

MAY 2, 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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 1	6:00 P.M.	Thelma & Ann Spies	Moravia
Sunday	May 2	9:30 A.M.	Diane & Ross Goldberg & Devan	St. John

First Friday

Friday	May 7	8:00 A.M.	Kenneth Besetzny	St. John
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Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

Saturday	May 8	6:00 P.M.	Adolph B. & Adella Kutac	St. John
Sunday	May 9	9:30 A.M.	George Shimek	Moravia

Ascension of Our Lord Feast

Saturday	May 15	6:00 P.M.	Lorene Vaculik	Moravia
Sunday	May 16	9:30 A.M.	Willie & Louisa Mendel, Julius & Anita Petter...	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Fifth Sunday of Easter Readings: Acts 14:21-27 Psalm 145:8-13 Revelations 21:1-5a John 13:31-33a,34-35

At the conclusion of their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas tell the Antioch community all that the Lord had accomplished in their preaching the kingdom of God. This kingdom, to be marked by our love for each other, will reach its fulfillment in new heavens and a new earth.

Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings: Acts 15:1-2,22-29 Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8 Revelations 21:10-14,22-23 John 14:23-29

By listening attentively to the Spirit promised by Jesus, the early Church resolves the question whether Gentile converts need observe certain Jewish ritual practices. All are called to dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem, founded on the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The Ascension of the Lord Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 Luke 24:46-53

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Jesus ascended to his Father amid cries of gladness, entering into the heavenly sanctuary. We are to be his witnesses, mindful of the great hope to which we are called.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today, May 2nd we welcome Bishop David Fellhauer to St. John the Baptist Parish as he confirms youth from St. John the Baptist and Ascension of Our Lord Parishes. Congratulations to Nolan Besetzny, Garrett Kutac & Elizabeth Stepanek who are being confirmed today and Daniel Halata who was confirmed at Sacred Heart on April 18th.

Next Sunday, May 9th is Mother's Day. I would like to continue this column from last month with a few more reflections on what makes a Great Catholic Mom.

As unpopular as it may be, great Catholic moms know that sometimes we need to say "no" when everyday culture says "yes." Just because something is popular doesn't make it right or good for the growth of our children. Movies with graphic violence contribute to a culture of violence. Song lyrics that demean women or other races contradict the message of Christ to "love one another." Of course, our kids are going to participate in the culture around them, but it is our job as parents to help mediate the meaning and value of that culture in the context of our Catholic Christian faith.

Do I have the courage to say "no" to something that I believe is not age-appropriate or good for my kids? How might I seek our support and help with these decisions?

The hardest and most heart-wrenching task of motherhood is letting our children go. The bond of motherhood is so deep that it is tempting to hold on to our babies long after they have grown. And yet we believe that our children are a gift from God who will one day be sent into the world to be a gift to others. It is helpful to remember that the goal of motherhood is not to smother our children with attention; rather it is to prepare them to be happy, healthy, faith-filled individuals. At times this may mean stepping back and allowing our kids to face the consequences of their actions or encouraging them to sort out a school homework assignment on their own. Sometimes letting go is the best love we can give.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Thank you, dear Lord, for the miraculous vocation of motherhood You have blessed me with. At times, I may not be able to fathom the intensity of the miracles that are worked in human hearts throughout the seasons of my vocation as mother. By Your grace and love for me, I trust that I act as Your instrument in this world - first to my own family, and then, reaching out to others. Please continue to work through me as I work out my salvation and that of my family. Help me to lead others to You by my life and love.

CHURCH CLEANERS: St. John's Church cleaning list for the month of May: Adela Kubos & Lorine Kubenka.

ST. JOHN'S RAFFLE DONATIONS: To donate a raffle prize call Theresa Eckhardt at 743-4435 as soon as possible.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF): The May 16th GENERATIONS OF FAITH Program has been canceled. In keeping with our GOF studies this year, Catholic Social Teachings, we are joining in solidarity with our Confirmandi: Nolan Besetzny, Garrett Kutac, and Elizabeth Stepanek, and our First Communicants: Trevor Freytag, Tristan Meisetschleager, and Olivia Tesch and will support them in the following activities with our attendance:

May 1, 2010: 12:00PM (noon), St. John the Catholic Church, Music Rehearsal for Confirmation Mass.

May 2, 2010: 9:30AM, St. John the Catholic Church, Confirmation Mass singing with the choir and Communion Reception at St. John's Hall immediately following Mass. Each GOF family except the Confirmandi families is responsible for bringing a brunch meal/finger food to the reception. Cake, punch, and coffee will be provided.

