

March 3, 2013

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

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 2	6:00 P.M.	Joe N. Steffek	Moravia
Sunday	March 3	9:30 A.M.	Edgar & Kenneth Besetzny	St. John

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 9	6:00 P.M.	Deceased Members of Julius Kutac, Sr., Family	St. John
Sunday	March 10	9:30 A.M.	Arthur W. Spies, Sr., & Lillie H. Spies	Moravia

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday	March 16	6:00 P.M.	Julius Jasek	Moravia
Sunday	March 17	9:30 A.M.	Delaine Dittrich	St. John

THE WORD OF GOD

Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 Psalm 103:1-4,6-8,11 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Luke 13:1-9

From the burning bush, Moses is called by God to lead his people out of slavery into freedom. The parable of the fig tree speaks, on the one hand, of God's patience, but of the urgency of the call to conversion, on the other. Like the Hebrews of old, we too have failed to heed God's call, thinking ourselves to be self-righteous.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Joshua 5:9a,10-12 Psalm 34:2-7 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Having arrived in the Promised Land, the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from affliction and distress in the Passover. Christ our Passover has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation; let us forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional and abundant love of God our Father.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126:1-6 Philippians 3:8-14 John 8:1-11

To the exiles in Babylon, Isaiah foretells a new exodus, when the Lord will lead his people from captivity to freedom. True freedom is rooted in the person of Jesus, not in observance of the Law. It is he who challenges us to examine our own hearts before self-righteously judging others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

Fr. Tommy will be leaving for a 10 day vacation beginning tomorrow, Monday, March 4th, and returning on March 14th. He and some friends will be traveling to Assisi and Rome, a trip which they planned some time ago. Pray for a safe trip for them.

We pray in thanksgiving for the service of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. We pray now for the 115 Cardinals who will be in conclave to select our new Pope. The process should begin this Monday and hopefully will move quickly and smoothly.

This is the Third Sunday of Lent, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree in the context of salvation. Who will find favor in God's heavenly kingdom? Those who "bear fruit" or witness to their faith in Jesus will be rewarded with everlasting life. In this Year of Faith, let us become "joy-filled witnesses to Christ" even as we journey through the somber season of Lent.

Witness in word. Try to give up gossip for Lent. We live in a culture saturated with anger and negativity. Joyfully witness to the gospel by offering a word of kindness or compassion. Instead of writing a letter of complaint, pen a note of thanks for good service or a job well done.

Witness in spirit. Start a "prayer project" this Lent. Offer a prayer first thing in the morning, at mealtimes, and before bed each evening. Pray for friends and relatives, pray for enemies and those with whom you struggle, and pray for the dead that they may find eternal rest in God.

Witness in deed. Bearing fruit means living as Jesus taught us - loving God and our neighbor as much as ourselves. Call or visit someone who is lonely. Buy a few groceries for a shut-in or someone recovering from surgery. Offer to babysit for a family with small children. As Matthew's Gospel reminds us, that by our fruits we shall be known (7:20).

Thus Sunday's Gospel is calling us to turn our lives around and return to our loving God.

MORAVIA ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

The Moravia Altar Society will meet Monday, March 4 at the parish dining hall starting at 7:00 P.M. Please make plans to attend.

MORAVIA KJZT MEETING

Moravia KJZT Society #44 will have a meeting on April 14th after Mass.

FLOWER DONATIONS

Flower donations given for Moravia Church 100th Anniversary: In memory of Joe and Vlasta Holik by Henrietta & Franklin Filip; In memory of Frank and Mary Wenglar and in memory of L.A. & Vera Wenglar by Phil & Kathy Guenther family.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Sacred Heart Catholic School Registration for the 2013-2014 school year is presently in progress for Pre-K (4 yrs. Old), Elementary and High School students. Currently enrolled students are to complete the registration forms received in the mail and return them to the school by Wednesday, March 13. Extended care is available until 5:30 p.m. for students in grades Pre-K-5. Registration for new and currently enrolled students (Pre-K-12) may be completed at the school office during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.

