

May 13, 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

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

Saturday	May 12	6:00 P.M.	Ross, Diane & Devan Goldberg	St. John
Sunday	May 13	9:30 A.M.	Living & Deceased Mothers (First Holy Communion)	Moravia

The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday	May 19	6:00 P.M.	Henry & Julia Olsovsky & Rebecca Patterson	Moravia
Sunday	May 20	9:30 A.M.	Edward E. Kusy	St. John

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday	May 26	6:00 P.M.	Georgia Bohuslav	St. John
Sunday	May 27	9:30 A.M.	Carolyn & Frank Okruhlik Jr. & Frances & Frank Tupa, Sr.	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Psalm 98:1-4 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17

Let us love one another as Christ has loved us by offering himself for our sins. His love is to be revealed to all the world, as Peter himself taught.

Ascension of the Lord

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3,6-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7,11-13 Mark 16:15-20

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Having ascended to his Father amid cries of gladness, we are to be his witnesses for we have been gifted with his Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Let us, therefore, live in a manner worthy of the call we have received.

Pentecost Sunday

Readings: Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1ab,24ac,29bc-30,31,34 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25 John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27;16:12-15

All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit; let us live, then, by the Spirit! That same Spirit, the Advocate, who "renews the face of the earth", was given as gift to the disciples to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, and to obtain forgiveness of sins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. We thank God for the gift of our mothers, both living and deceased. Let us pray for all mothers in a special way. In this day and time, it is not easy to be a parent. We pray for mothers to have the grace, the strength, and the courage to be loving, yet firm mothers, and to lead their children to God by word and example.

If your mother is still living, do something special for her today. Give her a call. Go visit her. Give her a gift from the heart. Remember that she brought you into this world. She may not be here next Mother's Day.

If your mother is deceased, say a prayer for her and visit her grave if possible.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all who assume the role of mother!

A Prayer for Mothers –

Good and gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with You in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband, family & friends as they care for the physical & spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.

Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to You for help when they need it most. Happy Mother's Day!!!

On Sunday May 27, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. That will be the end of the Easter Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the Church and truly celebrate Pentecost.

Congratulations to Joseph & Lexi Moeller, Wyatt Morin and Emily Pilat who are receiving First Holy Communion at Moravia, today, May 13th.

TRUCK RAFFLE

Truck Raffle tickets are now available at the Sacred Heart Rectory for a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado LT1500 4x4 Z-71 Crew Cab (Value \$38,090) & 13 other prizes! Drawing will be held at the Spring Picnic on May 27. Tickets \$100 each.

ASCENSION PICNIC DONATIONS

We are getting to work on the raffle for the Moravia picnic and we are actively accepting cash prize donations or gift certificates for it. Deadline will be May 25th 2012. To make a donation please contact Arlene Becan at 361-798-9320 or Mary Ann Spies at 361-798-5560.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH (GOF)

Congratulations to Joseph and Lexi Moeller, Wyatt Morin, and Emily Pilat who received their First Reconciliation on Saturday, May 12, 2012 and will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 13, 2012.

Important dates to remember for all GOF participants:

May 12, 2012 – First Reconciliation; First Communion Practice, Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, 9:00AM

May 13, 2012 – First Communion, Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, 9:30AM Mass – First Communicants must be in the church foyer at 9:15AM

May 16, 2012 – Generations of Faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 5:30PM-6:30PM. We will be having choir practice only for Confirmation. All GOF participants are expected to attend; roll will be taken. Parents, please do not leave as we do not know exactly how long this will take. There will be no meal.

May 16, 2012 – There will be a short Confirmation Retreat after GOF Choir Practice for all second year Confirmation students. Dinner will be served.

June 3, 2012 – Confirmation Practice, Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, 2:00PM; candidates and sponsors must be present.

June 6, 2012 – Confirmation and Reception immediately following at the Hall, Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, 6:30PM Mass – Confirmation Candidates must be in the church foyer at 6:15PM; all other GOF children must be in the choir loft at 6:15PM. Roll will be taken. Assigned families, please take your food donations to the Hall before Mass.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

The Schulenburg Area Veterans will be hosting their Memorial Day services on Monday May 28, 2012 at Wolters Park in Schulenburg. The guest speaker will be Justice of the Peace Dan Mueller. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will do the flag ceremonies. Live music of patriotic songs will be sung by local talent. Please come and show your support and remembrance of those brave men who gave their lives so we can still be free today. If you have any questions, contact James Brossmann at 743-3896.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 12 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Dylan Goldberg, James Lofland, Riley Lux

Sunday, May 13 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhardt, Clayton & April Brossmann

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

Sunday, May 20 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Riley Lux, Miranda Shimek

Saturday, May 26 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Dylan Goldberg, April & Clayton Brossmann

Sunday, May 27 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Seth Eckhardt, Blaine Besetzny & Caleb Krischke

MEMORIALS

In memory of Sylvester Janak

Ascension Cemetery Fund

Richard & Wilma Schaefer

\$15

Skip & Donna Smith & Eunice & Ronald Sparks

\$50

Father John Peters' Seminary Burse

Barbara J. Appelt & Frank Forestier

\$25

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Patrick Knippenberg who will be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Victoria on Saturday, May 26th, at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria.

On Friday, May 18th, one of our seminarians, Max Landman, will move into Sacred Heart for a couple of months during the summer. You will have a chance to meet him while he is here.

PRO LIFE NEWS

SAVE ALL BABIES - NO EXCEPTIONS, NO COMPROMISE

To stop Planned Parenthood and their deadly activities, the horrible "Obamacare" that spells certain death for the little ones PAID FOR BY OUR TAX DOLLARS, and the Culture of Death that is still gripping the media and many in positions of power, we pray: **Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.** (American Life League)

SACRED HEART PICNIC

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church Spring Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 27 at the KC Hall in Hallettsville.

