

DECEMBER 11, 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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 10	6:00 P.M.	Special Intention	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 11	9:30 A.M.	Frank & Carolyn Okruhlik, Frances & Frank Tupa, Sr.	Moravia

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 17	6:00 P.M.	August & Rosie Konvicka	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 18	9:30 A.M.	Julius & Annie Holub Drozd	St. John

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Saturday	Dec. 24	5:00 P.M.	Parish Family	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 25	9:30 A.M.	Parish Family	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Ps) Luke 1:46-50,53-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise forever.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Readings: **(Midnight)** Isaiah 9:1-6 Psalm 96:1-3,11-13 Timothy 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

Darkness is scattered for God's grace has been revealed in the birth of the Messiah.

(Dawn) Isaiah 62:11-12 Psalm 97:1,6,11-12 Timothy 3:4-7 Luke 2:15-20

Out of love for us, God became flesh, for our Savior has appeared. Light dawns for us all!

(Day) Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-6 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

God has spoken to us through his Son, the Word made flesh. Thus has salvation been revealed to all the nations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us make the most of our time of preparation. If we have not done much spiritual preparation, we still have time. We can still go to confession and cleanse our souls for a worthy reception of Jesus in Holy Communion at Christmas. We can still visit someone in the hospital or nursing home or someone who is alone or lonely at home. We still have time to go out of our way for others. We still have time to share God's love and God's blessings with others.

As we draw closer to Christmas, let us rejoice and reflect upon The First Christmas Gift. Christmas and Year End Giving is not only a Catholic tradition, but Christmas marks the beginning of the Ultimate Gift - God's gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Tradition holds that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the newborn king, beginning a tradition of gift giving to the Christmas season we enjoy each and every year.

ST. JOHN CRIB

The crib in St. John Church will be assembled after 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 18. Stay and help, if you can.

ST. JOHN MUSIC REHEARSAL

Music practice for Christmas Mass (and caroling before) will be on Saturday morning, December 17. Be in balcony 10-30-12 noon on Saturday, December 17, for our only rehearsal. To aid in preparation, please put your names on Bulletin Board list. For conflicts call Elsie 979-562-2159.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for the Christmas flowers for St. John Church in memory of loved ones can be mailed to Pam Besetsny at 5325 W. County Line Rd, Schulenburg, TX. 78956 or call to 979-562-2818 (home) 979-743-6119 (office) or 979-561-6994 (cell).



ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 10 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Rylie Lux, Dylan Goldberg
Sunday, December 11 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb Krischke, Blaine Besetzny, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, December 17 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan
Sunday, December 18 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Rylie Lux, Dylan Goldberg, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, December 24 - 5:00 p.m. - Moravia - James Lofland, Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan
Sunday, December 25 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The schedule for Adult Faith Formation classes for 2012 are available on the table in the narthex of the church. The series will be "Catholic Apologetics: giving an answer for the fullness of the Christian Faith" and will begin on Tuesday, January 24. A textbook will be provided free of charge, and no registration is required.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Examination of Conscience in your bulletin: Please prayerfully examine your conscience using the purple examination of conscience provided as the bulletin insert or another thorough examination before you make your Advent confession, so that you can make a good and holy confession. And so our Lord can find a worthy reception in your soul at Christmas.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH(GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith is on the second Wednesday of December, Wednesday, December 14, 2011, due to the Christmas school breaks. We will be discussing "Praying Through Advent and Christmas." **We will be collecting non-perishable food for the local food banks as our Advent service project in connection of the Hallettsville Cub Scout Pack 222 and Boy Scout Troop 222. Each GOF participant is asked to bring at least one item.** Each GOF participant should be working on their daily acts of service from their Advent Service chain. If you wish to participate in the \$5.00 sandwich meal, please notify Mrs. Dana, 979-562-2381 or 713-822-3019, by Sunday, December 11, 2011. For any sacrament child that needs service, there are several areas during this time of the year for Church service: The crib in St. John Church will be assembled after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday, December 18. St. John Music Rehearsal for the Christmas Mass and caroling before will be on Saturday morning, December 17 in the St. John balcony 10:30am – 1200noon. Please put your name on the Bulletin Board list. Ascension of Our Lord Choir practice for the Christmas Eve Mass will be Tuesday, December 20 at 6:00pm.



ASCENSION CHURCH FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to donate Christmas Flowers in memory of loved ones for Ascension Church please contact Dorothy Olsovsky at 979-562-2169 or mail donation to her at 1721 County Road 248, Schulenburg TX 78956.

ASCENSION CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for the Christmas Eve Mass at Moravia will be Tuesday, December 20th, 6:00 pm at the Ascension of Our Lord church. We will sing Christmas carols in English and some in Czech. All voices are welcome!

PRO LIFE

This Christmas, as we remember the Birthday of our Savior, let us thank Him for coming to live among us. Let us thank Him for revealing the dignity of every stage of life, for sharing with us the love that pervades each minute of our life and leads us to that eternal life for which we long. (Deacon Bill Steltemeier, Chairman of the Board, EWTN)

PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joseph's, Moulton: Monday, Dec. 12 – 5:30 p.m. **Sacred Heart, Hallettsville:** Thursday, Dec. 15 – 5:30 p.m.
Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner is not participating in the Penance Services.

MEMORIALS – ST. JOHN'S BUILDING FUND

In memory of Irene Mendel: Janice L. Homeyer-\$25; Stewart & Kathy Simpson-\$100.

MEMORIAL – ST. JOHN CCD PROGRAM

In memory of Irene Mendel: Transportation Equipment-\$100

PRAYER FOR RAIN



Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You Who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You Who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You Who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear then, this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all who seek it, the gift of a bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of Your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.