

SEPTEMBER 5, 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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REV. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 4	6:00 P.M.	Joe & Irene Drozd Barcak	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 5	9:30 A.M.	Gladys Lux	St. John

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 11	6:00 P.M.	Laurie Kristinik	St. John
Sunday	Sept. 12	9:30 A.M.	William & Loretta Kendall	Moravia

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 18	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 19	9:30 A.M.	A.J. Kalich	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-6,12-17 Philemon 9-10,12-17 Luke 14:25-33

Who can comprehend the Lord's ways or conceive what the Lord intends? True wisdom leads us to acknowledge our limitations (a matter of "calculation") and our idols of materialism as we seek to follow the Lord without reservation. True discipleship calls us to forgive those who have wronged us. May we gain wisdom of heart to discern more fully our call to take up the cross of Jesus.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Wednesday, September 8

Readings: Matthew 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 Psalm 13:6a-c Matthew 1:1-16,18-23 or 1:28-23

Let us rejoice in Mary's birth, the mother of Jesus. She was predestined to give birth "by the strength of the Lord".

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,17,19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Moses intercedes on behalf of the people who had turned away from the covenant. The Lord delights not in sin, but in our turning back to him, for a contrite and humbled heart God will never spurn. He sent his Son into the world not to condemn sinners, but to save them.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Tuesday, September 14

Readings: Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 78:1b-2,34-38 Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up". "God highly exalted him" and made him Lord! How unforgettable are his deeds! This feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The present church of the holy Sepulcher was built by the Crusaders in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress, St. Helena Aug. 18 in 320.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113:1-2,4-8 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13 Amos cries out against those who exploit the poor for the sake of extortion and greed. They seek to serve only themselves rather than the Lord. By giving ourselves to God rather than to money, we can truly pray with blameless hands for all those in need, especially the poor whom the Lord will raise up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Adult Education Classes begin Tuesday, September 14: Fr. Tommy will be teaching a series of classes on Tuesday evenings aimed at refreshing all Catholics on the fundamentals of our Catholic faith. Classes will be conducted in the Sacred Heart Family Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening beginning September 14. Topics will be announced soon. Please consider sacrificing a couple hours of your week to deepen your understanding and knowledge of our rich Catholic faith!

RCIA begins in September: For those adults and teenagers who are not Catholic and are interested in joining the Catholic Church and for those adults who need to receive First Communion and/or Confirmation, please contact Fr. Tommy to register to receive catechetical instruction.

The Dave Ramsey Course will begin on Monday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Center. If you are interested, please contact the Rectory or Amy Shimek at the Sacred Heart Day Care as soon as possible. Babysitting will be available if needed.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS & USHERS

St. John Church Cleaning list for September: Peggy Mendel, Cheryl Brossmann & Pam Besetsny

St. John Ushers for September: Gary McBride and Brad Lux

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. from 5:30PM-8:00PM. We will continue our study of "Professing Our Faith" with "We Believe in the Church". Please remember, parents must attend GOF with children in grades K-5. Also remember, we begin GOF with a meal; you must bring your meal and drink if you did not sign up and pay for the \$5.00 sandwich meal. For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

The annual Safe Environment training will be at our October 20, 2010 GOF meeting. All GOF students and their parents are encouraged to attend; however the entire two parishes are always welcome for this valuable training on how to keep our children safe from abuse.

There will be an Adult two-part learning session on the Echoes of Faith Plus: I Believe We Believe. Session I will be Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 5:30PM-8:30PM and Session II will be Wednesday, September 29, 2010 from 5:30PM-8:30PM. This is a 6 hour course. You must register in advance for the course by September 18, 2010 so that the books can be purchased in advance. Please contact Dana Daughtry at 979-562-2381 if you wish to attend.

There will also be a Senior's gathering and luncheon provided on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 from 12:00PM-1:00PM at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. to discuss "As Grandparents, How Can We Develop the Church of the Home." Soup and salad will be served. You must register in advance for this gathering with Dana Daughtry at 979-562-2381 by September 1, 2010.

As always, homebound parishioners who would like to receive copies of our GOF Home Kits for valuable educational information throughout the month may contact Dana Daughtry at 979-562-2381.

Anyone who is interested in signing up for Call to Faith econnect, the free online website at Our Sunday Visitor, previously Harcourt Religion, for family religious supplemental education, games, and activities or adult resources, may do so by contacting Dana Daughtry at 979-562-2381.

MEMORIALS

Ascension of Our Lord Building Fund

In memory of Gladys Stepanek

Allen & Arlene Becan & Arthur Spies	\$25
Jimmie & Sylvia Steffek	\$20
Richard & Wilma Schaefer	\$20
Richard Williams & Marchell King	\$35

TABLE DONORS

Thank you to the following who donated tables at St. John: Gary & Sandra Mendel, Gary & Ann McBride, Patrick & Karen Chaloupka, Frank Chaloupka Family, Alphonse Besetzny, In memory of Lifetime members, Anton Berger, Alvin & Bernice Havel, Marcus & Sharon Bujnoch, Leo & Joyce Janda and Eugene & Jo Marie Krupala.

