

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIocese of Victoria in Texas



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MASS SCHEDULE

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 18	6:00 P.M.	Alex Hrnecir	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 19	9:30 A.M.	Adolph & Adella Kutac	St. John

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday	Feb. 22	7:30 P.M.	St. John & Moravia Parish Families	Moravia
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First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	Feb. 25	6:00 P.M.	Dominic Loth	St. John
Sunday	Feb. 26	9:30 A.M.	Eddie Pilat	Moravia

First Friday

Friday	March 2	8:00 A.M.	Julius Pauler	St. John
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Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 3	6:00 P.M.	John & Angeline Trlica	Moravia
Sunday	March 4	9:30 A.M.	George Vasek	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25 Psalm 41:2-5,13-14 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12

In our repentance, the Lord remembers not our offenses. God, who is forever faithful, has sent us his Son. He is the sign of God's never ending healing love and forgiveness.

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 9:8-15 Psalm 25:4-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by floodwaters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 Psalm 116:10,15-19 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10

Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiahship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 of 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 14th 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.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John Church Cleaners for March: Agnes Berkenhoff & Jan Morin.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

Moravia Altar Society will hold a meeting Monday February 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the parish dining hall. All members are asked to attend to catch up on the upcoming month's plans.

PRO LIFE NEWS

You're not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compares you to no one else - you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that His grace can't give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill His special purpose for this generation. (from a Servants of Mary greeting card)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Moravia - Feb. 24, March 9, March 23
St. John - March 2, March 16, March 30

Sacred Heart - 6:00 p.m. - Every Friday
St. Mary's - 6:30 p.m. - Every Friday

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 18 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Clayton & April Brossmann
Sunday, February 19 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Rylie Lux & Dylan Goldberg
Saturday, February 25 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Ashley & Joshua Becan
Sunday, February 26 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke & Seth Eckhardt
Saturday, March 3 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Clayton & April Brossmann
Sunday, March 4 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Rylie Lux & Dylan Goldberg

ASCENSION PAVILION

Ascension Parish is in the planning stages of building a pavilion on the south side of the dance hall. The building committee members are J.G. Hrcir, Kathy Guenther, David Halata Jr., Dale Janak, Perry Deem, Greg Kubenka, and Frank Pargac. Plans are progressing very well and the pavilion should be ready by our July picnic. This addition will greatly improve our picnic area on the south side.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH(GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith is on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. We will continue our study of "Responding in Prayer" by continuing our discussion of "Praying Through Lent." If you wish to participate in the \$5.00 sandwich meal, please notify Mrs. Dana, 979-562-2381 or 713-822-3019, by Sunday, March 19, 2012.

Please remember to work on your self penance during Lent by increasing your attendance at Mass, increasing your praying, and by participating in almsgiving by filling your Rice Bowl and bringing your savings each week to Mass.

PRO-LIFE SPEAKER

Pro-Life speaker Abby Johnson is coming to share her conversion story on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. Abby was a pro-abortion employee of Planned Parenthood until she had a conversion and is now a prominent advocate of the pro-life cause. She will also be speaking with the high school students of Sacred Heart School on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Everyone is invited to these talks.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE – HOUSTON

The Confirmation students of Sacred Heart Parish will be traveling to Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Houston on March 3 to participate in the campaign "40 Days for Life" to pray for an end to abortion and for the protection of unborn babies. We will have Mass at Sacred Heart at 8:00 am that morning and then leave for Houston. If you are interested in going, please call Fr. Tommy to sign up. Seats on the bus are extremely limited. Car-pooling may have to be arranged.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY – HALLETTSVILLE

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry to benefit K.C. Charities will be held on **Friday, February 24**, at the K.C. Hall, Hallettsville. Golden fried catfish fillets, french fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw & pinto beans will be served for \$8 per plate. Dine inside the hall from 5:00-7:00 p.m. or drive thru plates to go 5:00-6:30 pm. Tickets are for sale at Hoffer's Drive-In Grocery, the Hallettsville radio station, Sacred Heart Rectory & K.C. Hall. Workers are needed! Please call Ricky Steffek.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE – SAN ANTONIO

Today's man faces many challenges and is in search of good for himself, his family and his future. Come to the San Antonio Catholic Men's Conference for men of all ages on **March 23-24** at **St. Matthew Church** on Wurzbach Road. The Conference will focus on Catholic Relationships, the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, Spiritual Combat and Sexual Integrity for men today and will offer powerful speakers, meals, Mass with Bishop Oscar Cantu and much more! Call the Pilgrim Center of Hope (210-521-3377) for a brochure or check out the website www.CMCSanAntonio.com. Online registration is available.



Next Bulletin: Sunday, March 4th, 2012
Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 1st, 2012



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 43:18–19, 21–22, 24B–25

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

Mark 2:1–12

MONDAY

Mark 9:14–29

"All things can be done for the one who believes."

TUESDAY

Mark 9:30–37

"The Son of Man is to be betrayed . . ."

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

"Beware of practicing your piety before others . . ."

THURSDAY

Luke 9:22–25

"The Son of Man must undergo great suffering . . ."

FRIDAY

Matthew 9:14–15

"The wedding guests cannot mourn . . ."

SATURDAY

Luke 5:27–32

"Those who are well have no need of a physician . . ."

