

JANUARY 5, 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

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

WEBSITE: www.shcatholicchurch.org E-MAIL: rectory@shcatholicchurch.org

MASS SCHEDULE

The Epiphany of the Lord

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|----------|
| Saturday | January 4 | 6:00 p.m. | August and Rosie Konvicka | Moravia |
| Sunday | January 5 | 9:30 a.m. | Deceased Members of Neskora and Winkler Families | St. John |

The Baptism of the Lord

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|---|----------|
| Saturday | January 11 | 6:00 p.m. | Barbara Snowden | St. John |
| Sunday | January 12 | 9:30 a.m. | Joe & Jamie Tupa & deceased members of the family | Moravia |

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|
| Saturday | January 18 | 6:00 p.m. | L. A. & Vera Wenglar | Moravia |
| Sunday | January 19 | 9:30 a.m. | Sylvia Bartosch | St. John |

THE WORD OF GOD

The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12
All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 Psalms 29:1-4,3,9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mathew 3:13-17
Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father. He is the light of the nations and Lord of all creation. To him be all glory and praise.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Isaiah 49:3,5-6 Psalms 40:2,4,7-10 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34
Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the light of the nations who came to do the Father's will. In Christ we have been called to be a holy people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

Thank you to all who participated in any way in the Christmas and New Year's Masses to make these celebrations of our Faith truly beautiful and inspirational, especially the musicians, choirs and cantors.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the Three Kings. An old Catholic custom is the blessing of the home at Epiphany, especially the doorways. We can bless ourselves and the rooms of the home with holy water. We use chalk - a reminder of the clay from which God created us - to mark over the front door (or all doors) the initials of the legendary names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) and the numerals of the new year.

20 + C + M + B + 14

The initials also stand for the Latin motto "Christus mansionem benedicat" - "May Christ bless this house."

This Wednesday, January 8th, marks the 8th anniversary of the beginning of our Adoration Chapel at Sacred Heart. Thank you to all who take time to visit with Our Lord on a regular basis and those who are available to fill in. This is truly a blessing for us as individuals, as Church and as community. Adoration is open to everyone.

If you are not adoring already, you may call Charlene Bradbury at 361-798-3224 to commit to this wonderful form of prayer.

Jacob Koether, a seminarian from El Campo, will be ordained a Deacon on May 24 and continue to study for the Priesthood. Jacob will be with us during this coming summer and then two weekends a month during the next school year.

A special "Thank You" to all those who helped decorate the churches and the grounds for Christmas. Everything was beautiful.

On behalf of Fr. Daniel and myself, thank you for the cards, gifts and prayers at Christmas. May God bless you.

May you all have a very blessed 2014!

MORAVIA KJZT #44 MEETING

Moravia KJZT #44 will have their meeting on January 12, 2014 after the Mass.

Moravia Church Cleaners for January: Angie Kubenka and Barbara Janak.

Moravia Church Ushers for January: Phil Guenther and Robert Kendall.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Moravia & St. John will publish a new 2014 Church Pictorial Directory. Photos will be taken on **January 20-25**. You will need to schedule an appointment on one of these dates. When you have your photo taken you will be pictured in our directory and will receive a free 8x10 photo and a free directory. If you are unable to take your photo during the above time, you may make an appointment to have your photo taken at one of the other local churches. Tell them you are from Moravia or St. John and you will still be listed in our directory. Their dates are listed below.

We need your help to get photos of the homebound, rest home residents and military. They may submit their own photo or have a new one taken. Please put the information in the offertory gift basket or see contact below. You may go online at www.shcatholicchurch.org and click on the Lifetouch link (except on the weekend), to sign up for your photos for all of the following parishes or call the contact listed.

St. Mary Catholic Church: January 8-11

Contact Carol Rother 798-4368w, 798-3575h, 798-6856c

St. John and Moravia Catholic Churches: January 20-25

For St. John, contact Dorothy Berger 979-562-2187

For Moravia, contact Barbara Janak 361-772-6409

Sacred Heart Catholic Church: February 4-March 8

Contact Linda Pavliska 361-798-3291

PRO-LIFE CORNER

When speaking to an international group of Catholic doctors recently, Pope Frances spoke of the “throwaway culture” that has allowed abortion, and declared, “In all its phases and at any age, life is always sacred and always of quality. And not as a matter of faith, but of reason and science! There is no human life more sacred than another, just as there exists no human life qualitatively more meaningful than another.” (from Nov-Dec 2013 PRIESTS FOR LIFE newsletter).

