

December 9, 2012

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

REV. TOMMY CHEN, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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MASS SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 8	6:00 P.M.	Mass of Thanksgiving	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 9	9:30 A.M.	Henry R. & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 15	6:00 P.M.	Julius & Annie Holub Drozd	Moravia
Sunday	Dec. 16	9:30 A.M.	Lebert & Leona Berger	St. John

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	Dec. 22	6:00 P.M.	August Kubos	St. John
Sunday	Dec. 23	9:30 A.M.	Frankie Kubicek	Moravia

Christmas

Monday	Dec. 24	5:00 P.M.	People of the Parish	Moravia
Tuesday	Dec. 25	9:30 A.M.	People of the Parish	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Baruch 5:1-9 Psalm 126:1-6 Philippians 1:4-6,8-11 Luke 3:1-6

The Lord has done great things, leading his people out of slavery to the glorious splendor of Jerusalem. Let us make ready the way of the Lord by abounding in love and in works of justice.

Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18a Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

Rejoice in the Lord always! Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty savior. It is he whom John foretold; it is he who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, he will protect and save us, offering himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

This **Tuesday, December 11th**, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is on December 12th. The Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville with the Spanish Choir providing the music. Afterwards, there will be a covered dish supper in the Family Center. Some of the food, along with Pan Dulce (sweet bread) will be provided. Please bring a favorite dish with you. Everyone is invited. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas.

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Every few years, Congress wrangles for months to enact a transportation bill. The latest version provided \$120 billion through fiscal 2014. At the time that the previous law was expiring the American Society of Civil Engineers estimated that the country actually needed to spend about \$1.3 trillion on items covered in the transportation bill (plus another \$900 billion for other infrastructure needs) over five years.

John the Baptist quotes the prophet Isaiah in today's Gospel. Isaiah's prophecy is based on the kind of roadwork that took place in the ancient world. Before a conquering general or king would arrive, the way was cleared before him. A rough road was made smooth (to allow for a rapid advance); a crooked, winding road opened up and made straight (to prevent an ambush). Isaiah's prophecy came near the end of the Babylonian Exile, when it was perceived that the LORD would once again take possession of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Luke uses the Isaiah prophecy not to portray John the Baptist as some kind of civil engineer, but rather to indicate that there is work and preparation involved in welcoming the LORD. We'll hear more about that next week.

The cost of repairing and upgrading the nation's infrastructure is enormous, maybe more than we can afford. The cost of following Christ is also great. But the payment for that doesn't so much come out of our wallets, as out of our hearts. With just a little over two weeks to go before Christmas, what are you doing to make it easier for the Lord to enter your heart?

Our carpet replacement project in St. John Church is just about complete. We are looking at some new church chairs for the sanctuary that will blend in with the pews.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:

Sacred Heart: Monday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph, Moulton: Tuesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph, Yoakum: Thursday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m.



CONFESSIONS

Confessions at St. John - Saturday Dec. 22nd - 5:00-5:45 p.m

Confessions at Moravia - Sunday, Dec. 23rd - 10:30 a.m.

ASCENSION CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Christmas Eve Mass at the Ascension of our Lord Church will be held on Monday, December 17th, 6:30 pm, at the church. We will practice Christmas Carols in Czech. All voices are welcome!

RECIPES NEEDED

The Moravia Altar Society is putting together a cook book in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Ascension of Our Lord Church and we need your help! We would like ALL parishioners to please consider contributing your favorite recipes for this project. We are making a concentrated effort to include recipes that have been passed down through our Czech/German heritage in addition to those treasured family recipes you are willing to share with your fellow parishioners. Please provide your recipes by December 10, 2012. There will be a box in the back of the church for you to drop your recipes. Or you can email them to Janet Spies at jspi456@yahoo.com (put cook book in the subject line) or mail them to her at 7208 Curpin Cove, Austin, TX 78754.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - April & Clayton Brossman, Rylie Lux

Sunday, December 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny

Saturday, December 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Josh Becan

Sunday, December 16 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Dylan Goldberg, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, December 22 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - April & Clayton Brossman, Rylie Lux

Sunday, December 23 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny, Dylan Goldberg

SPRING 2013 - ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN-UP

In celebration of the Holy Year of Faith, the Spring series of classes for Fr. Tommy's Tuesday night Adult Religious Education will be using the beautiful Catholicism DVD series by Fr. Robert Barron. This series of twelve classes will be studying the basics of our Catholic faith. Come and refresh your knowledge of the beauty of our Catholic faith! Please call the church office to sign up for the classes and to order the workbook. The workbook is \$25 and must be prepaid. The last day to sign-up is January 14, 2012, so that the materials may be ordered. Classes will begin on Tuesday, January 29 at Sacred Heart Family Center.

YOUTH OF OUR PARISHES

There will be no Youth Night in the month of December. However, we are very excited about a new opportunity we have been given to take part in activities with the residents of Hallettsville Rehabilitation Center on Sunday, December 23. We will be playing dominoes with the residents starting at 2:00 p.m.; snacks and hot chocolate will be provided. This is a great way to spread the love of Christ during the blessed season of Advent. More details to follow. For questions, please feel free to email troy@splashwaywaterpark.com. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. -Matthew 10-

ST. JOHN MUSIC PRACTICE

Christmas music practice for St. John will be after 6:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 22nd.

Nobel Prize for Life

By Tom Strode Oct. 2012, Southern Baptist Texan

A Japanese Researcher who discovered a way to produce stem cells that act like Embryonic ones without their lethal consequences has won a Nobel Prize. *Shinya Yamanaka* said; "when I saw the embryo, I suddenly realized there was such a small difference between me and my daughters. I thought, we can't keep destroying little babies for our research. There must be another way." (Dec. 2012 Life & Family Advocates News)

Please pray for the blessing of beneficial rainfall!



“Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

— Lk 3:5-6

Excerpted from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCLD.