

**February 2, 2014**

**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. DANIEL DANSO, PAROCHIAL VICAR

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**MASS SCHEDULE**

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**The Presentation of the Lord**

Saturday	February 1	6:00 P.M.	Daniel Spies, Dominic Loth, Ann Spies	Moravia
Sunday	February 2	9:30 A.M.	Erwin & Irene Mendel	St. John

**First Friday**

Friday	February 7	8:00 A.M.	Parishioners of Both Parishes	St. John
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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday	February 8	6:00 P.M.	Julius Pauler	St. John
Sunday	February 9	9:30 A.M.	Evelyn Novosad	Moravia

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday	February 15	6:00 P.M.	L. A. Wenglar	Moravia
Sunday	February 16	9:30 A.M.	Frank & Hattie Berger	St. John

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**THE WORD OF GOD**

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**The Presentation of the Lord**

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Jesus, the King of glory, yet like us in all things, comes to his temple to be a light for all the nations.

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 112:4-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

Through the power of God, we can be a light to the world by our loving concern for others, especially the poor and the oppressed.

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings: Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,27-28,33-34a, 37

In Jesus is revealed a new wisdom, a new law, a new way of living. Happy are they who choose to keep his commandments and follow his ways.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN**

This past Tuesday and Wednesday, I attended the Ordination and Installation of Bishop Michael Olson as the new bishop of Fort Worth. I was his formation director at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

Congratulations to all the young people who placed in the Hallettsville Junior Livestock Show and also all the young people who entered. This is a great learning experience for our young people.

This weekend we will have the Blessing of Throats after all the Masses since the Feast of St. Blaise is on Monday, February 3rd

This weekend Msgr. Jim Henke is helping with some of the Masses since Fr. Daniel is gone.

Thank you to all who had your picture taken for the Parish Directory. If you did not have it done, you may still do so at Sacred Heart. Dates of Photography: February 18-25, February 25-March 1 and March 4-8! Remember there is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a free 8x10 portrait and parish directory for participating. Call Linda Pavliska 798-3253 or go online at [www.shcatholicchurch.org](http://www.shcatholicchurch.org) to schedule appointments.

A special Thank You to Dorothy Berger, Barbara Janak and Anthony Hrcir for their work with the Directory Project.

Ascension of Our Lord Parish Hall has had the old heaters removed and replaced with heat connected to the central air system.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

Texas Right to Life joined Texas Eagle Forum, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and 58 state legislators, including House Bill 2 authors Rep. Jodie Laubenberg and Sen. Glenn Heger, in filing an amicus curiae with the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of the Pro-Life omnibus bill that passed the Legislature during the second special session. In filing the brief, Pro-Life advocates stress that HB 2 is fully constitutional and does not violate any requirements under the Roe vs. Wade decision.

Texas has duly passed and enacted HB2 as a law that raises the health and safety standards for women and holds Planned Parenthood (the abortion industry) accountable to common medical practices they refuse to implement. (from January 2014 Texas Right to Life News)

**ASCENSION CHURCH CLEANERS FOR FEBRUARY:** Arlene Becan and Janis Hrcir

**ASCENSION CHURCH USHERS FOR FEBRUARY:** Hilbert Henke Jr. and Dale Janak.

**FOR THE YOUTH OF ALL OUR PARISHES**

Just a reminder - we will be having our **YOUTH NIGHT on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Following adoration, we will be eating hot dogs and Frito pies, playing games, and discussing our upcoming events at the Sacred Heart Youth House.

Also, we encourage all youth to turn in their forms for the **YOUTH SPECTACULAR before Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** to get the group rate of \$15.00.

Lastly, keep in mind we are accepting registrations for our summer trip to Louisiana for the **STEUBENVILLE ON THE BAYOU** Catholic Youth Conference. God Bless!!

**Youth Spectacular!** February 16, Holy Family Church, Victoria. Doors open 11:00 a.m. Spectacular begins 11:30 a.m. Concluding Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer at 5:00 p.m. Theme: *“Of all the music that reached farthest into Heaven, it is the beating of a loving heart.”* Guest speakers this year: *Soundwave*, a Christian band from the Austin area, and Jonathan Alexander who is the director of Houston Missions for Adore Ministries. Cost for youth is \$17 and \$15 for group rates (8 or more). Adult leaders/chaperones are \$7. Early registration deadline is February 5th. Late registration or at the door is \$25. I hope this helps you and if you have any further information or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Early registration deadline Feb. 5. For information, contact Wendy Eggert 573-0828 ext. 2232 or [weggert@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org).

**AREA FESTIVALS & PICNICS**

St. Mary Parish Festival, February 9, Victoria Community Center.