MORAVIA PARISH CLEANUP

Moravia Parish will have a general maintenance cleanup of the halls, pavilion and grounds on Saturday March 16, starting at 9:00 a.m. All parishioners are asked to come out and do some general cleaning of the grounds and halls.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

While the rights we share in our country are important, what GOD views as right is even more so. Abortion has been legal since 1973, but it has never been right in God's eyes. Christ, who allowed the children to come to Him, who cared for the sick and weak, and who helped the poor and despised is our example to follow - even if our culture and society disagree. (2012 Heritage House '76, Inc.)

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 2 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua Becan, April & Clayton Brossman
Sunday, March 3 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Blaine Besetzny, Seth Eckhardt, Dylan Goldberg
Saturday, March 9 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - James Lofland, Kenna Kubenka, Alex Lozano
Sunday, March 10 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Caleb Krischke, Miranda Shimek, Rylie Lux
Saturday, March 16 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Joshua Becan, Caitlyn Deem
Sunday, March 17 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - April & Clayton Brossmann, Dylan Goldberg

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.
St. John - March 8th, March 22nd
Moravia - March 15th
Sacred Heart - 6:00 p.m. every Friday

Hallettsville Sacred Heart Women's ACTS Retreat, March 21-24. Registration forms available at the entrance of the church. Mail form to address on application.

Hallettsville Sacred Heart Men's ACTS Retreat, April 18-21. Registration forms available at the entrance of the church. Mail form to address on application.

NATIONAL PRO-LIFE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN CORRECTION

The correct names for the National Pro Life Postcard Campaign are: Senators John Cornyn & Ted Cruz and Representative Blake Farenthold.

Moravia Centennial Cookbook is available for sale at Hallettsville General Store.

MEMORIALS

Msgr. John Peters' Seminary Burse

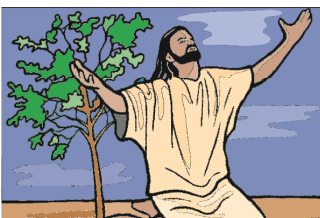
In memory of Marcella Chaloupka by Willie Barborak \$10
In honor of Msgr. John Peters by Evelyn & Barbara Haas \$20

Ascension Building Fund

In memory of Marcella Chaloupka by Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky \$10

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Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" — Lk 13:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Growing in FAITH™

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

March 2013

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Katharine Drexel

The Year of Faith saint for March was a heiress from Philadelphia who gave up a fortune to serve God. Although surrounded by wealth, she was raised in a devout family with a deep sympathy for the poor. Nudged to become a missionary by Pope Leo XIII, she became a religious sister and founded schools in thirteen states for African Americans, forty mission centers and twenty-three rural schools. She also established fifty missions for Native Americans in sixteen different states.



"Expert" advice

When struggling with something difficult, don't give up because others say you should. Ask God to deepen your resolve. Almost every great idea faced experts who said it couldn't be done.

"Strengthen me, as you have promised" (Psalm 119:28).

Easter year round

"Sunday recalls the day of Christ's Resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death." Pope John Paul II, *Dies Domini*



Can you trust your conscience?

"It felt just right." "I try to follow my conscience but it's not always right." A conscience helps us tell right from wrong. A well-formed conscience keeps us out of trouble but a poorly-formed conscience can lead us astray. More than a feeling, a conscience is the voice of God calling us to do what is good.

A firm foundation. It's possible to have an ill-formed conscience and not even know it especially if it looks like everyone else's. For example, did we learn right and wrong from TV, movies, and popular culture? Instead, a Catholic conscience is informed through Church teaching about truths revealed by God.

Feelings vs. conscience. Just because we don't feel like doing something bad

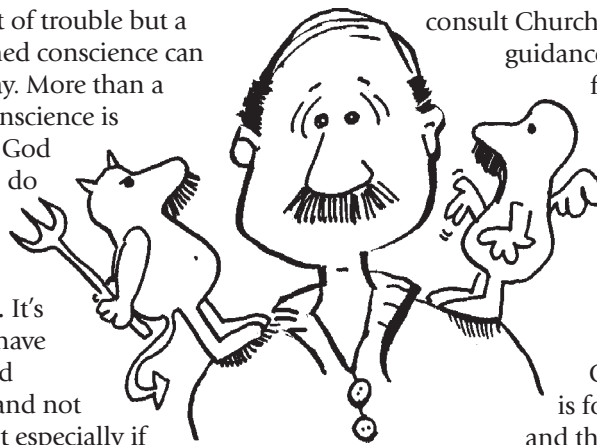
doesn't mean we follow our conscience. A conscience isn't based on feelings. Instead, following our conscience means using reason to

consult Church teaching for guidance. We change our feelings to match our conscience.

