

APRIL 17, 2011

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. Tommy Chen, Parochial Vicar

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MASS SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Saturday	April 16	6:00 P.M.	George Shimek	Moravia
Sunday	April 17	9:30 A.M.	Martha Besetzny	St. John

Holy Thursday

Thursday	April 21	7:00 P.M.	Parish Family	St. John
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Good Friday

Friday	April 22	1:00 P.M.		St. John
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Easter Sunday

Saturday	April 23	6:00 P.M.	Joe & Larry Zatopek	Moravia
Sunday	April 24	9:30 A.M.	Alvin & Alma Jurena	St. John

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday	April 30	6:00 P.M.	August & Rosie Konvicka	Moravia
Sunday	May 1	9:30 A.M.	Adolph B & Adella Kutac	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Matthew: 21:1-11 (procession) 38:Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54 Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Readings: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 Psalm 116:12-13,15-16bc,17-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15
Before the feast of Passover, Jesus celebrates the Last Supper in which he gives us his body and blood.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 3 parts: Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion
Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9
Entrusting his life to the Father, Jesus bore our infirmities, and, obedient unto death, won for us eternal salvation.

Holy Saturday Night; The Easter Vigil

MASS OF VIGIL Prop 4 parts: Light Service, Liturgies of Word, Baptism and Eucharist
Alleluia! The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone! If we have died with Christ (8:Rom), we shall also rise with him and pass from death to life.

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

Readings: Acts 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 or 41:Matthew 28:1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, 46:Luke 24:13-35
On this day of days we offer a joyful sacrifice of praise to the Father who raised his Son from the dead. Let us be intent upon the life Christ offers us, Christ our Passover who has been sacrificed.

Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

Readings: Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe in him. We give thanks to the Lord for this gift of faith, especially when we gather for the breaking of the bread and the prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is the most sacred time of year for Catholic Christians. During this special time, we enter into the passion of Christ - his crucifixion, death, and resurrection - through liturgical celebration and personal conversion. While the season of Lent is a very important time in the Church, it is helpful to remember that our Lenten practices (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving) are meant as preparation for three days of the Triduum. The Second Vatican Council returned emphasis to the Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday - as the center of our faith.

The three days of the Triduum are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Lent officially ends and the Triduum begins at dusk on Holy Thursday and continues through dusk on Easter Sunday. Because we cannot separate Jesus' death from his resurrection, the Church teaches that the Triduum is really one celebration that lasts for three days. We do not spend all of the three days in church, of course, but at various times during these days, we are called to gather together at church to celebrate and remember the saving action of Christ.

Prayer for Rain: Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We place our trust in You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men and all living things will be made glad.

On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. **Please be generous.**

MORAVIA PICNIC RAFFLE

It's time to get started on a successful picnic raffle. If you would like to make a donation to this year's raffle, please contact Arlene Becan at 798-9320 or Mary Ann Spies at 798-5560.

ST. JOHN'S PICNIC RAFFLE

Anyone wishing to make donations for the St. John's Picnic raffle call Theresa Eckhardt at 743-4435 or Ann McBride at 561-8440. Thank You.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones for St. John's Church, contact Joyce Janda at 979-562-2682.

Donations for Easter flowers in memory of loved ones for Ascension of Our Lord Church, contact Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169.

ST. JOHN'S ALTAR SOCIETY BRUNCH

The St. John's Altar Society cordially invites everyone from Ascension of Our Lord and St. John the Baptist to attend our annual Spring Brunch on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Building immediately after the 9:30AM Mass. We look forward to the fellowship. Members are asked to bring a brunch item. Coffee, juice, and water will be provided. Members may pay their dues at the brunch.

MORAVIA KJZT SOCIETY BAKELESS BAKE SALE

Moravia KJZT Society #44 is sponsoring a Bakeless Bake Sale as their People Helping People fundraiser benefiting the Hallettsville, Moulton and Schulenburg Volunteer Fire Departments. All donations will be greatly appreciated. The deadline is May 7, 2011. Please send donations to: Dorothy Olsovsky, 1721 CR 248, Schulenburg, TX, 78956 or Dorothy Young at 2670 CR 247, Moulton, TX 77975.

