

AUGUST 21, 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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Aug. 20	6:00 P.M.	Dominic Loth	Moravia
Sunday	Aug. 21	9:30 A.M.	Joe & Irene Drozd Barcak	St. John

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Aug. 27	6:00 P.M.	James H. Holmes, Jr.	St. John
Sunday	Aug. 28	9:30 A.M.	Henry R. & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

First Friday

Friday	Sept. 2	8:00 A.M.	Willie, Albina & Irene Barborak	St. John
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Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Sept. 3	6:00 P.M.	Frank & Carolyn Okruhlik & Frances & Frank Tupa, Sr.	Moravia
Sunday	Sept. 4	9:30 A.M.	Alvin & Alma Jurena	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 22:19-23 Psalm 138:1-3,6,8 Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20

As Eliakim is given authority as master of the palace, so does Jesus confer upon Peter the authority to bind and to loose. To Jesus, who promised to be with his Church for all time, be glory for ever and ever!

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9 Psalm 63:2-6,8-9 Romans 12:1-2 Matthew 16:21-27

Following the Lord means nothing less than the cross: offering ourselves with Jesus as a living sacrifice and not conforming ourselves to this world. Following him will entail derision and scorn, yet the Lord is our help.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 Romans 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20

May our hearts not be hardened, but may we turn from our sin. In our love for one another, we may be called to confront our sister and brother for the wrong they may be doing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

GREAT CATHOLIC FAMILIES GIVE THANKS - In today's "grass is always greener" world, it is easy to look over the fence at our neighbors (or at our favorite television show where all of life's problems can be solved in 22 minutes) and long for what they have. But we have found that the key to a happy family is taking stock of what we have been given. It is important to remember (and to remind our children) that everything comes from God - our material goods, our friends and family, our gifts and talents. As American politician Frank A. Clark once said, "If a fellow isn't grateful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be grateful for what he's going to get." Great Catholic families celebrate their gifts, no matter how meager they may seem. That means giving thanks even in times of struggle, but especially being mindful (and grateful) when times are good. **Faith Builder:** Give your dinner prayer a boost by pausing during grace and encouraging everyone to share something they are grateful for today.

MORAVIA PICNIC APPRECIATION DINNER

Please set aside Sunday, August 28 for our annual picnic appreciation dinner. All workers are invited to come for a catered noon meal. Please bring a dessert for the dessert table if possible. This dinner is a thank you dinner for all the hard work that workers put in at our 2011 picnic.

NEW MUSIC FOR MASS SETTINGS BEGIN SEPT 4TH:

While the entirety of the new translations of the Roman Missal will not be implemented until the First Sunday of Advent, Bishop Fellhauer has granted permission for parishes in our Diocese to begin singing the new Mass settings beginning the first Sunday of September. This will practically only involve the newly translated *Gloria*, *Sanctus (Holy Holy Holy)*, and *Memorial Acclamation*. The *Alleluia and Lamb of God* have not changed. For your convenience, the new music will be printed on cards and placed in the hymnal holders in each pew. Please be patient as we together learn the new music for the Mass. And also let us all have an attitude of humble obedience to the guidance of Holy Mother Church during this time of transition.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY

Moravia Altar Society dues of \$5.00 per person need to be given or sent to Dorothy Olsovsky at 1721 CR 248, Schulenburg, Texas 78956.

FR. TOMMY'S ADULT RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN OCTOBER 4:

During the Fall semester, we will be utilizing a Bible-study program called "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" to prepare ourselves for the upcoming implementation of the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal in English. Classes begin on Tuesday, October 4 in the Family Center and are from 7pm to 8:30pm. This is an exciting time for us in the Church in America, a time to recapture the true meaning of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which is at the heart of who we are as Catholics. A companion textbook and workbook are highly recommended for this class in order to receive the most from the course. The textbook/workbook together will cost \$20. Please call Fr. Tommy Chen to sign up for this course and to place an order for the class material. (The deadline to place your order for the class material is on September 15.)

