

## MARCH 6, 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

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#### Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	March 5	6:00 P.M.	Henry R. & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	March 6	9:30 A.M.	Delaine Dittrich	St. John

#### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday	March 9	7:30 P.M.	Fr. Brain Crookes	Moravia
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#### First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 12	6:00 P.M.	Arnold T. Poth, Jr.	St. John
Sunday	March 13	9:30 A.M.	Arthur W. Spies Sr., & Lillie Spies	Moravia

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 19	6:00 P.M.	Pat Hrcncir	Moravia
Sunday	March 20	9:30 A.M.	Living & Deceased Members of Franz Berger Family	St. John

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### THE WORD OF GOD

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#### Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Deuteronomy 11:18,26-28,32 Psalm 31:2-4,17,25 Romans 3:21-25,28 Matthew 7:21-27

The choice is ours, either to embrace the commandments of the Lord or not, to listen to the words of Jesus and act on them or not. We are all justified freely by the grace of Christ in whom is our refuge and our hope.

#### Ash Wednesday

Readings: Joel 2:12-18 Psalm 51:3-6a,12-14,17 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Be reconciled and return to the Lord by means of prayer, fasting, and deeds of loving service. Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fast and abstinence in the Church.

#### First Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 Psalm 51:3-6,12-13,17 Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Like Adam and Eve, Jesus was tempted, but did not sin. Our sinfulness is acquitted through one man, Jesus Christ, in whom we are justified.

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: 25: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9

Abram places trust in God's promise of making his name and descendants great on the earth. In Jesus' transfigured glory is revealed that life and immortality will rob death of its power.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lent is the penitential season of the church's year. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Lent has six Sundays. The sixth is called Passion or Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It commemorates the Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil and ends with evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. Then the Joyful Easter Season of 50 days begins.

Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

During the weekdays of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat. There is a limit on one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

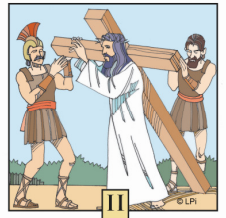
Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Moravia - March 11, March 25, April 8

St. John - March 18, April 1, April 15

Sacred Heart – 6:00 p.m. every Friday

St. Mary's – 6:30 p.m. every Friday



## PRO LIFE

Families are a Divine Institution set up by God. Contraception is the devil's weapon of mass destruction. (Life and Family Advocates News)

## NEW MASS SETTINGS SHOWCASE

New Mass Settings Showcase - Monday, April 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m. - As an aid to parish musicians & pastors, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will be sponsoring various music showcases throughout the Diocese of Victoria featuring the new music settings for Mass. The showcase for the Hallettsville Deanery will be held at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church is Shiner on Monday, April 4, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sample booklets containing the music from WLP, OCP & GIA will be made available. All parish music directors, organists, and musicians should take time to attend.

## GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

THE GENERATIONS OF FAITH SCHEDULE FOR MARCH HAS CHANGED DUE TO CATECHISTS' AVAILABILITY.

Our next Generations of Faith will be Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at the St. John's Rectory/Religious Education Bldg. from 5:30PM-8:15PM. We apologize for any inconvenience. We will continue our study of "Professing Our Faith" with "We Believe in Jesus' Death and Resurrection." 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 March 27, 2011. Remember, Sacrament students will be receiving their Sacrament training assignments each month at the end of GOF. Zachary Pilat will be confirmed at St. Mary's Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 4:00PM. We congratulate Zachary for this important step in his faith journey! All confirmation candidates for 2012 will be attending. All confirmation candidates for 2012 will bring some type of a dessert for our Confirmation Reception for Zachary on March 30, 2011 during our closing prayer service.

For GOF questions or more information, please call Dana Daughtry, 979-562-2381, or Kim Lofland, 979-562-2267.

## DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

Our Diocesan Services Appeal (D.S.A.) goal for 2011 for the whole diocese is \$1,471,834.00.

Our goal for St. John is \$5,307.00.

Our goal for Moravia is \$4,982.00.

We ask you to be generous in your donations. Whatever is not collected from the parishioners during the year, will be paid to the chancery from parish funds.

## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL (OFFICE: 798-4251)

**Feb. 1-Mar. 15:** Registration for the 2011-2012 school year. Registration fee is \$100 per student if paid by March 15.