MORAVIA KJZT SOCIETY #44 MEETING

A meeting will be held after the Mass on May 7, 2011. Members are asked to attend.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alvin Jurena

<u>St. John Building Fund</u>		<u>St. John Seminary Burse</u>	
Mildred Hajek	\$10	Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky	\$10
Almeda Poth	\$10	Forrest & Ann Dittrich	\$10
Arnold & Dorothy Berger	\$20	Ervin & Bernice Neskora	\$10
Ronnie & Debra Genzer	\$30		
Julius Krause	\$10		
		<u>Ascension Building Fund</u>	
		Phil & Kathy Guenther	\$10

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. from 5:30PM-8:15PM. We will continue our study of "Professing Our Faith" with "We Believe in the Holy Spirit." We begin GOF with a meal; you must bring your meal and drink if you do not notify Mrs. Dana that you want to participate in the \$5.00 sandwich meal by April 17, 2011.

Our last GOF Meeting will be on May 8, 2011 at the 9:30AM Mass at Ascension of Our Lord to support and celebrate the following friends as they receive First Communion: John Berckenhoff, Sydney Berckenhoff, Kamryn Darilek, and Cutter Morin. Attendance will be taken.

Important dates to remember are as follows:

May 1, 2011, 1:00PM, St. John Rectory, First Reconciliation/First Communion Retreat; May 6, 2011 6:00PM, Ascension of Our Lord, First Reconciliation; May 8, 2011, 9:30AM, Ascension of Our Lord, First Communion.

Remember, Sacrament students will be receiving their Sacrament training assignments each month at the end of GOF. For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

ST. JOHN ALTAR SOCIETY

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SERRA CLUB RAFFLE

The Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Victoria are sponsoring the raffle of a donated, brand new 2010 silver Toyota Corolla Sport on July 14, 2011 at Bishop Fellhauer's Charity Banquet; you need not be present to win. Proceeds benefit vocation efforts in the Diocese of Victoria. Chances are \$5 each or 3 chances for \$10. There will be a booth outside of each Mass the weekends of April 2, 2011 and April 9, 2011. Please make checks payable to the Diocese of Victoria. If any questions, please contact James Daughtry, 979-562-2381.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 16 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan
Sunday, April 17 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny
Holy Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. - St. John - Clayton Brossmann, James, Lofland, Seth Eckhardt, Daniel Halata
Good Friday, April 22, 1:00 p.m. St. John - Caleb Krischke & Blaine Besetzny
Saturday, April 23 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan, Caitlyn Deem
Sunday, April 24 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke
Saturday, April 30 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan, Caitlyn Deem
Sunday, May 1 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Caleb Krischke

St. Michael Church Festival, Veterans Memorial Park, Weimar, Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11 am

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY*

Acts 10:34A, 37–43
Colossians 3:1–4
John 20:1–9

MONDAY**

Matthew 28:8–15
"Greetings!"

TUESDAY**

John 20:11–18
"... why are you weeping?"

WEDNESDAY**

Luke 24:13–35
"Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer . . . ?"

THURSDAY**

Luke 24:35–48
"Peace be with you."

FRIDAY**

John 21:1–14
"Cast the net to the right . . ."

SATURDAY**

Mark 16:9–15
"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news . . ."

Jesus Is Risen! Indeed He Is!

If you happen to be with members of Eastern Catholic churches during the Easter season you will hear this greeting exchanged frequently: With great excitement the first person says, "The Lord is risen!" The second person replies just as energetically, "Indeed, he is!"

This wonderful greeting conveys just how important the Resurrection is for us Christians. The joy we experience at Easter is great. But according to this familiar Gospel reading from John 20:1–9, it took the Apostles a while to fully understand what was taking place.

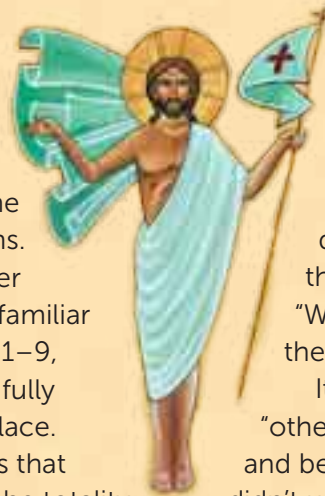
The Gospel reading suggests that Peter didn't quite understand the totality of what was going on. The Gospel tells us that the "other disciple" (unnamed here, but traditionally thought to be the Apostle John) reached the tomb first, a sign that Peter was physically slower.