PRO LIFE

We have suffered through many years of legalized abortion; we've had victories and setbacks in our efforts to stop abortion. We must all remember the words of Winston Churchill: "Never, never, never give up." We can and we must end abortion, and euthanasia. Our very lives could depend on it. (Life and Family Advocates)

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 4 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, James Lofland
Sunday, Sept. 5 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - April & Clayton Brossmann, Caleb Krischke
Saturday, Sept. 11 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Ashley & Johsua Becan
Sunday, Sept. 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth & Logan Eckhart, Blaine Besetzny
Saturday, Sept. 18 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, April & Clayton Brossmann
Sunday, Sept. 19 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Hayden Besetzny, Caleb & Jared Krischke

PICNICS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- Sacred Heart Fall Picnic, KC hall, Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner 10:30am-1:00pm. Adults \$7.50, children \$4. Drive thru adult plates to go 10:30-1:00pm. Auction 1:00 pm. Bingo, cake walk, country store, kiddy rides & games. Washer Pitch Tournament 5:00 p.m. Delicious hamburgers, French fries, nachos, popcorn, funnel cakes, snow cones, lemonade & soda water all afternoon. Music on Main Pavilion by Kovanda's Czech Band 11:00a.m-1:00pm. Free dance on the Polka Pavilion Biergarten 1:00-9:00pm by The Red Ravens & Dujka Brothers. *Lots of food, fun & entertainment for all ages!! Join the fun!!*
- Shiner Picnic at American Legion Hall in Shiner
- St. Mary Picnic in High Hill celebrating the 150th anniversary of the parish

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE

Stress in your marriage? *There is less than a week left to sign up for Retrouvaille* - a program for married couples who feel bored, frustrated or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the September 10-12 weekend, call 979-543-3493 or email lbconnor@sbcglobal.net or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

ST. JOHN PARISH PICNIC RAFFLE WINNERS

Prizes	Donated by	Winner
1. \$600 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hermis	Claudia Vavra
2. \$500 Cash Certificate	Tommy & Vicki Kainer	Sylvester Janak
3. \$200 Gift Card to Wal-Mart	Mr. & Mrs. Alfons Hermis	Stephanie Rabb
4. Country Cottage Martin House (\$150 Value)	BWI	Frank Bludau Jr.
5. \$100 Cash Certificate	Brad & Terah Lux	Larry Berger
6. \$100 Cash Certificate	Catholic Life	Larry Pavlicek
7. \$100 Cash Certificate	K.J.Z.T. #9	Karen Bienski
8. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Hermis	Andrew Linblade
9. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Leo Janda	Howard Frick
10. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Sumbera	R.B. Kallus
11. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. Alphonse Besetzny	Roxanne Dittrich
12. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. Alphonse Besetzny	David Kubenka
13. \$100 Cash Certificate	Mr. Alphonse Besetzny	Gladys Pucciarello
14. \$100 Cash Certificate	Oakridge Smokehouse Restaurant	Walter Kalmus
15. \$100 Cash Certificate	Robert & Pam Besetzny	Ricky Steffek
16. 12 Room Aluminum Martin House (\$70 Value)	BWI	Kaylee Polasek
17. \$50 Cash Certificate	Father John Peters	John Meeks
18. \$50 Visa Card	Fayette Savings	Carolyn Osina
19. \$50 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Besetzny	David Hanson
20. \$50 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Berger	Tammy Besetzny
21. \$50 Cash Certificate	Mrs. Edgar Besetzny	Jason Bartos
22. \$50 Cash Certificate	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Krupala	Janet Havelka
23. \$50 Gift Certificate to Grahmann's True Value	Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Dittrich	Glen Vornsand
24. \$50 Gift Certificate to The Hitching Post	Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Dittrich	Louis Havelka
25. \$50 Series EE Savings Bond	Prosperity Bank	Mary Riha
26. Lab Lab Plus Deer Plot Mix (\$50 Value)	Tecomate Seed Company	Diana Heinrich
27. Paper Shredder (\$40 Value)	Fayetteville Bank	James Stanzel
28. Sprinkler Set (\$35 Value)	Gary & Ann McBride	Barbara J. Appelt
29. Thermocell Mosquito Repellent (\$30 Value)	BWI	Kristi Kostelnik
30. Meal For Two (\$30 Value)	Frank's Restaurant	Harold Kalich
31. Meal For Two (\$30 Value)	Frank's Restaurant	Mrs. F. Guetterman
32. \$25 Gift Certificate	Guadalajara Restaurant	Kim Lofland
33. \$25 Gift Certificate	Harlan's Supermarket	Marvin Pekar
34. \$25 Gift Certificate to Potter Country Store	Harold & Susie Kalich	David Polasek
35. \$25 Gift Certificate to Potter Country Store	Harold & Susie Kalich	Mary Ann Spies
36. \$25 Gift Certificate for Gas	Hrncir Oil Co./Robert & Sally Hoot	Mae Kainer
37. \$25 Gift Certificate	M-G Farm Service Center, Weimar	Glen Lux
38. Meal for Two (\$20 Value)	Carol's Café	Marsha Steffek
39. \$20 Gift Certificate	La Gringa Loca	James Steffek