Fee is \$150 per student if paid after March 15. Please come by the school office to register.

## THE YOUTH CONNEXION

**March 13: No Firefall**

## ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 5 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua & Ashley Becan, Caitlyn Deem

Sunday, March 6 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, March 12 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Joshua & Ashley Becan

Sunday, March 13 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhart, Jared & Caleb Krischke

Saturday, March 19 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Joshua & Ashley Becan

Sunday, March 20 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Blaine & Hayden Besetzny

**Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl** - Since 1975, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Operation Rice Bowl has offered Catholics in the United States a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lenten season, CRS invites Catholics to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need. Operation Rice Bowl calls us to explore how we, as Jesus' disciples, have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in all nations.

## LENTEN RETREAT

St. Joseph Family Center, Yoakum, March 12, 8:00 a.m.-12:30p.m. Presenter: Olga Samaniego, CDA State Spiritual Enhancement Chairman. Registration fee \$5.00, lunch included. All women of our parish are invited to attend. **RSVP by Monday, March 7** to Carol at Sacred Heart Rectory on Monday at 798-5888 or Joyce Machicek at 798-5874 or 772-6372. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters, Court Our Lady of Guadalupe #206.



Next Bulletin: Sunday, March 20th, 2011  
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th, 2011

*"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock." — Mt. 7:24-25*



# Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2011

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

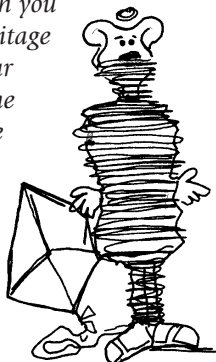
### The Commandment imbalance

Of the Ten Commandments – God’s most important laws – only the first three address how we are to respect the Creator of the universe. The other seven detail how we are to treat each other. It is one more way God lets us know how very much he wants us to love one another.

### Just adore

Do you ever run out of things to say during your prayer time? Or worse, do you ever get weary of saying the same things over and over? Why not just sit in silent adoration of the one who loves you more than you can imagine? What words can be better or more appropriate than that?

*"Then you shall delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will nourish you with the heritage of Jacob, your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 58:14)*



## Lent is life getting back on track

Baptism begins our journey to Heaven. Unfortunately, life in a sinful world can cause us to veer off course but Lent is a good time to get our bearings back.

Try refreshing some of the promises made at Baptism and renew them with resolve.

### Reject Satan.

If we don't take Satan seriously, he will tempt us away from God before we realize what is happening just like he did to our first parents.

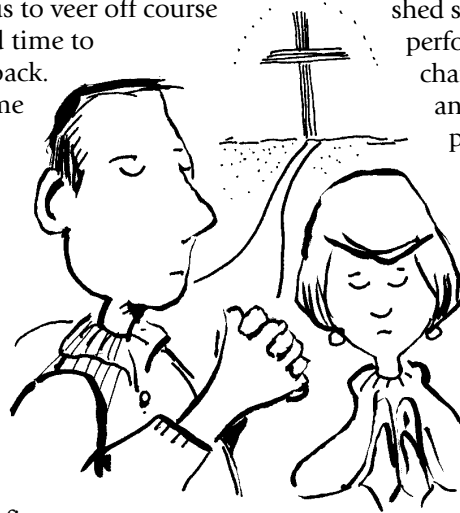
Whenever you feel drawn to something you know isn't right, reject that choice and you will fulfill a baptismal promise to reject Satan.

**Believe in God.** Believing in God is more than just saying he exists. It means serving God, dedicating time to

him, and putting him first in your life. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform more works of charity and you will act on another baptismal promise.

**Believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God,** became one of us, suffered, died, and rose from the dead for us. Believing in Jesus gives us hope. Daring to hope for life everlasting fulfills another baptismal promise.

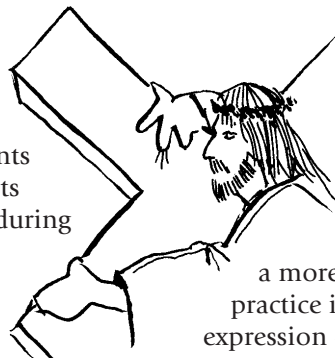
**Believe in the Holy Catholic Church.** Honor the teachings of the Church, follow the precepts, and faithfully attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and you fulfill another important baptismal promise during Lent and throughout the year.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## What are the Stations of the Cross?