Church teaching is not subject to the whims of any individual pope, bishop, or priest. Church teaching is found in the Bible and the Catechism.

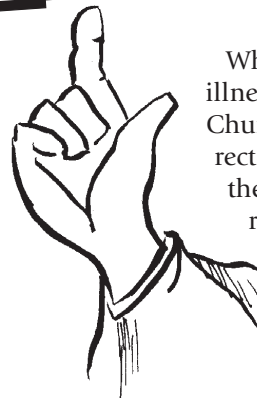
Prudence helps, too.

Prudence is a virtue that helps us choose our true good in each situation. At some point, prayer, study, and deliberation must give way to action. Prudence and our well-formed conscience combine to help us make the right choice.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Once known as "Last Rites" this sacrament was given at the moment of death. So that we can access Christ's healing and comfort when we need it, the Church revised it as, "Anointing of the Sick."



What is the Anointing of the Sick?

When informed of a serious illness or necessary surgery, the Church encourages us to call our rectory or local priest to ask for the Sacrament. It may be repeated for additional illnesses or surgeries. Don't delay needlessly. This Sacrament is only for the living.

Choose new life after Easter

When the Israelites were just about to enter the land that had taken so long to reach, Moses wanted them to understand what was at stake. If they were going to stay there with God's blessing, Moses wanted to put the choice facing the Israelites into the clearest possible terms: Choose to follow God's laws and accept his love or choose death (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

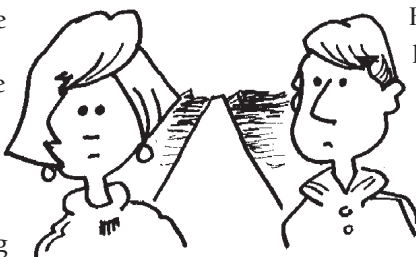
Life with God in love. The choice facing the Israelites was that simple and it's one we

face, too. We can choose to continue our good habits from Lent to live in God's friendship or lapse into life outside it.

Honesty over deceit. Self-control over sinful pleasure. Generosity over selfishness. One path means eternal life and the other results in misery.

The choice is ours. Isn't it amazing that the Creator of Heaven and Earth loves us so much that he lets us decide how we want to live?

While our choices lead to consequences, he respects our free will and leaves the choice to us.



from Scripture

John 20:1-9, The Resurrection of Jesus

John's love for Jesus helped him interpret the events of Easter morning. When Mary Magdalene told the apostles what she saw at the tomb, John and Peter raced there to see for themselves. When John saw the way the burial cloths were arranged, he instantly understood. No one had taken the body. Knowing the habits of his friend, he understood that Jesus was resurrected as he had promised.

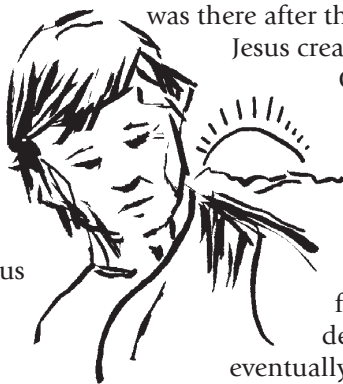
On Easter morning, John recognized that Jesus is the Christ, the one anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, that he was sent to reconcile us

to God, and that Jesus was raised from the dead and is now judge of "the living and the dead." And John was there after the Resurrection when

Jesus created the Catholic Church and

commissioned her to preach and bear witness to Jesus and to God's love for us. The lesson for us is that our love for Jesus and our devotion to him will

eventually reveal the truths of many mysteries to us. The key is to love Jesus as intensely as his "beloved disciple."



