,5-7 Mark 6:1-6

David seeks forgiveness for his lack of faith in the Lord’s power. Jesus’ kindred put little faith in him. Blaise, believed martyred in the persecution of Licinius, early 4<sup>th</sup> century; bishop of Sebaste in Armenia; associated with the healing of throats. In memory of St. Blaise, the Blessing of Throats may be given today by a priest, deacon or lay minister.

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8 Psalm 138:1-5,7-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8,11 Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah, a man of unclean lips, beholds the Lord’s glory in the temple and is sent on mission. Simon, a sinner, responds to the mission of Jesus by becoming a disciple. Paul, the persecutor, speaks of his call to preach nothing but Christ crucified and risen.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Lent is around the corner. During Lent you have the opportunity to do group study of the Sunday Scripture Readings. If you are interested in participating in a small group each week during Lent, please call the rectory and reserve a study book for *Disciple on the Journey*. Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Do you believe that you are supposed to be Christ in this world today? You’re baptized in His name. You call yourself a Christian. You sign yourself with holy water and make the sign of the cross. Do you really believe that the Spirit of God is upon you? Sometimes it’s hard to conceive that. We can get ourselves into a baptismal inferiority complex: I’m not good enough to think that I can be Christ in this world. Only extraordinary holy people – saints – can be like Christ. Thinking like that can lead to baptismal suicide – drowning in the waters of baptism without ever experiencing the power of the Resurrection. Paul doesn’t mince any words this week when he tells the Corinthians, “You are Christ’s body.” He can say that because we have all been given of the one Spirit.

So, if you’re baptized you have the Spirit of God, just like Jesus in today’s Gospel. That Spirit of God sends us to bring good news to the poor, “to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.”

WOW! What a task. It sounds impossible. As a matter of fact, it is – if we tried to do it alone. But we don't have to. We can do all those things – and more – because we are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, through one Spirit. How we work that out in each community is part of the discernment of the Spirit that takes place, discovering the best ways to use each person's talents and gifts. God's Spirit is given for the common good, and it is in the community of faith that each of us discovers the ways that God wants us to fulfill our baptismal call.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to anonymous donors who paid for the new blinds in the Moravia Parish Hall.

### **The Youth ConneXion**

**January 31:** Jr. High Fiesta, KC Hall, Hallettsville. Keynote speakers-Gene Monterastelli & Brad Farmer. All Jr. High age students are encouraged to attend. Doors open 11:00 a.m. Activities start 11:30 a.m. Event will conclude with Liturgy at 5:00 p.m. Register by January 28. \$15 per person; groups of 8 or more \$12 per person. For more information, call Kris Hermes 798-0655 or Fr. Michael at the Rectory.

**Discount Cards** are now \$5.00 each & offer discounts at various local businesses & can be used repeatedly through September 30, 2010. Cards are available at the Sacred Heart Rectory. Proceeds benefit Youth.

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

### **SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL 798-4251**

**January 25:** School Holiday.

**Jan. 31-Feb. 5:** Catholic Schools Week.

**Feb. 4:** Open House, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Soup & sandwiches in the Cafeteria sponsored by Home & School Association. Price is \$4 per person. Coronation & Talent Show at 7:30 p.m. in the Gym. Everyone is welcome.

**Wish List:** Heater for Mini Gym (\$3,500); 1 AC/DC Arc welding machine (\$1,700); 1 wire welding machine (\$1,875), 1 plasma Arc cutting machine (\$1,600); 2 dry cut steel chop saws (\$450 each); 1 oxyacetylene cylinder cart (\$190). Donations for these items may be dropped off at the school office. Thank you for your support.

### **DOMINO TOURNAMENT**

The Texas State Domino Tournament will be held Sunday, January 24 at the KC Hall in Hallettsville. BBQ Chicken meal served at noon. Drive thru plates to go available.

### **COME & SEE WEEKEND**

'Come & See' weekends on Jan. 23 -24 and Feb. 27-28 at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria for single Catholic women up to 50 years. If interested in learning more about the life of a Sister or in discovering if God is calling you to consecrated life, please call 575-7111, email [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) or check [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) for more information.