BENEFIT FOR DAVID HALATA

BBQ Chicken Dinner Benefit for David Halata, Sr., Monday, August 22, plates to go, 4:30-7:00 p.m., KC Hall, Hallettsville. Tickets are \$7.00 each and available for purchase at Hoffer's, Lavaca Farm Equipment, Morton's, Peoples State Bank, Sacred Heart Credit Union & Sacred Heart Rectory. Donations to offset expenses would be appreciated & may be deposited to the "David Halata, Sr. Benefit" account at Peoples State Bank. *Thank you for your support!*

PRO LIFE

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE: Abortion is the most lucrative part of Planned Parenthood's operations. They really want to increase the number of abortions so they can increase their income." *Abby Johnson former Planned Parenthood clinic director, (National Right to Life) News, January, 2010*

CONFERENCE FOR CATECHESIS AND MINISTRY

The XXIV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry will be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria on Saturday, September 24, 2011. A full description of the conference workshops and biographical information of the presenters is available at the diocesan website www.victoriadiocese.org or by calling the catechetical office at 361-573-0828.

PRAYER FOR RAIN – Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 20 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Josh & Ashley Becan
Sunday, August 21 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Seth Ekhardt, Jared Krischke
Saturday, August 27 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Clayton & April Brossmann
Sunday, August 28 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb Krischke, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny
Saturday, September 3 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Josh & Ashley Becan
Sunday, September 4 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Jared Krischke

MEMORIALS

Ascension Building Fund in memory of David Halata by Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Grohmann & family - \$20

PICNICS

Sunday, August 28

- Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church - Cistern - Polka mass 10am. Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner 11am. Auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, kids games.
- St. Mary in Ellinger, TX - Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner - \$8.00

Sunday, September 4

- **Hallettsville** - Sacred Heart Festival - KC Hall with a country fried chicken, stew, homemade cornbread dressing dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in (10:30am-1:00p.m. for plates-to-go) at \$7.50 p/p. There will be inside a/c hall bingo (noon-6:00p.m.), cakewalk, country store and religious articles booth. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music starts at 11:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. There will also be games, food, washer pitching tournament and more.
- **Shiner** - Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic - KC Hall (formerly American Legion) Park begins at 10:30am-2:00p.m.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

We will hold registration for GOF immediately after each Mass the weekend of August 27th and 28th. Please bring a copy of your child's medical insurance cards with you for our records. You will receive your GOF Handbook and Folder at that time.

This year, we will be studying "Responding in Prayer." GOF classes will begin Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 5:30PM at St. John the Baptist with a Mass, followed by dinner, and Safe Environment Classes. All GOF parents and students are required to attend the Mass, dinner, and Safe Environment Classes; however, after the initial class on September 21st, only the parents of children grades PK-5th grade are required to attend and participate with their children. Of course, the catechists pray that all parents will continue their monthly attendance and take advantage of each GOF session to spend time with your children—you are the first Church and bring such value to our classes!

I am honored to announce that Angie Pilat, Dana Daughtry, James Daughtry, Anthony Hrcir, Kristen Jahn, Kim Lofland, and Larissa Tesch are returning as catechists this year. We are truly blessed that each of our Catechists has answered God's calling and are returning to GOF this year! They joyfully share their faith with your children. Please join us for Catechetical Sunday September 18th Mass at St. John the Baptist as we accept the awesome privilege of continuing our vocation of walking beside you and your child on her/his faith journey.

If you have any questions about GOF, please contact Dana Daughtry, PCL, at 979-562-2381 home or 713-822-3019 cell or Kim Lofland, Assistant PCL, at 979-562-2267 home or 979-743-6733 cell.

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

Isaiah 22:19–23
Romans 11:33–36
Matthew 16:13–20

MONDAY

Matthew 23:13–22
"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!"

TUESDAY

Matthew 23:23–26
"You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"

WEDNESDAY*

John 1:45–51
"You will see greater things than these."

THURSDAY

Matthew 24:42–51
"Keep awake . . . for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

FRIDAY

Matthew 25:1–13
" . . . you know neither the day nor the hour."

SATURDAY

Matthew 25:14–30
" . . . enter into the joy of your master."

*Feast of Saint Bartholomew

Entrusted with the Mystery of Faith

The prophet Isaiah speaks of Eliakim, son of Hilkiah. The Lord entrusts to him the key of the house of David. Symbolically, this action represents entrusting Eliakim with access to the governance of God's people and to the hope of his enduring covenant with them.

In an even more dramatic gesture, Jesus entrusts Peter with "the keys of the kingdom of heaven." With those keys, Jesus entrusts to Peter and to the Church he will lead, the power to loose and bind on earth. In other words, the healing, forgiving, and restoring power and authority of Jesus remains alive and active in his Church after his Ascension and before his return in glory at the end of time. It has a center

and a focus in Peter and his successors as well as in the other Apostles and their successors.