May 9, 2010: 9:30AM, Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, First Communion Mass.

Attendance at all three of these activities will count towards attendance of the May GOF.

We thank everyone that has contributed to this successful Generations of Faith year including Fathers John and Michael, our angels at KJZT, Denise Drozd, Elsie Farek, Donna Hermis, and the catechists: Dana Daughtry, James Daughtry, Anthony Hrnecir, Janis Hrnecir, Kim Lofland, Kristen Jahn, and Larissa Tesch.

THE YOUTH CONNEXION

May 9: Youth meet in Sacred Heart Church at 5 pm. Firefall at 6 pm followed by youth gathering at the Youth House.

May 16: Youth Social 8th-12th Grades, Youth House.

PRO LIFE: (from 2001 Scientific Survey by Dr. Robert Lerner, Univ. of Chicago) Compared to other women Natural Family Planning users: Have dramatically low (0.2%) divorce rate, experience happier marriages, have considerably more marital relations, share a deeper intimacy with their spouse than those who contracept, have relatively large happy families, are appreciably more religious and attend church more often, are unlikely to work fulltime and/or relatively are prosperous and preserve the family unit more responsibly than any other group. (April 2010 Life and Family Advocates News)

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 1 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, May 2 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Hayden & Blaine Besetzny, Seth Eckhardt

Saturday, May 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, May 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb & Jared Krischke, Seth Eckhardt

Saturday, May 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Ashley & Joshua Becan, Caitlyn Deem

Sunday, May 16 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Miranda Shimek

PICNIC: Sunday, May 2 - Holy Rosary Church Picnic, Hostyn.

ST. JOHN BUILDING FUND

In memory of Anton J. Orsak:

Bohuslav Feed Mill	\$20
Alvin & Gladys Besetzny	\$10
Arnold & Dorothy Berger	\$10
Robert & Pam Besetzny	\$20
Forrest & Ann Dittrich	\$20
Evelyn Kusy	\$5
Josie Anders	\$20
Frankie A. Vana	\$5
Leroy & Andrea Kainer	\$5
Hilbert Henke	\$10
Mr. & Mrs. Scotty Brossmann	\$20
Tom & Lisa Hermes	\$10
Arnold & Gene Marie Bohuslav	\$20
Stevens Nursing & Rehab – H'ville	\$20
Edward Zapalac	\$20
Marvin Cernik	\$20
Marcus & Sharon Bujnoch	\$10
Leo & Dorothy Henke	\$15
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Chaloupka	\$10
Joe & Virginia Silhavy	\$20
Eugene & Bernice Pauler	\$20
Tommy & Tootsie Adams	\$15
Elreed & Lillie Dittrich	\$20
Bernadette & Donnie Siegel	\$10
Eugene & Jo Marie Krupala	\$10
Debra Smirak	\$10
Mildred Hajek	\$10
Stephen & Martha Gold	\$20
Leo & Joyce Janda	\$20
Donald & Liz Schindler	\$25
Bobby & Peggy Mendel	\$20
Henrietta & Charles Janak	\$20
Brian & Brenda Kram	\$10
Alphonse Besetzny	\$10
Almeda Jurica Poth	\$10
Kenneth & Mary Ann Etzler	\$20
Jackie Machac Family	\$25
Caroline Hanacek	\$25
Brent & Amber Bujnoch	\$10

ST. JOHN BUILDING FUND

In memory of A.J. Kalich

Scott & Cheryl Brossmann \$10

Arnold & Dorothy Berger \$10

In memory of Fr. Edward Bartsch

Arnold & Dorothy Berger \$10

ST. JOHN CCD

In memory of Anton J. Orsak \$10

In memory of Frank & Del Barta \$10

Harold & Susie Kalich

ST. JOHN CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Anton J. Orsak

Daniel & Vickie Wagner \$20

Eunice Sparks \$10

Clarence & Carol Hartensteiner \$10

Julius & Dolores Krause \$10

Albert & Agnes Berckenhoff \$10

Alvin J. Anders \$10

Skip & Donna Smith \$20

James F. Corporron \$50

ST. JOHN SEMINARY BURSE

In memory of Anton J. Orsak

Ronald & Heather Vacek \$20

Lillian Besetzny \$10

Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky \$10

Ervin & Bernice Neskora \$10

In memory of Kenneth Besetzny

Al & Donna Hermis \$25

ASCENSION CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Frank Pargac

Dorothy Pargac & Family \$50

ASCENSION BUILDING FUND

In memory of Anton J. Orsak

David & Dorothy Young & family \$10

Next Bulletin: May 16th, 2010

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13th, 2010

Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2010

One Minute Meditations

Your turn

No parish can do the work of the Church without support from parishioners. For example, parishioners may bring Communion to the sick or infirm, clean the church, staff parish ministries, teach faith formation and give money to keep church facilities operating. What does your parish need from you?

