

JANUARY 22, 2012

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

P.O. BOX H ✠ HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS 77964 ✠ (361) 798-5888 ✠ (361) 798-4970 FAX

WEBSITE: WWW.SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

E-MAIL: RECTORY@SHCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

MASS SCHEDULE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 21	6:00 P.M.	Vera Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	Jan. 22	9:30 A.M.	Joycelyn Bunt	Moravia

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan. 28	6:00 P.M.	Fred & Martha Hermis	St. John
Sunday	Jan. 29	9:30 A.M.	Ida Kahanek	St. John

First Friday

Friday	Feb. 3	8:00 A.M.	Tom Farek	St. John
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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Feb. 4	6:00 P.M.	Daniel Spies	Moravia
Sunday	Feb. 5	9:30 A.M.	Kenneth Besetzny	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD³

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5,10 Psalm 25:4-9 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

The Ninevites heard the preaching of Jonah and repented of their evil ways, thus experiencing the Lord's compassion. Do we repent when we hear the preaching of Jesus? Do we invest our lives in the world rather than in God's kingdom?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28

As Moses challenged the Israelites to listen to God's voice, so we are called to hear the voice of Jesus and live out his teachings by what we say and do, whatever our vocation in life may be.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7 Psalm 147:1-6 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 Mark 1:29-39

Job's cry of hopelessness stands in marked contrast to the hope of those who put their trust in Jesus, who "heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds". Such are the blessings of the good news.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I spent this past week attending the Annual Priest Retreat. It was a very rewarding and restful experience. I prayed for all of you during the retreat. Thank you for your prayers.

This weekend we welcome back to the parish Fr. Tommy. It is good to have him back. Keep him in your prayers for his continued recovery. He has been recovering well at his parent's home.

We thank everyone who has been attending the Novena for Life this week at Sacred Heart and Deacon Harper, Charlene Bradbury and others who have been taking care of it. We invite you to join us for the Procession this Sunday evening from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and the Mass on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. to conclude the Novena at Sacred Heart.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS

St. John Church Cleaners for February: Grace Sumbera & Josie Hermis

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Jan. 29-Feb. 3: Catholic Schools Week activities

Monday: Clergy & religious visit classrooms.

Tuesday: Respect Life Prayer Service & March, 8:05 a.m. Awards Ceremony for Grades K-8 at 8:45 a.m., Gym

Wednesday: National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools. Live radio broadcast 10:00 a.m., KTXM 99.9 FM & KHLT 1520 AM.

Thursday: Open House 5:30-7:00 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Meal, Family Center, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Coronation, 7:30 p.m., Gym. All are welcome to attend.

Friday: National Teacher Appreciation Day, 8:05 a.m. Mass. Flag Raising Ceremony, 8:50 a.m. School dismissed at 12:00 noon.

ST. ROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

St. Rose will be having a variety of activities all week long from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3 in observance of Catholic Schools Week. Please check with the school or some of the St. Rose students.

SACRED HEART EXTRAVAGANZA

Sacred Heart Extravaganza - Feb. 4: social, dinner & dance (music provided by "Cactus Country.") at the Hallettsville KC Hall. Tickets are \$125 per couple and available at Sacred Heart Credit Union, School Office and Rectory.

NEW AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING SYSTEM AT ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Recently we had to replace the cooling/heating system in the church in Moravia. The previous system had been there quite a while. This new system should be more economical and last us for a long time.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 21 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, January 22 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Rylie Lux, Dylan Goldberg, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, January 28 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Ashley & Joshua Becan

Sunday, January 29 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine Besetzny, Caleb Krischke & Seth Eckhardt

Saturday, February 4 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Caitlyn Deem, Rylie Lux & Dylan Goldberg

Sunday, February 5 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Clayton & April Brossmann & Miranda Shimek

GENERATIONS OF FAITH(GOF)

Our next Generations of Faith is on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. We will continue our study of "Responding in Prayer" by discussing "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, February 12, 2012.

PRO LIFE NEWS

A total of 12 Planned Parenthood facilities have been shut down in Texas since the end of the 82nd legislative special session, which dealt the abortion industry a \$64.2 million blow.

Without government funding, Planned Parenthood facilities are withering on the vine. New funding priorities set by the legislature detail that any facility associated with the abortion industry is given the lowest priority for family planning funds.

As a result, facilities in the following Texas cities have been closed: Rio Grande City, San Carlos, Progreso, Mission, Brownsville, Arlington, Gainesville, Mesquite, Plano, Sherman, Terrell and Waxahachie. Each closing is a victory for women and for the unborn. (Dec. 2011 Texas Right to Life News)



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.*



Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. You know each of us and You call us by name to serve You in faith. Help us to respond generously to Your voice. Give courage and guidance to those You call to the priesthood and diaconate, to religious life and lay ministry, so that they may respond whole heartedly and serve devoutly. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PRAYER FOR LIFE – Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

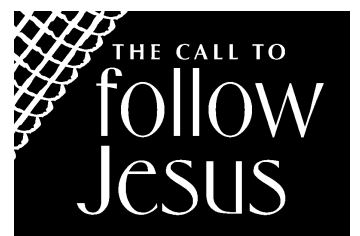
Next Bulletin: Sunday, Feb. 5th, 2012

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 2012



As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." — Mk 1:16-17

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1999, 1970 CEB



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

Jonah 3:1–5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

MONDAY*

Mark 3:22–30
"How can Satan cast out Satan?"