### **SACRED HEART EXTRAVAGANZA**

SHCS Extravaganza, February 6, KC Hall. Social begins at 6:00 p.m., steak dinner 7:30 p.m. & evening dance 9:00 p.m.-midnight. Music by Cactus Country. Tickets are \$125/couple & available for purchase at the school office, Rectory, Beauty Boutique & Sacred Heart Credit Union.

### **CHURCH CLEANERS**

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

### **PRO LIFE CORNER**

Planned Parenthood is converting a multi-story building into the largest abortion facility in the world in our backyard (Houston). Strategically located near the University of Houston, it is set to open in March 2010. (Life and Family Advocates News) Note: FOX TV newscast showed hundreds of prayerful Pro-Life protestors at the site on 1-18-10. Add your prayers!

### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Jan. 23 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann

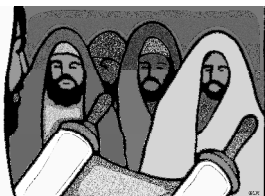
Sunday, Jan. 24 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Logan Eckhart

Saturday, Jan. 30 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, Jan. 31 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine & Hayden Besetzny, Seth Eckhart

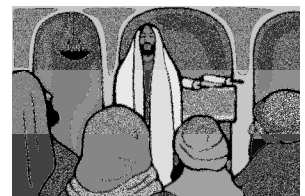
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He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.  
Jesus said to them, "Today this Scripture passage  
is fulfilled in your hearing." — Lk 4:18-19, 21

Images: Photo: The Library of The Holy Bible, 1980, 1970-1972.



He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this  
proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here  
in your native place the things that we heard were  
done in Capernaum.'" — Lk 4:23

Source: Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version, 1989, 1970-1972.

Next Bulletin: February 7th, 2010

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 4th, 2010

# Growing in FAITH™

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

February 2010

## One Minute Meditations

### A warm "hello"

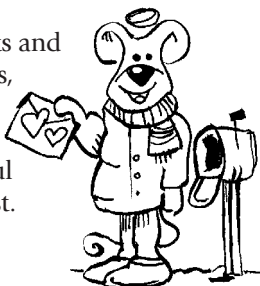
Mass is a community celebration. Try to arrive five to ten minutes before Mass is to begin and greet the people around you. Stay for the entire Mass and visit after it is over. Making others who may be new to your parish feel welcome strengthens the entire Body of Christ.

### Amen

The word "amen" shares the same root as the Hebrew word for "believe." When we say it at the end of our prayer, we affirm our belief in what we just said. "To believe is to say 'Amen' to God's words, promises, and commandments" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1064).

### Your harvest

When you plant tomato seeds in a garden, you will harvest tomatoes. In the same way, whatever is planted in your heart and mind will be your harvest. Avoid seeds like violence, negativity, and self-indulgence. When you plant positive thoughts and attitudes, you will reap a beautiful harvest.



## Catholics leave their mark on the world

As Catholics, we believe that it is possible to build a just society despite the challenges of modern life. In fact, the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching can help us to understand how we can work to create a better world. As Lent begins this month, why not use these principles to figure out

where you can make a greater difference:

**Life and dignity of the human person.** People are the clearest reflection of God among us. That makes human life sacred and Catholics act to uphold the dignity and rights of all people.

**Call to Family, Community, and the Common Good.** Catholics work for the good of everyone, especially working to support marriage and family.

**Rights and Responsibilities.** All people have a right to life and basics required for human decency such as food, shelter, health care, education, and employment.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.**

Jesus brought hope and compassion to the less fortunate, and he asked that we continue his work.

**Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers.** The economy exists to serve people, not the

other way around. Workers have the right to productive work and to fair wages

**Solidarity.** Loving our neighbor recognizes no boundaries.

**Care for God's Creation.** Out of love for God, we care for the earth and all that he created.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics observe Lent?

Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church year. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Easter Triduum, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before his



public ministry.