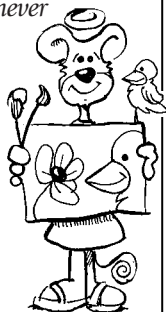
Newest Catholics

More than 25,000 people became Catholic on Holy Saturday last month in the U.S. Each year Church numbers grow by approximately 10%. Please consider praying for these newest Catholics so that they can help the Church grow in strength and holiness.

Turn to Mary

During the month of May, we honor Mary, the Mother of God (and ours, too). Turn to her for guidance and protection and she will help bring you to her Son:

"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided."



What is keeping you from God?

Does the business of your life take priority over your relationship with God?

"I work too much to have time for God, but I have lots of expenses and need the money." *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"* (Matthew 7:9-11). Trust him and God will supply all you need and much of what you want, too.

"What's the point? It doesn't feel like God is paying attention to me." He may be waiting for an invitation.

"When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

Invite him into your heart and he will always be close.

"My life is so busy there isn't much time for God." Yet, there is nothing and no one on Earth that can make you truly happy. "Do not conform yourselves to this

age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:1).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

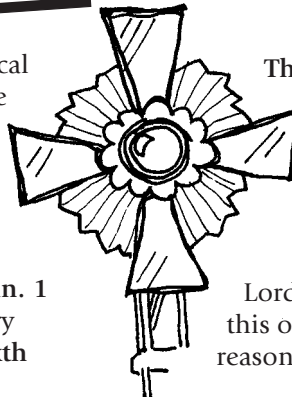
The Eucharist is critical to our salvation, so the Church requires that Catholics participate in the Eucharist every Sunday and principal feast day.

These can include: **Jan. 1** – the solemnity of Mary Mother of God; **the sixth**

What are Holy Days of Obligation?

Thursday after Easter – the Ascension; **Aug. 15** – the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Nov. 1** – All Saints Day; **Dec. 8** – the Immaculate Conception;

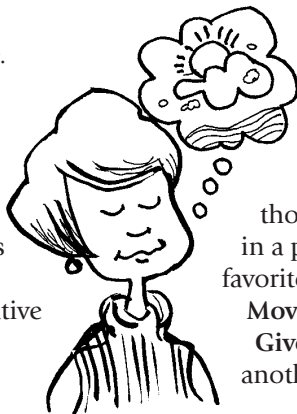
Dec. 25 – the Nativity of Our Lord. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation without a serious reason commit a grave sin.



One way to avoid sin: stop negative thoughts

If it's one thing Catholics know about, it's hope. God's love for us and his infinite mercy give us hope. Living in an imperfect world, however, can overshadow hope with doubt, fear, depression, anger, jealousy and all manner of negative thinking. Without hope, though, we can drift far from God and the path to Heaven. Try these ideas to resist negative thinking and hold onto hope.

Stay alert. Be watchful for the first signs of negative thoughts so you can crush them before they can take root.



Shake it loose. Do something to disrupt the negative image or thought. Snap a rubber band on your wrist, picture a brick wall, say, "STOP" out loud.

Replace it. Instead of dwelling on the negative thought, replace it with a prayer, an image of yourself in a peaceful place, or the face of Jesus, Mary, or your favorite saint.

Move on. Resume normal activities as soon as possible.

Give thanks. Thank God that he always gives us another chance to get things right.

from Scripture

John 20:19-23, Open your door to Christ.

Despite hearing that Jesus was being spotted around town, the disciples were shocked to see Jesus appear to them in a locked room. They thought the lock would keep everyone out. Jesus appeared to them so that they could be first-person witnesses to his resurrection. But he also came to commission them to carry on the work he started.



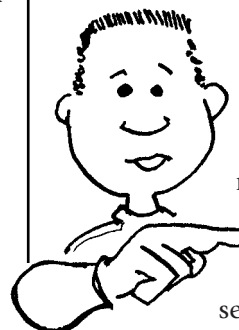
The work is why they were chosen, but Jesus knew they needed strength.

So he breathed on them, just as God breathed life into Adam and created a new creature. By doing so, Jesus renewed his disciples, strengthened them, and gave them a new outlook so they could continue his mission.