September 5, 2010 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Labor Day weekend doesn't appear as a celebration in the cycle of the church year. But Monday's holiday does affect a lot of what many people do this weekend. For some, three days off means the opportunity for a short trip out of town. Others may schedule a vacation for the week before to take advantage of the extra day off. Grocery stores have sales, highlighting products that can be consumed at picnics or prepared on outdoor grills. A holiday honoring labor becomes the effective end of summer for most folk.

Labor shows up in some interesting ways in the Scriptures for this weekend. The only time in the three-year Lectionary cycle that we read from Paul's Letter to Philemon comes this week. Paul is sending back Philemon's slave, Onesimus, who had run away. In the interim, Onesimus has become a Christian and, from Paul's view, a brother in the Lord to Philemon. So what is Philemon to do with this worker that he had owned? How was he to act?

The Gospel includes a description of the work of building a tower. Jesus compares the calculation of the work involved to that taking up the cross and being a disciple. When Philemon became a Christian he may not have understood that his life might change radically—that he was expected to deal in a new way with one of his slaves who became a Christian. At Paul's insistence, Philemon's adherence to the faith was requiring that he act differently from the society in which he lived. We are confronted with the same situation as Philemon. In the workplace, in the market, in our leisure, and while on vacation, we are called to adhere to the faith just as we do in church on Sunday. That is the real work we have, and it is not always an easy job. We don't have to carry Jesus' cross, but we do have to carry our own.

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September 12, 2010 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My raspberry patch is about three feet wide and twenty-five feet long. I planted it just a few years ago, putting in two different varieties, a more traditional summer bearing type and what is often described as ever-bearing, which is really a type that bears its first crop in the fall, but will bear again the next summer if you leave the canes standing. Raspberries don't demand a whole lot of work - just some manure in the spring, appropriate watering when the berries are forming, and pruning out the dead canes each year after the crop has been exhausted. Because of their fragility, fresh raspberries are hand-harvested, making them an expensive item in the produce department. It's always amazing to me to see a price of \$5.00 on a little six-ounce container when my own little patch produces over sixty pints in July, and still more in the fall up until frost. It is a prodigious abundance.

Prodigious is an apt description for God's actions in this week's Gospel story. The parables that Jesus presents - the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son - each have endings that seem incredible to any sober analysis of the situations. The value of ninety-nine sheep is huge. It is not worth it to abandon them in the desert - a place of great danger - to look for one. Gathering friends and neighbors for a celebration costs more than the value of a single coin. And throwing a banquet for someone who has used up half of all your assets just doesn't make sense.

But that is the prodigious nature of God. Just like my raspberry patch, which produces so much with so little effort, God's mercy is continuously poured out over and over again. Like raspberries in a store, that mercy came at a great price - through the death of His Son on the cross. But God's mercy bears fruit constantly leading us back when we stray.

Liturgical Publications Inc.

Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2010

One Minute Meditations

Time to pray

Life can be so busy that it becomes impossible to find time to pray; we may have to make time to pray.

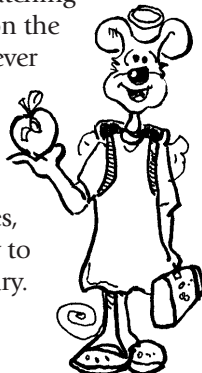
If we make time for God, he will help find the time we need for everything else.

Face forward

Continually reliving the past prevents us from looking ahead with hope. Follow St. Paul's example: *"Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14).

Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th we commemorate Our Lady of Sorrows. The title refers to Simeon's prediction that Mary would experience sorrows as if *"... you yourself a sword will pierce"* (Luke 2:35). Her greatest sorrow may have been watching her son die on the Cross. If we ever want someone who understands our difficulties, we have only to pray to Mary.



Are you trying for perfection?

Society tells us that the only way to be truly happy is to have the perfect spouse, the perfect home, the perfect job, and the perfect body. Otherwise, happiness isn't possible. Consider this:

God's way leads to perfection. Adam and Eve were in

Paradise until society convinced them that by eating a piece of fruit, they could become perfect and be even happier. Had they listened to God instead, their lives would have stayed perfect.