Failure and Faith

As we move toward the penitential season of Lent, the readings for today focus on our failings. Yet, we are consoled by the fact that something 'new' is happening in our midst.

Just as the prophet Isaiah gave hope to the Israelites, we need hope in our day. Paul reminds us that hope in God is never in vain because God will always bestow mercy upon us.

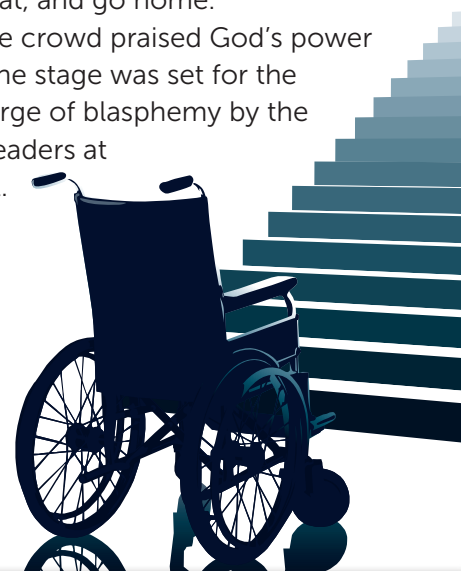
As the Gospel story of the paralytic and his four friends floats through my mind, I cannot help but think of the verse to a song that says, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

The crowd made it impossible for the friends to get inside the door of the home to meet Jesus face-to-face. But all five men must have heard about Jesus and already they had faith in his power to heal. With ingenuity and perseverance, they created an opening in the thatched roof to lower their paralyzed friend into the very room where Jesus stood teaching.

Jesus, admiring their faith, first pronounced that the man was forgiven of all his sins. Some of the scribes looked on with astonishment and disbelief. They accused Jesus of blasphemy, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

To prove his authority as the Son of Man, Jesus healed the man of his paralysis and instructed him to get up, take his mat, and go home.

While the crowd praised God's power in Jesus, the stage was set for the future charge of blasphemy by the religious leaders at Jesus' trial.



The Faith of the Church

When the human heart is burdened and heavy with guilt, God's desire is to give us a new heart through the grace of conversion. With the help of the Spirit, we are given the strength to seek and trust in God's merciful forgiveness so that we might have a fresh and new start in our relationship with him (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1432).



Questions of the Week

Jesus' pronouncement of forgiveness was startling to those present. The scribes believed that only God could forgive sin. Thus, the link between Jesus and God is established early in the Gospel of Mark.

Adults

Do I truly believe that God forgives my sins and imperfections?

Children

When have I made a big mistake and asked God to forgive me?

Responding to God's Word . . .

God not only forgives our sins, misdeeds, and imperfections, he uses them for good. The tale of the Chinese water bearer illustrates the depths of Divine mercy.

The wise water bearer carried two clay pots each day to get water from the stream. One pot had a crack in it, delivering only a half full pot of water. The other pot was perfect and always delivered a full pot of water.

After two years, the cracked pot perceived itself as a failure. But the water carrier pointed out to the pot that flowers blossomed on the side of the road. He had planted seeds when

he noticed the crack in the pot, and the water that trickled out caused them to grow and flourish. "Without your being the way you are, there would not be this beauty," explained the water bearer.

We all have unique cracks and flaws that make our lives interesting, cause our growth, and ground us in God's mercy. Instead of being paralyzed by our defects, we are set free knowing that spiritual growth most often occurs through our imperfections.

God works goodness out of our imperfections when we surrender and accept that we are all cracked pots.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Create a simple "Examination of Conscience" to be used frequently during the upcoming Lenten Season.

In the workplace or in school. Look around for a friend or coworker who is struggling and offer concrete help, listening and sharing your faith.

In the community. In your parish or neighborhood, write a note to reconcile with someone who you need to forgive.



Meditation Moment

Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons was picked for the NBA All Star team 10 years in a row. In an interview with *You* magazine, he talked about his faith: "My mom's faith has definitely influenced mine. . . . Whenever I'm down . . . I remember that her favorite saying is 'You make one step and the Lord will make two. He'll work the wonder for you.' It always reminds me to get up . . . and move on."

For reflection . . .

Whose faith has influenced me most in my life? When I get down on life, what helps me most "to get up . . . and move on"?

WHEN WE DO WHAT WE CAN,
GOD WILL DO WHAT WE CAN'T.

E. C. MCKENZIE

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Your Healing Mercy

Heal me
in soul and body,
O Lord. Through your
continual act of redemption,
save me from my sins and my
misdirected words and actions.
Gather me into the fold of your
mercy that I might learn how to
forgive myself. Teach me the ways
of mercy toward others. In your
constant love, you have poured out
goodness and grace, that I might
grow into the person you desire.

Grant me the faith to truly
believe that you are always
creating something
new in my life.
Amen.

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

We know that all things
work together for good for
those who love God . . .

Romans 8:28

Profile in Faith

The Paralyzed Man

The Gospels of Mark and Matthew include this story of faith. The paralyzed man had to depend upon the graciousness of friends to transport him on a pallet to appear before Jesus. Jesus extolled the men for their faith. Freed from sin, no longer paralyzed, the man was healed in body and spirit.

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