The great mystery of faith is Jesus Christ and his death and Resurrection as well as our new life in God that this mystery opens for us.

Truly, the mystery surpasses our understanding and expectations, as Saint Paul says in today's selection from his letter to the Romans.

Even more remarkably, God has made the mystery accessible to us. By empowering Peter and those who succeed him and the other Apostles to have clear authority to speak in Jesus' name, God enables us—all of us across space and time—to have sure and stable contact with Jesus' saving mysteries.



The Faith of the Church

The Lord Jesus wanted his people to stay true to the teaching he had given them. So he called apostles to collaborate with him and to guide his holy people. The bishops are the successors to the apostles; they are shepherds of God's people. Peter and his successors, the popes, serve to maintain the unity and fidelity of the bishops who are for God's people (Cf. Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, n. 18).



Questions of the Week

Our faith is a living reality. We believe in Jesus Christ and try to follow him as his faithful disciples. We do so in many different circumstances and situations. However we always stand in need of guidance and direction to stay faithful.

Adults

In today's complex world of challenges, how do I maintain an authoritative voice to help move authentically and consistently forward in faith?

Children

How do my parents, my teachers, and the members of my parish community help me to know my faith and grow in it?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Obviously, one of the hallmarks of being Catholic is to be in communion with the Pope who is the bishop of Rome. We find the biblical foundation for our Catholic faith concerning the Pope in today's Gospel. Jesus entrusted Peter with a special ministry in the Church. Peter died for the faith, but his ministry continues through his successors, the Popes.

It would be a mistake to think of the Pope as the "king of the Church." The word "Pope" comes from a word for "father"; and the title that Pope Saint Gregory claimed of "servant of the servants of God" describes his position in the Church.

The Pope is both a father and a servant.

The responsibility given to Peter is three-fold. The Lord wants him to have authority that enables him to help keep the Church faithful to the true teaching of Jesus Christ. In other parts of the Bible, Peter plays an important role in fostering the unity of the Church. Finally, at the Last Supper Jesus said to him, "Confirm your brothers." In other words, be a source of encouragement for the whole Church.

The responsibility Peter and his successors received is a gift we gratefully receive in the Church.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Make it a point to have a picture of the Holy Father in your home and to offer a prayer for him occasionally, perhaps at mealtime.

In the workplace or in school. Affirm the faith and religious traditions of others as Peter was called to do.

In the community. Do something that would build a bridge between different kinds of people and so walk in the footsteps of Peter who worked for unity.



Meditation Moment

A poem describes six blind people wondering what an elephant looks like. One feels the animal's side and says, "It looks like a wall." Another feels the elephant's leg and says, "It looks like a tree trunk"; and so on. Some people say, "When it comes to God, the various religions of the world are like the blind people in the poem. Each is partly in the right; each is partly in the wrong."

For reflection . . .

What convinces me that Christianity is different from other religions and is right about God?

MUHAMMAD SAID HE WAS A SINNER.
BUDDHA SAID HE WASN'T GOD. JESUS SAID,
"WHOEVER HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE
FATHER" (JOHN 14:9). IF JESUS WAS WHO
HE SAID HE WAS, THEN CHRISTIANITY DOES,
INDEED, POSSESS A PRIVILEGED, PERSONAL
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND GODS' WILL.

FROM VISION BY MARK LINK, SJ

Bless Your Church

Most holy,
triune God, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, may you
be blessed forever. Here on
earth, we begin to share your life,
when we gather in knowledge and
love in your holy Church. Bless us in
the Church with gifts of unity,
fidelity, and encouragement.
Bless those who lead the Church,
especially our Holy Father.
And when we complete our
journey on earth, bring
us to our heavenly
home. Amen.

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

Walk in Peter's footsteps:
foster fidelity, work
for unity, and bring
encouragement.

Profile in Faith

Saint Linus (died around A.D. 80)
is listed as the bishop of Rome
after Saint Peter.
Very little is known about him.
His name is mentioned in the
first Eucharistic Prayer or
Roman Canon.
He has been represented in art
as burying Saint Peter.
He marks the beginning of the
great line of the succession
of Popes.

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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
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