TUESDAY

Mark 3:31–35
"Here are my mother and my brothers."

WEDNESDAY* **

Mark 16:15–18
"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news . . ."

THURSDAY*

Mark 4:21–25
" . . . the measure you give will be the measure you get . . ."

FRIDAY

Mark 4:26–34
"With what can we compare the kingdom of God . . . ?"

SATURDAY

Mark 4:35–41
"Have you still no faith?"

*Alternate readings exist for this day.

**Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle



Invitations to parties often include the letters RSVP at the end, which is a polite (and brief) way of saying, "please let us know whether or not you will attend." This Sunday's readings look at some of the ways God invites us to join in the divine party.

The story of Jonah is always fun to read. While his three days in the belly of the whale is what we remember most, we often forget that Jonah was in the whale because God wouldn't take "no" for an answer. That, of course, is the message of his preaching in Ninevah; people there believed that God would destroy the city. Which is harder to

believe: that Jonah lived in a whale for three days or that the entire city of Ninevah immediately said "yes" to God's invitation to reform?

The reading from the Gospel of Mark is equally amazing. Imagine these four fishermen immediately walking away from their livelihood because Jesus made them a simple invitation: "Follow Me." Obviously, Peter and Andrew, and James and John, received an offer that they dared not refuse.

The Bible is filled with such invitations—stories where we are invited to do something simple for the Lord, like feeding the hungry, loving those who hate us, and taking up our cross. What is astounding is that so many people don't realize that these invitations are addressed to them. "Oh, I thought you were inviting someone else!"

But God's invitations don't work that way. *You* are invited, and God expects an RSVP from you. Will you accept the invitation?



The Faith of the Church

When God invites us to the divine banquet, he does so to give us something and to get a response. Our response to God is always an act of faith: we never know fully what God expects from us or what the end result will be, but we trust in his compassion and mercy and are filled with his grace (Cf. *US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p 37).



Questions of the Week

One of the tasks Jesus gave to us as his disciples was for us to invite others to discipleship. Remember, people are more likely to participate in an activity or an event if personally invited by a friend or neighbor.

Adults

What can I do this week to invite a friend or neighbor to follow Christ?

Children

What can I do this week to help a friend or classmate feel invited to follow Christ?

Responding to God's Word . . .

TV evangelists preach a "Gospel of Prosperity": Accept Jesus into your life, and you will know unlimited happiness, wealth, and prosperity.

While being a disciple of Jesus offers joys and blessings beyond imagination, Catholics also recognize that suffering and grief are part of life and part of being a disciple of Christ.

Jesus invited us to pick up our cross and follow him (Mt 10:38), to take his yoke upon our shoulders (Mt 11:29–30). He didn't promise life would be easy, only that he would always be with us and help us carry our burdens.

Saint Theresa of Avila, commenting

on the challenges that come with God's invitation, once said to God, "If this is how you treat your friends, it is no wonder you have so few of them!"

God's invitation is persistent, as Jonah quickly learned. While God allows us to freely say "no" to his invitation, he never gives up on us; he never stops inviting us.

As Francis Thompson wrote in his poem "The Hound of Heaven," God seeks us unceasingly, refusing to take "no" for an answer, never giving up until we are captured by divine love.

This is the invitation that our God has for us.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Invite family members to join you in a spiritual activity. Consider attending Sunday Mass together, saying grace before and after each meal, gathering to pray the Rosary, or working together to feed the hungry.

In the workplace or in school. Look for ways to invite coworkers and classmates to join you in following Christ. Offer an invitation to join your prayer group, to work on a project to house the homeless, or to attend Mass with you.

In the community. Promote your faith in God in everything you do. Be a living witness to the joy and benefits of accepting God's invitation.



Meditation Moment

John Henry Newman went to Rome to discern if Jesus was calling him to follow him as a Roman Catholic. One day on the return voyage he prayed, "Lead me, O Lord! . . . I cannot see the way. . . . Lead, kindly Light." The words brought such peace to him that he took a pencil and began to write. When he finished, he had written the lyrics to the famous hymn "Lead, Kindly Light." Upon his return to England, he entered the Catholic Church and became one of its greatest leaders.

For reflection . . .

Can I recall a time when, like Newman, I placed all of my trust in Jesus to lead me through a night of darkness?

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT . . . / THE NIGHT IS DARK, AND I AM FAR FROM HOME; / LEAD THOU ME ON . . . / I DO NOT ASK TO SEE / THE DISTANT SCENE—ONE STEP ENOUGH FOR ME.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

An Invitation to the Feast

Lord, Jesus,
Thank you for inviting me to join in your banquet of love, the Eucharist. I accept your invitation. Help me to be worthy of this wonderful gift.
Thank you for the invitation to discipleship, which I also accept willingly. Help me to take up your cross and to live my life in service to all who need my assistance. Thank you for your invitation to be a witness to you in all I do and say and am. With your love and support, may I be a faithful witness with my life.
Amen.

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

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw . . . how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind . . .

Jonah 3:5, 10

Profile in Faith

Teresa of Avila

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) was a Carmelite sister who reformed her community and the Church.

Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church because of her writings on theology, contemplation, and prayer, and because of the witness she provides on what it means to accept God's invitation to divine love.

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Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
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Author: Daniel S. Mulhall

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