Q & A Do I have to know and believe everything the Church teaches?

The Catholic Church is like a well that offers life-giving water. You don't have to drink from it but it makes it

awfully hard to live forever if you don't.

What the Catholic Church offers us is truth and faith handed down from Christ.

Our baptism as Catholics make us members of his Body,

with the expectation that we will do our best to learn what that entails and accept the responsibilities of being members of his Body. We aren't owners of the Body, but privileged and beloved parts.

All that the Church offers is too much to take in at once, which makes faith a marvelous, life-long journey. It's hard to understand everything the Church teaches and that Christ wants us to know, so we are asked to believe prior to being able to understand. That is called faith. We are given the gift of exploring why our beliefs are true, and don't have to worry if they are true. Jesus said they are and that's good enough for us.



Feasts & Celebrations

March 17 – St. Patrick (493). Born in Scotland, St. Patrick was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but later returned to become the bishop of Ireland and is credited for having established the Church there.

March 19 – St. Joseph (1st century). Jesus' earthly father, devout Jew, and faithful 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.

March 24 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion because it recalls Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when he was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering, and it marks the beginning of Holy Week.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Examination of Conscience – (for adults)

The First Commandment: To love God above all things

- Do I perform my duties toward God with a bad attitude?
- Did I neglect to pray every day, at least once in the morning and once at night?
- Did I receive Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin or without fasting for an hour before?
- Did I fail to mention some serious sin in a previous confession?
- Did I seriously believe in something superstitious or participate in a superstitious practice such as palm-reading or fortune telling?
- Did I seriously doubt or disagree with a core teaching of the Catholic Faith?
- Did I put my faith in danger by reading a book, pamphlet, or magazine, or watching a movie or T.V. show that contains material contrary to the Catholic faith or morals?
- Have I committed the sin of sacrilege by disrespecting a sacred person, place, or object?

The Second Commandment: To respect God's holy name

- Did I use God's name disrespectfully, mockingly, jokingly, angrily, or in any other irreverent manner?
- Have I received communion in another church besides the Catholic Church?
- Did I tell a lie under oath?

The Third Commandment: To honor God on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

- Did I miss Mass on a Sunday or a holy day of obligation?
- Did I fail to dress appropriately for Mass?
- Did I arrive so late at Mass, without a valid reason, that I failed to fulfill my Sunday or holy day obligation?
- Did I allow myself to be distracted during Mass, by not paying attention, by thinking about other things, by looking around out of curiosity?
- Did I cause someone else to be distracted during Mass?
- Did I put work, a ball game, going out, hunting, sleep, vacation, or any other activity before Mass?
- Did I fail to give of my time and talents at the service of the Church?
- Did I fail to fast on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday? Did I fail to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent? Did I fail to abstain from meat or perform some act of penance on all Fridays throughout the year?
- Do I leave Mass early, before the Final blessing and dismissal without good reason?

The Fourth Commandment: To honor your parents

- Was I disrespectful towards my parents, my boss, or anyone in authority over me?
- Was I disrespectful to my parents or those in authority over me by my attitude, by my tone of voice, by my sarcasm, or by any other signs of disrespect?
- Did I neglect to help my parents when they needed my help?
- Do I do my best to foster my relationship with my parents and other elder relatives?

The Fifth Commandment: Do not kill

- Did I easily get angry or lose my temper at my family, friends, teachers, or others?
- Was I envious or jealous of others?
- Was I ever reckless in driving?
- Was I an occasion of sin for others by way of conversation, by telling jokes that were religiously, racially, or sexually offensive, or by the way I dress?
- Did I neglect my health by not getting enough rest or by eating too much or drinking too much?

- Did I get drunk or use illegal drugs, which harms my body?
- Did I participate in any kind of physical violence either to myself or to another?
- Did I consent to, advise, or actively take part in an abortion?
- Did I cause harm to anyone with my words or actions?
- Did I desire revenge or harbor hatred when someone offended me?
- Did I ask for forgiveness whenever I offended someone?
- Did I forgive when someone offended me?
- Did I insult or offensively tease others?
- Did I fight with my brothers or sisters and other relatives?