St. Roch Parish Turkey-Dressing Dinner, February 9, Mentz

**SACRED HEART CREDIT UNION MEETING**

Sacred Heart Credit Union Mtg., Feb. 3, KC Hall. All members invited. Registration 6 pm. Meeting 6:30 pm, followed by meal. There is no charge. Door prizes given.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Feb. 1 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Rylie & Regan Lux, Blaine Besetzny

Sunday, Feb. 2 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Miranda Shimek, Seth Eckhardt, Kenna Kubenka

Saturday, Feb. 8 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Dylan Goldberg, Rylie & Regan Lux

Sunday, Feb. 9 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Kenna Kubenka, Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan

Saturday, Feb. 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - James Lofland, Blaine Besetzny, April Brossmann

Sunday, Feb. 16 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Alex Lozano, Seth Eckhardt, Miranda Shimek

**Amor Meus Spirituality Center Upcoming Events** - Incarnate Word Convent Chapel, 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria.

**February 8:** Guided Retreat on “Forgiveness,” 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Father Daniel Houde will direct the retreat. (Visit our website for March 1 Guided Retreat.) Guided Retreats include pre-sentations, liturgy or prayer service, time for personal prayer and reflection. Women & men are welcome. For more information about other retreats and prayer opportunities visit [www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org) or call 361-575-7111.

**February 12-13-14:** Overnight Directed Retreat (2 nights). Please register a week in advance. A Directed Retreat includes opportunities for liturgy or prayer service and daily meeting with a Retreat Director focusing on the retreatant’s experience of God as well as discerning the interior movements of the Holy Spirit. To arrange for a Directed Retreat on another date or for a longer time call 575-7111.

**Lenten Vespers:** Sundays of Lent - March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13; from 5 – 6 p.m. This liturgical prayer of the church focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering evening praise to God. This Prayer can prepare us for the great feast of Easter.

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



“The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about Him.” Simeon surprised Mary and Joseph with his declaration that their baby was the long-awaited Messiah. They of course knew the truth about their Son’s identity and mission. But to hear someone else announce it was the amazing part. The Gospel tells us that the Holy Spirit was upon Simeon; thus he had a kind of divine revelation about the baby Jesus. God spoke through him to confirm the holy secret that Mary and Joseph already kept in their hearts. Anna too spoke about the child as “the redemption of Jerusalem,” thus adding another mystical assurance that Jesus was in fact the Savior.

These events that took place during the Presentation in the Temple can remind us about the important role of the members of the believing community. Like Simeon and Anna, we are meant to encourage one another, and to announce the Gospel to others with courage and conviction. When we are rooted in prayer, and attuned to the Holy Spirit, we too can be effective instruments of God’s power. Then, amazing things can happen! We become the channels through which God’s truth is proclaimed, and through which His love and healing, comfort and compassion, are given to other people.

Indeed, when we are “righteous and devout” like Simeon, and dedicated to prayer like Anna, we prepare ourselves to become Christ’s coworkers in the world.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2014

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Scholastica

Twin sister of St. Benedict, St. Scholastica founded a

Benedictine community for women five miles from her brother's monastery. The twins visited annually for prayer and spiritual consultation. One year, Scholastica asked her brother to spend the night but he declined in compliance with his own rule requiring monks to sleep in his monastery. Scholastica prayed and a thunderstorm erupted, preventing Benedict's departure. Three days later, Benedict saw a dove rising from his sister's convent and realized she had died.

#### Live unafraid

Christ suffered, died, and rose to free us from our fears. "I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20b).

"We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Pope (Emeritus) Benedict



## What to do when God feels distant

There are times when God seems so close that we are filled with a glorious feeling of love. At other times he can seem so distant it's as if he has turned his back. God lets this happen for our good. Still, that distant feeling can be hard to bear.

**Look for a cause.** Sometimes we cause distance to crop up between us without even realizing it. We may have become overly-confident of our spiritual strength and yielded to temptation. Or, we neglected prayer or Sunday Mass.

**Pray your way back.** Distance can lead to discouragement, but don't let that keep you from prayer. Reaching out to God is the surest way to find

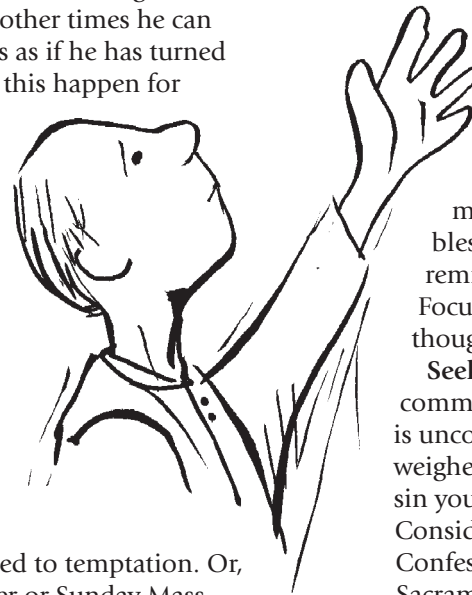
your way back. Enlist the help of the saints or the Blessed Mother.