MEMORIALS

Ascension Building Fund: In memory of Jerry Machicek by Richard & Wilma Schaefer- \$15.00

Ascension Cemetery Fund: In memory of Dorothy Appelt by Dyrel K. & Arlene K. Holmes- \$20.00

Ascension Church: In memory of Irene Orsak by Christopher & Monica Janacek- \$50

In memory of Jim & Frances Okruhlik by Daniel Okruhlik- \$100

THANK YOU

Thank you to Arthur Spies, Jr. for a generous donation to Ascension of Our Lord Church in memory of his wife, Thelma M. Spies and daughter, Ann M. Spies, to be used for repairs on the parish hall and to help make the hall more handicap accessible.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 4 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia- Joshua Becan, Caitlin Deem, James Lofland

Sunday, Jan. 5 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John- Dylan Goldberg, April Brossmann, Alex Lozano

Saturday, Jan. 11 - 6:00 p.m. - St. John - Alex Lozano, April Brossman, Blaine Besetzny

Sunday, Jan 12 - 9:30 a.m. - Moravia - Miranda Shimek, James Lofland, Seth Eckhardt

Saturday, Jan. 18 - 6:00 p.m. - Moravia - Kenna Kubenka, Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan

Sunday, Jan. 19 - 9:30 a.m. - St. John - Dylan Goldberg, Rylie & Regan Lux

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA

Sacred Heart School Extravaganza! Saturday, February 1, 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville. Cost per ticket is \$125, which covers the entry fee for two people, refreshments for the entire evening, a steak dinner with all the trimmings, and a dance with live music by “Cactus Country.” Tickets are now available for purchase at SHCS Office, Sacred Heart Credit Union and the Rectory.



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass (1981, 1978, 1976 CCC).

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2014

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Mother Seton

Wife, then widow,
Elizabeth Ann Seton
converted to

Catholicism despite rejection by her wealthy Episcopalian family and friends. With no means of support for herself or her children, she welcomed the invitation to open a Catholic school for girls near Baltimore.

Joined by like-minded women, the community became the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1809, and Elizabeth became Mother Seton. The community grew and so did their schools and orphanages marking the beginnings of the U.S. parochial school system.

Bessed are the peacemakers

The world sure could use more peacemakers. The key to becoming one is to practice forgiveness and offer peace. That way everyone around us will feel the love of Christ.

God's Laws

"Happy the man who meditates upon these things, wise the man who takes them to heart! If he puts them into practice, he can cope with anything, for the fear of the LORD is his lamp"
(Sirach 50:28-29).



Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you.

He made you deliberately so he could love you. *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"* (1 Jeremiah 1:3). What about you? Are you in love with God?

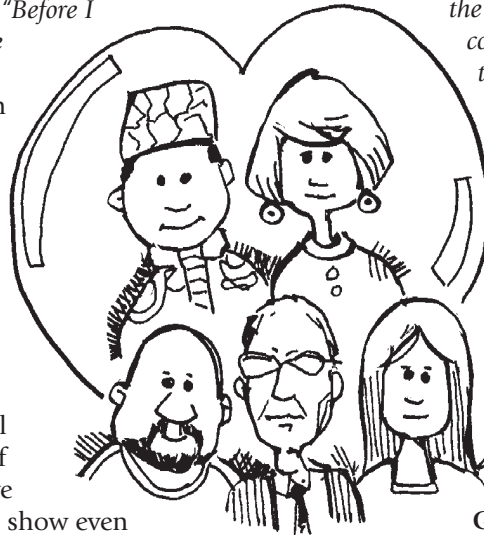
You have no secrets from God ... and he loves you anyway. We all have some small shameful part of ourselves that we are too afraid to show even our closest family or friends. God sees all you are and loves you infinitely anyway. *"I praise you, because I am wonderfully made ... My very self you know"* (Psalm 139:14).

God thinks loving thoughts of you all the time. *"How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God. How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand"* (Psalm 139:17).