The Sixth and Ninth Commandments: Do not be impure with your body or the body of another

- Do I dress modestly: covering up those parts of my body that deserve extra respect and not wearing clothing that are too tight or revealing?
- Did I willfully entertain impure thoughts in my mind?
- Was I sexually impure with another person?
- Did I offend the holiness of marriage by having premarital sex or living with someone of the opposite gender before marriage?
- Did I dishonor my marriage vows by committing adultery?
- Did I engage in impure conversations or jokes?
- Did I entertain myself with books, magazines, movies, shows or pornographic images that were sexually impure?
- Did I willfully stare at another in an immodest way?
- Did I commit an impure act by myself through masturbation?
- Do my spouse and I honor the sanctity of the marriage act by not using artificial contraception?
- Have I permanently made myself incapable of procreation with my spouse?
- Have I had unnatural relations with a non-human being or with someone of the same gender?
- Have I used inappropriate means to conceive a child such as *in vitro* fertilization or suragacy?

The Seventh and Tenth Commandments: To respect the property of others

- Did I steal? What did I steal?
- Did I return the stolen item?
- Have I caused damage to another person's belongings?
- Did I unnecessarily spend money beyond my means?
- Do I spend too much money on things I really don't need?
- Do I give to the church and to the poor?
- Am I envious of what others have?
- Did I neglect to pay my debts?
- Did I knowingly accept stolen goods?
- Am I lazy instead of being a hard worker?
- Was I greedy?
- Do I have an excessively materialistic view of life?

The Eighth Commandment: To tell the truth

- Did I tell lies? Did I repair any damage that may have resulted as a consequence of this?
- Have I unjustly or rashly accused others?
- Did I sin by gossiping about the faults of others?
- Did I tell derogatory lies about another person?
- Did I engage in gossip, backbiting, or tattle-telling?
- Did I reveal a secret without an important reason?

How to make a good Confession:

- 1) The night before you approach the sacrament of holy confession, take some time to spend in the silence of your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your heart so that you can see your sins. Pray: ***Come O Holy Spirit and enlighten the dark recesses of my heart. Uncover those sins that I have kept hidden even from myself. Convict me of these sins, so that I may properly accuse myself before the merciful throne of Jesus who is Divine Mercy, so that on the Last Day, I may not fear the Final Judgment. In my sincere sorrow for having offended the goodness of God, grant that I may courageously confess these sins, receive pardon and absolution, and be restored to the beauty which my soul enjoyed at the moment of my baptism. Grant to me a good and holy confession, and the grace necessary so that my soul may always remain in a state of friendship with God. I ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.***
- 2) Use a guide and thoroughly examine your conscience taking note of the nature of your sins, the frequency that you have committed them, and the reasons why you fell into these sins. You may even choose to write these sins down, if you are forgetful.
- 3) On the day of going to the holy sacrament, ask the Holy Spirit for the grace of courage to trust in the Mercy of God and for the humility to admit your faults openly and without shame, and to not postpone the sacrament.
- 4) Upon entering the confessional, make the sign of the cross saying aloud “In the name of the Father and of the Son...” then, greet the priest with the customary words: “Bless me Father for I have sinned.”
- 5) Indicate the time of your last confession by saying: “My last confession was _____ ago.”
- 6) Confess your sins by saying: “And these are my sins....” Now state your sins. (All mortal sins must be confessed. It is a good practice to also confess venial sins. If you are not sure of the sin, ask the priest.)
- 7) Indicate the conclusion of your confession of sins by saying: “And these are the sins that I can remember.” OR “For these and for all the sins that I cannot remember, I ask pardon and absolution from you Father.”
- 8) The priest may now counsel you, or he may immediately impose a penance for you to do in satisfaction for your sins.
- 9) Now the priest will invite you to pray an Act of Contrition aloud. **Act of Contrition:** *O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.*
- 10) The priest will now pray the prayer of Absolution over you, in which God will forgive all your sins through the ministry of the priest.
- 11) The priest will dismiss you with a customary dismissal like Mass. And you reply with: “Thanks be to God.” Complete your penance as soon as possible after leaving the confessional.