By virtue of our Baptism Jesus has commissioned each us to spread the word of God's love and the hope of salvation. And he promises to be with us and give us the strength we need to do his work.

Q & A Do I have an obligation to point out the sins of others?

One way Catholics can live as Jesus' disciples is to practice works of mercy. Acting out of Christian love, we can



help our neighbor obtain what is needed for spiritual and physical well-being. Corporal works address physical needs while spiritual works build up the soul.

In fact, one of the seven spiritual works is to convert the sinner.

"Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit ..." (Galatians 6:1). When we notice someone acting in a sinful or hurtful way, we have a responsibility to speak up and act for change.

However, any kind of correction has to come out of love for the other person and have a basis in Scripture. *"... He should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins"* (James 5:20).

Feasts & Celebrations

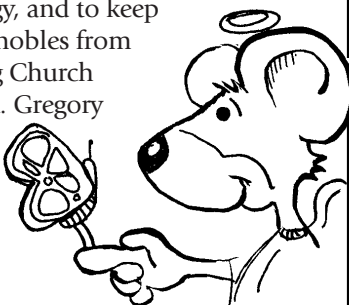
May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker. St. Joseph was a carpenter dedicated to his family, the Blessed Mother and Jesus, and obedient to God.

May 13 - Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Heaven. *Note: In some dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 18 – Pope St. John I (526). Arian heresy was troubling the Church and Arians were under attack by Emperor Justin of Constantinople. The Arian king asked Pope John I to advocate for them to Justin, which

made the emperor suspect the pope's loyalties. He had Pope John I imprisoned for conspiracy and the pope died from the treatment he received.

May 25 – Pope St. Gregory VII (1085). During dark days for the Church, St. Gregory worked to eliminate the buying and selling of sacred offices, unlawful marriages of the clergy, and to keep kings and nobles from appointing Church officials. St. Gregory vigorously defended the authority of the Church.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD PARISH, MORAVIA
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

CHURCH INCOME:

Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$25,882.77
Church Picnic	31,670.16
Interest Income	3,923.06
Capital Campaign	954.71
Total Church Income	<u>\$62,430.70</u>

CHURCH EXPENSES:

General Operating Expenses	\$6,659.00
Utilities	1,817.52
Building Insurance	5,613.76
Other Expenses (including renovations)	41,017.17
Total Church Expenses	<u>\$55,107.45</u>

CHURCH ACCOUNTS:

Checking	\$34,615.68
Savings	198,463.75
Total Church Accounts	<u>\$233,079.43</u>

CEMETERY INCOME:

Sale of Lots, etc.	\$1,000.00
Interest	144.67
Total Income	<u>\$1,144.67</u>

CEMETERY EXPENSES:

Cemetery Care	<u>\$1,737.00</u>
Total Cemetery Expenses	<u>\$1,737.00</u>

CEMETERY ACCOUNTS:

Checking	\$582.94
Savings	89,310.01
Total Cemetery Accounts	<u>\$89,892.95</u>

PARISH HALL:

Balance as of January 1, 2009	\$964.43
Deposits	2,925.00
Expenses	-530.94
Balance as of December 31, 2009	<u>\$3,358.49</u>

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, ST. JOHN
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2009

CHURCH INCOME:

Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$28,572.33
Church Picnic	62,318.38
Interest Income	1,782.59
Capital Campaign	1,329.56
Total Church Income	<u>\$94,002.86</u>

CHURCH EXPENSES:

General Operating Expenses	\$9,676.34
Utilities	2,488.72
Building Insurance	7,510.97
Other Expenses (including renovation)	45,873.19
Total Church Expenses	<u>\$65,549.22</u>

CHURCH ACCOUNTS:

Checking	\$36,825.29
Savings	214,197.66
Total Church Accounts	<u>\$251,022.95</u>

CEMETERY INCOME:

Sale of Lots	\$3,964.33
Total Cemetery Income	<u>\$3,964.33</u>

CEMETERY EXPENSES:

Cemetery Care	\$172.70
Total Cemetery Expenses	<u>\$172.70</u>

CEMETERY ACCOUNTS:

Checking	\$184.53
Savings	94,398.28
Total Cemetery Accounts	<u>\$94,582.81</u>

HALL ACCOUNT:

Balance as of December 31, 2008	\$8,610.30
Income as of December 31, 2009	4,707.00
Hall Expenses as of December 31, 2009	-1,255.00
Balance as of December 31, 2009	<u>\$12,062.30</u>