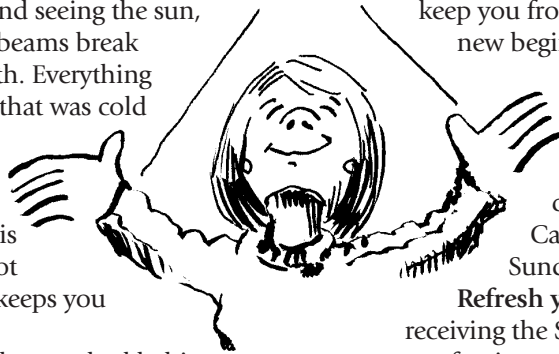
This helps us remember the great events of salvation history. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

# Stand in the Light during Lent

Imagine looking up to the sky and seeing the sun, so powerful and bright that great beams break through any gray to touch the earth. Everything that was dark is now light and all that was cold feels warmth.

Jesus is like that sun. His glory shines rays of hope on each of us, warming us with the strength of his love. During Lent this year, why not remove anything in your life that keeps you from standing in his light?

**Refresh your sight.** Eliminate whatever bad habits



keep you from seeing Christ's light. Let Lent be a new beginning to your lifelong journey down the right path.

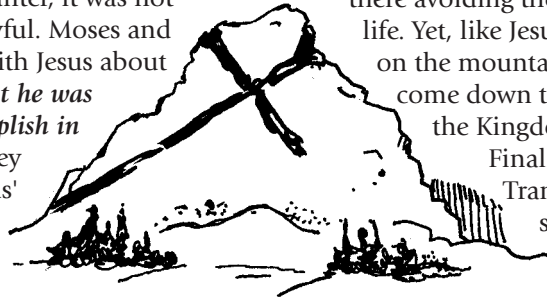
**Refresh your faith.** Find your way to the light. Recommit to the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation. (You can find them at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).) Sunday Mass can help you stay on track.

**Refresh your soul.** Clear your way to the light by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is ready to forgive us if we ask.

## from Scripture

### Luke 9:23-36, Linger on the mountaintop.

While the Transfiguration was a fantastic encounter, it was not particularly joyful. Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." They referred to Jesus' death, as the shadow of the Cross loomed.



Like Moses' exodus from slavery in Egypt however, Jesus' exodus would deliver his people from the slavery of sin.

When he offered to build shelters for the three men, Peter clearly wanted to remain on the mountaintop in this holy moment. Sometimes we have an

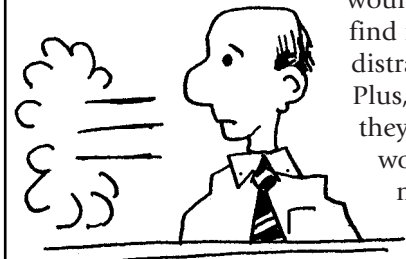
inspiring experience and want to stay there avoiding the realities of daily life. Yet, like Jesus, we cannot linger on the mountaintop but must come down to take our place in the Kingdom.

Finally, God used the Transfiguration to speak a message – the same one he spoke at

Jesus' baptism. He confirmed Jesus as his son, the Messiah, and added, "Listen to him." The son of God has God's power and authority. If we believe that Jesus is the son of God, then surely we will want to do what he says.

## Q & A Is it permissible to leave Mass early after Communion?

Imagine if some of your dinner guests gobbled their food and bolted when they finished. Not only would you think it rude, your other guests



would find it distracting. Plus, they would miss out on

the rest of the evening.

The same is true for Mass. Jesus is present for the entire Mass, so ducking out before it is over means walking out on him. Can you imagine meeting with an earthly king and leaving before he concluded your time together?

Lastly, participating in Mass is intimately linked to our call to go forth and live the Gospel. The final blessing and dismissal prepares us to share what we have received with our brothers and sisters. If we leave directly after Communion, we miss this important component.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858)** A heavenly lady who called herself, "The Immaculate Conception," appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a village in France. After the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spring with miraculous healing waters emerged from a nearby cave.

**February 17 – Ash Wednesday.** Marking the first day of Lent, ashes from the palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. One form of Lenten observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross, meditating on

Jesus' walk to Calvary.

**February 22 – St. Peter's Chair (1st century).** We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).**

As Bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before being martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



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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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