Our bodies are holy because God put his precious life within us. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Prayer is about falling in love with

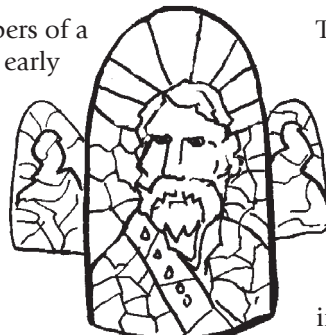
God. *"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live"* (Psalm 116:1-2).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor saints?

Christians are members of a large family. From the early days of the Church, there have been members of the faithful who have strived to live in the kingdom of God here on Earth and see its fulfillment in Heaven.



These holy people have allowed themselves to be emptied out and to be filled with the love and grace of Christ.

The Church holds up these brothers and sisters of ours as examples to help us follow in their paths.

Make one change for God this year

When making New Year's resolutions this year, consider one change that will bring you closer to God. Here are some ideas other Catholics have used to strengthen prayer, serve the poor, and evangelize our faith ...

Norma felt her prayer life growing stale, so when her parish asked for adorers for the perpetual adoration chapel, she jumped at the chance. Now, Mondays at midnight, Norma can be found in the presence of the Eucharist. She said, "I really look forward to my peaceful hour



each week. It's just me and Him."

Peter's law practice is incredibly busy, but he takes an afternoon off every month to work at the local soup kitchen serving hot meals to the homeless and working poor. When asked why he said, "Jesus said, 'When I was hungry, you gave me to eat.'"

JoAnn's children are grown, yet she teaches a religious education class at her parish. "What better way to spread our faith than to children? That's where I can do the most good," she said.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23, The common call.

The way Jesus gathered his followers seemed almost casual. For example, he passed the Sea of Galilee, saw Andrew and Simon and called to them. It sounds as if the men dropped what they were doing, left their homes and livelihoods to follow Jesus after very little thought. There must have been something very arresting about Jesus and his call to them.

Scripture makes it clear that discipleship means leaving everything behind and surrendering to the will of God. He will provide whatever a disciple

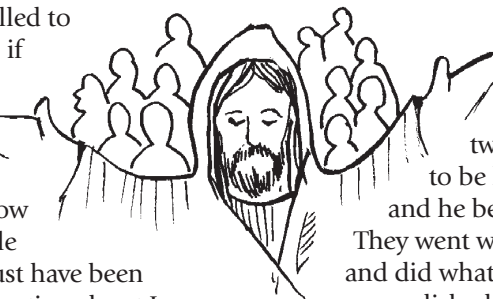
needs to follow him but nothing comes before our relationship with God and his call to us. The compelling part of

his call is the chance to serve him and be close to him.

Jesus chose twelve special people to be his closest followers and he became their leader.

They went where he told them and did what he asked, and accomplished amazing deeds in Jesus' name.

Jesus is still calling people to be his disciples and work amazing deeds in his name. In fact, he has called each of us to be his disciple.



Q & A Are there qualities that would make me a better Christian?

Actually, when you were baptized, made your First Communion, or got

Confirmed, the Holy Spirit conferred gifts to help you grow in strength and holiness. Recognizing these gifts and nurturing them will certainly make you a

better Christian.

Wisdom: This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and his plan for us.

Understanding: Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart and the mind.

Counsel: Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh alternatives to make the right choice.

Fortitude: The ability to remain firm against pressure. (Also called courage.)

Knowledge: A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

Piety: Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve him.

Fear of the Lord: The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect him and all his creations.

The more you use these gifts, the more you will grow in faith and holiness.



Feasts & Celebrations

January 17 - St. Anthony (356). Anthony was a wealthy young man when he heard and followed Christ's call to "sell all you have, give it to the poor, and follow me." Afterwards he went into the desert to live as a hermit and dedicate his life to prayer. Others followed making him the founder of Christian monasticism.

January 24 - St. Francis de Sales (1622). As bishop of Geneva, St. Francis bolstered the faith of others by his writings and works. For the laity, St. Francis wrote Introduction to the Devout Life, which is as applicable

today as it was in his day.

January 31 - St. John Bosco (1888). St. John Bosco combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance to teach young men and women how to unite their spiritual life with their work and play. He opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales and provided workshops for boys in shoemaking and tailoring. In 1859, he founded the Salesians who were committed to education and mission work.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

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