Then, after Peter had entered the tomb first (a sign of respect, reserved for the elder), he sees, but it is the "other disciple," the faster one, the one who enters second, who sees and believes.

The Gospel says that, they didn't understand that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Nevertheless the "other disciple" believed.

Can't you just imagine the disciples' puzzlement when they arrived at the empty tomb: "What's going on here? Where's the Lord."

It must be nice to be like the "other" disciple, the one who sees, and believes so rapidly, even if he didn't understand completely. Many of us are just like the Apostle Peter: We just aren't that quick. It takes us time to think through what we see and hear in order to understand and believe. The key is to persist in the journey of faith.



The Faith of the Church

Christ is buried in a new tomb as a sign that he was the bringer of new life, much as the Virgin Mary's womb served to bring him into life as a man. Risen from the dead, Jesus is the first begotten of all who will come after him, the adopted sons of God, whom he has made joint-partners and joint-heirs of the Kingdom (Cf. St. Augustine of Hippo, *Treatise on Faith and Creed*, 11–12).



Questions of the Week

The Resurrection of Christ is a foundational Christian belief. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that we, too, will rise from the dead upon his return. But have you ever thought about why the teaching of the resurrection is so important for us as Christians?

Adults

What are my thoughts about Jesus' Resurrection? What are my hopes and expectations about the resurrection on the last day?

Children

What will heaven be like? Who are all the people I want to be with in heaven?

*Alternate readings exist for this day.
 **Octave of Easter

Responding to God's Word . . .

There are no eyewitness testimonies of the Resurrection in any of the four Gospels. If anyone saw what happened, it was never recorded. Yet we believe with confidence that it happened and that through the Resurrection we are ourselves saved.

Peter and the "other" disciple ran to the empty tomb because of the testimony of Mary Magdalene, but they did not believe the news until they had seen with their own eyes, and this belief did not come immediately to everyone.

We are Christ's disciples today because throughout history believing

men and women have served as witnesses of the Resurrection. They told us of the empty tomb, shared with us the meaning of the Gospel, and stayed beside us until we came to believe. We follow Christ because of them. Take a moment now to think about who these people were in your life and offer a prayer of gratitude for them.

In the same fashion, we are called to be witnesses to Christ for others. Because of the witness we give, and the lives we live, others will come to the empty tomb, see for themselves what is there, and come to believe that indeed, the Lord is risen.



Meditation Moment

A high school student writes: "I had just finished my paper route on Easter morning. As I passed Saint Gall's church, the sun was coming up. I didn't intend to go in for Mass, because I was in the midst of a teenage rejection of the Church. Then it happened! The sun hit the big silver cross in front of the church. I couldn't take my eyes off it. Its fiery brightness made me realize how the apostles must have felt on the first Easter. An unseen force directed my feet up the church steps. I went in, knelt down, and prayed. For the first time in my life, I understood what Easter was all about." (SLIGHTLY ADAPTED)

For reflection . . .

What does Easter mean to me? What was my most memorable Easter?

THE GOSPELS DO NOT EXPLAIN EASTER;
EASTER EXPLAINS THE GOSPELS.

J. S. WHALE (SLIGHTLY ADAPTED)

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Seeing with the Eyes of Faith

Open my eyes, Lord.
Help me to see you alive
in the lives of your disciples. When
my vision is blinded by the delights
of this world, help me to see your face.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear the
cries of the poor and needy who need
your help—and mine. Help me to listen
carefully to your words of life. Open
my hands, Lord. Help me to share
freely what I have. Help me to
loosen my grip on material
things so that I may be open
to receiving the gifts you
offer. In Jesus' name,
we pray. Amen.

*Carry this thought in your heart as a
guide for your faith journey this week.*

Set your minds on things that
are above, not on things that
are on earth, for you have died
in Christ and will rise in him.
You will be revealed with him
in glory.

See Colossians 3:2–4

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Be quick to forgive and slow to anger when things don't go according to plan. Be a good example for others in your family.

In the workplace or in school. Be a witness to the Resurrection through your words and actions. Show your co-workers or classmates how a follower of Jesus acts.

In the community. Look for the resurrected Christ in the faces of people you meet. Treat them as you would treat Christ.

Profile in Faith

The Women at the Tomb

The Gospel of Luke tells of the women who came to anoint Jesus with the burial spices only to discover that his tomb was empty. They are named Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. They were the first witnesses to the good news of the Resurrection.

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Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
January 26, 2011

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