The meal will consist of fried chicken, stew, homemade dressing and all the trimmings. Serving from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Drive thru plates to go from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Cost \$8 adults and \$4 children. Music by J & S Playboys, The Red Ravens and Jodie Mikula Orchestra. Auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, religious articles booth, rides, etc.

Next Bulletin: Sunday, May 27th, 2012

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 24th, 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

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

1 John 4:7–10

John 15:9–17

MONDAY*

John 15:9–17

"Abide in my love."

TUESDAY

John 16:5–11

"But now I am going to him who sent me."

WEDNESDAY

John 16:12–15

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you..."

THURSDAY

Mark 16:15–20

"Get behind me, Satan!"

FRIDAY

John 16:20–23a

"...you have pain now; but I will see you again..."

SATURDAY

John 16:23b–28

"...if you ask anything of the Father ... he will give it to you."

*Feast of Saint Matthias

**Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (observed in some dioceses)

Abiding in Christ's Love

A motorist with very poor eyesight was driving in a dense fog. Unable to see more than a few feet ahead, he began to rely on and closely follow the taillights of the car in front of him. When that car suddenly came to a stop, the second car collided with the first.

The driver of the first car walked back and asked, "What were you doing?" The man in the second car shot back, "Why did you stop so suddenly without warning?" "I had to," said the first driver, "I just pulled into my garage."

It is not wise to depend on and trust someone whom we only know superficially, if at all. Unaware of a person's true intention and direction, if we blindly follow, we will often be unhappy with where we end up.



This is not how we follow Jesus. Through our Baptism, Christ shares with us his very life. In today's Gospel, he says that we are to abide in his love. Jesus lives within

us and guides us internally through the promptings of his Spirit.

The presence of Christ within us allows us to discern right direction in our lives. To recognize God's will, we do not have to hesitantly follow Christ as a motorist might follow another car's taillights. Our connection to Christ is deep enough and real enough to give us the freedom to live and trust. That freedom is important, because life can take sudden turns and force us to face unexpected issues. In the midst of such challenges, Jesus does not simply give us external commands. He gives us himself.



The Faith of the Church

The bishops of the Second Vatican Council assured us that Christ lives in our hearts through the energy of his Spirit. He animates, purifies, and strengthens the noble longings within us by which all people strive to make our world more human and render the entire earth submissive to what is good (Cf. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 38).



Questions of the Week

Out of the presence of Christ within us comes a new commandment: to love one another as Christ has loved us. Our ability to love, even when it is difficult, comes from the strength of Jesus in our hearts.

Adults

Whom do I find difficult to love openly and honestly? Am I willing to open myself to Christ's guidance so that I can love more genuinely?

Children

Do I realize that Jesus asks me to love my friends and even my enemies, and that he will help me do so?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Life is not predictable. There are no rules that fit every situation. You may have intended to live your life in faithful love with a marriage partner. But now you face divorce. The pattern you had hoped to live is no longer relevant. But the living presence of Christ can guide you to find your way.

You might be a person who has always taken care of your health. You exercise and watch what you eat. Now you find yourself facing a disease that will radically change your life. Your old pattern of living no longer applies. The life of Christ within you can show you the next steps to take.

You may have expected that your children would grow up sharing your values and faith. Now they have gone their own way, and you have less and less in common. The relationship that you expected to share is no longer viable. Abiding in Christ's love can lead you to a new way of relating with them.

We may not be prepared for the challenges that life sets before us. But Christ is. His life within us guides us to joy. We need not fear if we abide in Him.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Identify the person in your family who most needs love from you. Spend time in prayer discerning how to offer it.

In the workplace or in school. Choose a problem that occurs regularly. Ask the Lord to show you how to approach it in a new and loving way.

In the community. Locate a person for whom you are grateful. Choose a way to thank him or her for witnessing goodness.



Meditation Moment

D-Day with the Screaming Eagles details the courage of the paratroopers who launched the invasion of Europe on D-Day, June 6, 1944. They gave their lives that their comrades might land safely. In one company alone, 219 men jumped and only 73 survived. These brave men lived out the meaning of Jesus' words in today's gospel. They died that their friends might live.

For reflection . . .

The sacrifice of the paratroopers and Jesus' words in today's reading invite me to inventory my own spirit of sacrifice. How willing am I to sacrifice—if not to the point of sacrificing my life, at least to the point of sacrificing my comfort and my time?

THAT MAN MAY LAST, BUT NEVER LIVES,
WHO MUCH RECEIVES, BUT NOTHING GIVES;
WHOM NONE CAN LOVE ... NONE CAN
THANK, CREATION'S BLOT, CREATION'S
BLANK.

THOMAS GIBBONS

FROM MISSION BY MARK LINK, SJ

Bearing Good Fruit in the Lord

Lord Jesus,
life is confusing,
and at times I do not know
what is the next step to take
with my son, my spouse, my
boss, or my friend. I believe in my
union with you and your presence
within me. Guide me in ways that
are clear and effective. Move my
heart and will to follow your
promptings and rejoice in
your grace.
Amen.

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

[B]ecause of the truth that
abides in us and will be with
us forever: Grace, mercy, and
peace will be with us from
God the Father and from Jesus
Christ, the Father's Son, in truth
and love.

2 John 2–3

Profile in Faith

Author of 2 John

The author of this Second Letter calls himself "the Presbyter," indicating a position of leadership in his community. Much like the theology in the Gospel of John and in First John, the theology in Second John asserts that the truth of Christ dwells in us and remains with us forever.

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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
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