Also called "The Way of the Cross," this is a popular devotion that represents fourteen specific events experienced by Jesus during his trial, crucifixion, death, and burial. While it is practiced year round, it is



particularly appropriate during the season of Lent.

In the early days of the Church, pilgrims visited Jerusalem and prayed at certain points on Jesus' actual path to Calvary. Now

a more symbolic version of this practice is encouraged as an expression of devotion and piety.

## Get **INTENSE** for Lent

Jesus spent 40 intense days in the desert fasting, praying, and preparing for the most important time of his life. During that time, Jesus focused on preparing his body and spirit for the challenges that lay ahead. Our challenges are difficult, too, so the Church modeled the season of Lent after Jesus' time in the desert. Fill your Lent this year with intense fasting, prayer, and preparation.

**Fast and abstain.** As your health allows, go beyond the requirements for fasting and abstinence. Don't just abstain from meat on



Fridays, add extra days during the week. Don't just fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, skip a few more meals each week. (Check with your doctor if you have health concerns.)

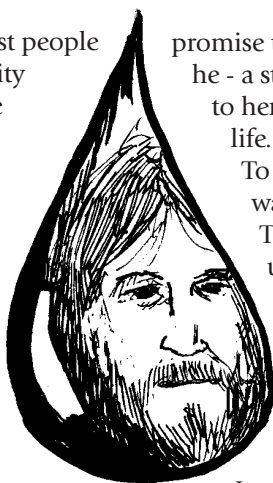
**Pray with fervor.** Consider attending daily Mass, praying the Rosary once or twice each day, performing the Stations of the Cross each day, prayerfully meditating on Scripture.

**Give as he did.** Jesus sacrificed himself for others. Take up his Cross by sharing what you have with people who have less.

### from **Scripture**

### John 4:5-42, Everyday water

In a region like Samaria, most people drew water from the community well in the morning before the day's work began or at dusk when the sun was low. That the woman Jesus approached was alone at the well at noon meant she wasn't welcome when her neighbors were there. They probably didn't even speak to her. Further, Samaritans were considered enemies by Jews. So Jesus' gentle request for a drink should have told the woman that he was someone special.



promise to give her living water until he - a stranger and a Jew - revealed to her details about her personal life. Finally, he got her attention. To people like the Samaritans, water is a life-giving substance. Thus it was easy for her to understand the life-giving nature of the living water Jesus offered her. God often does the same for us. He uses our every day experiences to teach us of his love. Each day during Lent, look for ways God is offering you living water through your familiar routine.

### **Q & A** What is so bad about using God's name in vain?

In Jesus' day, even speaking God's name could be punished by death. Today, we can hardly sit through a movie or television show without hearing it used as a swear word. Using God's name in a disrespectful manner doesn't make it any less holy, but it does make it less holy in the eyes of the world.

We who are Christians and followers of Christ have promised to uphold God's laws. If we allow those around us to use God's name in vain, or worse, do it ourselves, we tell the world that we don't think God's laws are important. For example, God said, "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain" (Exodus 20:7) and Jesus told us to say, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9). Yet, if we disobey and use the precious name in vain or sit idly by while others do, we demonstrate our disdain for the honor of his name and his instructions. Neither is wise or desirable.



### **Feasts & Celebrations**

Lent begins this month, and it is devoted to the Passion of Our Lord. One form of observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross in church and meditate on Jesus' walk to Calvary.

**March 9 — Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent.** Ashes are worn on the forehead as a sign of penance. Catholics who are 18 years old and under 60 years old are required to fast (one full meal only) and all who are 14 years and older are required to abstain from meat.

**March 19 – St. Joseph (1st century).**

Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

**March 23 – St. Toribio de Mogrovejo (1606).** A brilliant scholar, he was serving as professor of law at the University of Salamanca when he was chosen to lead the archdiocese of Lima in Peru. He was ordained priest and bishop and worked with intense fervor to strengthen his diocese.



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