Only God loves perfectly. Sometimes we fear that showing our failings to loved ones will lessen their love. The more perfect we become, the more they'll love us. Human love is unpredictable, but we can never lose or

lessen God's love. He loves us as we are right now. In fact, Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to remind us of God's

unconditional love.

God's idea of perfect is possible.

Jesus said, *"... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48), but he wasn't talking about muscles or homes.

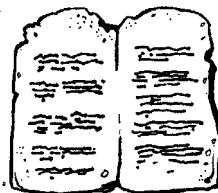
Perfection in Jesus' eyes means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies, and taking care of the poor. To Jesus, love and service is the true measure of perfection and he wants us to let go of anything that gets in the way. That's the only "perfect" that is possible.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics follow the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments were originally given by God to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai after they left Egypt. The Commandments are moral laws God established to help his people live holy lives. They formed the basis of Jewish life and law, so Jesus



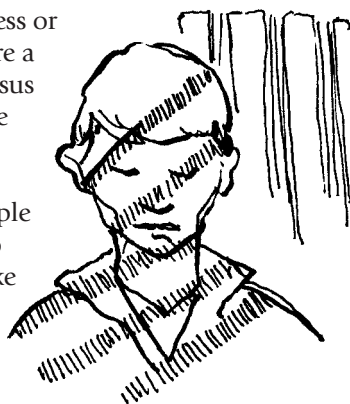
followed them, too.

Although God gave them to the Israelites, the Commandments are now the standards of holiness for Christians, too. Jesus summarized the spirit of the Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40 and encouraged us to follow them, too.

Visit the sick or imprisoned

People who are homebound due to an illness or disability and those who are imprisoned share a sense of isolation from their communities. Jesus knew of the suffering such isolation can cause and asked that we visit those who are sick or imprisoned.

Visit the sick. "I bring Communion to people who can't come to Church," said Rich. "I also bring a parish bulletin so they can still feel like they're part of the community. For some, I may be their only visitor that day." Look around your neighborhood or ask your



parish office for someone who is home-bound who might appreciate your attention.

Visit the imprisoned. "When my uncle spent time in prison, we visited him often and saw how much he appreciated staying connected," said Margie. Simple acts can make a big difference to someone behind bars. For example, donate Bibles or other Catholic reading materials. Or, collect used books and magazines from friends and neighbors and give them to prisoners. Drop off prayer cards or encouraging notes.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Don't ignore God's gift.

This is the story of a rich man who enjoyed his life on earth, and a beggar who suffered right outside his door. After death, their positions reversed and the rich man suffered torment. The rich man was not condemned because he was wealthy. His sin was ignoring his God-given responsibility to his neighbor. He knew what Scripture and the prophets told him of God's expectations for us, but he did not live his faith.



What a pity that we don't always appreciate the gift God has given us in the Scriptures. The key to happiness in this life and the next is contained in its pages. Taking God's word for granted can lead us down the same road as the rich man in the story. Instead, reading the Bible every day and reflecting on its messages help us learn what he has to say and how he wants us to live our lives. That will lead us to our heavenly home.

Q & A What's the proper way to show reverence before I receive Communion?

In days past, we approached the altar, knelt at the altar rail and received the host on our tongues. That was prescribed as a posture of reverence to show respect and adoration for the Body and Blood of our Lord.



Today, the bishops in the United States have decided that we should approach the altar and stand to receive Communion. When we approach, we are to bow our heads as a gesture of reverence before we receive the consecrated host from the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister.

Today we can receive the host either on the tongue or in the hand. To receive in the hand, we place one hand, palm up, on top of the other to form a "throne." We can also receive Holy Communion in the form of precious Blood. When Holy Communion is offered under both kinds we repeat the bow of our heads before receiving each one.

Genuflection is appropriate at other times. For example, we should genuflect before the tabernacle containing the reserved sacrament.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 8 -- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Tradition says Mary was born after her parents, Anna and Joachim, had been married more than twenty years without children. Mary's birth brought her parents joy. We are joyful, too, because Mary brings salvation to all of us through Jesus' birth.

Sept. 16 -- St. Cornelius (253). Despite a Roman decree outlawing a new pope, St. Cornelius was secretly elected and bravely led the Church during a difficult time. He modeled forgiveness, embracing people who renounced their faith under the

persecutions but sincerely repented afterward.

Sept. 21 -- St. Matthew. Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. St. Matthew left everything when Jesus called him to spread the Gospel. He wrote the Gospel According to Matthew.

Sept. 23 -- St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1968). Eight years after he became a Capuchin Friar, the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion (stigmata) appeared on his body. Despite intense personal and physical suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.



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