**Meditate on what you know.**

Regularly repeat God's promises of salvation, Jesus' pledge of eternal love, memories of God's past blessings, anything that reminds you of his love. Focus on these beautiful thoughts over and over.

**Seek Reconciliation.** A common cause for distance is unconfessed sin. Are you weighed down by a fault or sin you are avoiding facing? Consider making a full Confession and seek the Sacrament regularly. Perform

an act of penance, such as fasting, to take the focus off yourself. Then you will find he has been beside you all along.



### Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics evangelize (spread the Gospel) because Jesus said to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have

### Why do Catholics evangelize?

commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

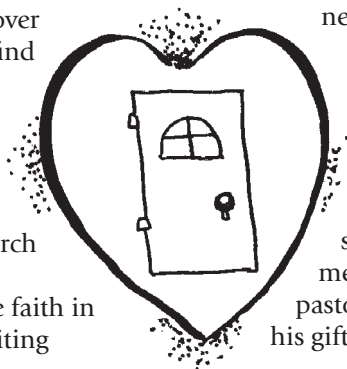
Some ways we bring new disciples to Jesus include treating others with love, living a holy life, passing on the faith to our children, supporting our parish ministries, and by telling others about God.



# Open your door, open your heart

Despite warm and welcoming parishes all over the country, many Catholics still struggle to find a parish home. Large parishes can be intimidating while plugging into smaller, established ones can be difficult, too. What can we do to welcome new or returning Catholics to our parish homes?

**Open your door** – Masses in the early Church were held in the homes of believers. New or prospective Christians were introduced to the faith in loving, personal environments. Consider inviting



new parishioners to your home for dinner and introduce them to other parishioners, or become part of your parish hospitality efforts to welcome new or returning Catholics.

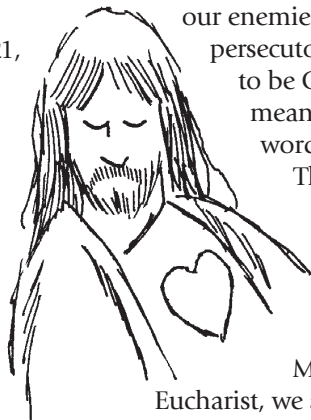
**Open your heart** – Look for those in your family, among friends, or in the workplace who might be searching for a spiritual home. Invite someone new each month to share Mass and a meal. Give a tour of the church and introduce the pastor. Let your visitor know that your parish can use his gifts and he will find a new family in your parish.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 5:38-48, Heart speaks to heart

The ancient concept of justice, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” is from Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21, and was originally meant to limit retribution from escalating into blood feuds between clans. It was later misused to exact a form of personal justice. Instead, Jesus proposed a new approach, one that leads not to justice on Earth but in Heaven.

Loving our enemies or those who have offended us repeatedly requires forgiveness. Sometimes forgiveness seems



impossible but we are to teach and treat others the way Jesus does even to loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors. As Christians, we are to be Christ to others. That means teaching not just by our words but by our actions, too.

Then Jesus directed us to “be perfect.” That we cannot do without the help of the Holy Spirit to guide us, and by faithful attendance at Mass. Through the Eucharist, we are nourished by the very body and blood of Jesus. He gives us the strength we need to live a more perfect life.

## Q Can I receive Communion & if I am returning to the Church after many years?

Welcome back! There is a step to take before you can be in full communion with Christ. In order to be properly disposed for the Eucharist, “A Catholic must be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion, and anyone aware of being in a state of mortal sin must first receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance” (CCC, section 1415).



When you were away from the Church, you may have missed Sunday Mass, for example. That is considered a mortal sin for a baptized Catholic and requires seeking God’s forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance.

You may feel anxious or nervous about going to Confession after a long absence from the Church. Please remember that the primary purpose of this Sacrament is to reconcile us to Christ who waits patiently for us when we have turned from him. Remember also, that one of a priest’s great joys is being able to convey God’s forgiveness to those sincerely seeking it. He will be happy to guide you through it.

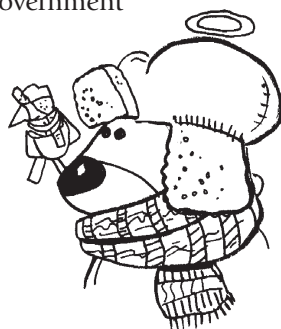
## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 8 – St. Jerome Emiliani (1537).** St. Jerome Emiliani was imprisoned by the enemy when he was a militia officer. In prison he taught himself how to pray and was inspired to escape safely. He later became a priest and with his own resources opened orphanages, a homeless shelter, and a hospital.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858)** A heavenly “lady” appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor and sickly girl from a small village in France. Soon after the first vision, a spring with miraculous, healing waters emerged

from a nearby cave. The “lady” revealed herself as the “Immaculate Conception” – the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).** Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr’s death.



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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)