

March 29, 2015

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN, TEXAS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH
MORAVIA, TEXAS

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA



REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS, PASTOR

REV. BARNABAS KYEAH, 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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday	March 28	6:00 P.M.	Dorothy Tykal	Moravia
Sunday	March 29	9:30 A.M.	Fred & Martha Hermis	St. John

Holy Thursday

Thursday	April 2	7:00 P.M.	For Priests	St. John
----------	---------	-----------	-------------	----------

Good Friday Service

Friday	April 3	1:00 P.M.		St. John
--------	---------	-----------	--	----------

Easter Sunday

Saturday	April 4	6:00 P.M.	Adella Pilat	Moravia
Sunday	April 5	9:30 A.M.	Parish Family of St. John & Moravia	St. John

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Saturday	April 11	6:00 P.M.	Evelyn Vornsand	St John
Sunday	April 12	9:30 A.M.	Moravia KJZT #44 100 th Anniversary	Moravia

THE WORD OF GOD

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Readings: 37: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (procession) 38:Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24 Philemon 2:6-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Readings: Acts 10:34a,37-43 Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 or 41:Mark 16:1-7 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, 46: Luke 24:13-35

On this day of days we offer a joyful sacrifice of praise to the Father who raised his Son from the dead. Let us be intent upon the life Christ offers us, Christ our Passover who has been sacrificed.

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Readings: Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM DESK OF MSGR. JOHN

Today is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week with a remembrance of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Gospels tell us that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted Him by waving palm branches and covering His path with them. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, He begins His journey to the cross.

Palms can be dried and displayed throughout your home all year long – standing tall in a vase, tucked behind a crucifix, or even pressed in your Bible. Palm branches remind us that Jesus is our light and salvation – and that is something to celebrate.

As we return to the teaching documents of the Church, we are reminded that the Triduum (Holy Week) is the foundation of our Catholic faith. Triduum means three. For three days – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday – we suffer with Jesus and await His rising from the dead. The Second Vatican Council restored the Triduum as the holiest days in the Church year.

On Holy Thursday, we recall the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples and the powerful lesson He taught about service when He washed their feet. Attend Holy Thursday Mass, which recalls the Last Supper. Give thanks for the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Good Friday is the somber remembrance of the day Jesus died on the cross. Attend the Good Friday services.

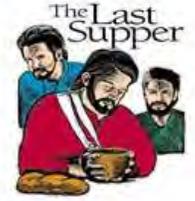
Holy Saturday is traditionally the final day of preparation for the great feast of Easter. The Easter Vigil that takes place on Holy Saturday night is the high point of the Church calendar. The Paschal candle that is lit at the Easter Vigil will remain in the church as a sign of Christ's death and resurrection. Attend the Easter Vigil and savor the symbols – fire represents Christ's light in the world, and the color white reminds us of Christ's victory over death.



Palm Sunday



Holy Thursday Special Collection for the Education of Seminarians. Please do your part in helping to educate our future priests who will someday serve our parishes. If you did not receive an envelope, please place your donation in an envelope with your name and "Education of Seminarians" written on the front, and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory.



The Good Friday Collection is requested by the Holy Father and allows for the care of Christianity's holiest sites and for God's people living in the Holy Land. Please be generous in your support.

ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR APRIL: Elsie Farek and Joyce Janda

ST JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR APRIL: Darrell Demel and Forrest Dittrich

USHERS FOR APRIL FOR MORAVIA CHURCH: Dwayne Burton and Phil Guenther

CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MORAVIA CHURCH: Dolores Janak and Gladys Pucciarello

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 28 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia - James Lofland, Alex Lozano, April Brossmann

Sunday, March 29 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Rylie & Regan Lux, Dylan Goldberg

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. – St. John (rehearsal 6:00 p.m.) – Dylan Goldberg, Rylie & Regan Lux, Thurifer-Antony Hrnecir

Good Friday: 1:00 p.m. – St. John – Miranda Shimek, Alex Lozano

Easter Vigil – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Kenna Kubenka, Caitlin Deem, Joshua Becan

Easter Sunday – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Caleb Krischke, Seth Eckhardt, April Brossmann

Saturday, April 11 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Alex Lozano, James Lofland

Sunday, April 12 – 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Rylie & Regan Lux, Dylan Goldberg



YOUTH NEWS

Our Steubenville on the Bayou trip is coming up! Our first fundraiser will be a bake sale after the Masses at Sacred Heart on Easter Sunday! All youth are encouraged to bring baked goods! The \$50 deposit to reserve your spot to SOTB is due by April 19. Anyone currently in 8th-12th grade is eligible to attend SOTB on June 25-28. Please contact Troy at 361-772-1797 if you have any questions concerning the trip or if you would like to register your child.

The Shroud of Turin Exhibit in San Antonio has been extended to July 15th! Bishop Fellhauer has three hundred free tickets to this informative, educational and faith-moving exhibit. This is a great opportunity for children and adults to learn more about the Shroud of Turin, which is one of the greatest mysteries of mankind and to which modern science has devoted enormous resources. For the first time, this Shroud Exhibition brings to one place an in-depth analysis and visual display that explains why The Shroud continues to remain one of the most studied and controversial objects in human history. Call the Bishop's Office, at 361-573-0828, for information on how to obtain free tickets to the exhibit. Go to www.shroudexpo.com for details on the exhibition.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother. [St. Therese of Lisieux]

ST. JOHN ALTAR SOCIETY SPRING BRUNCH

St. John Altar Society will host the annual spring brunch on May 3 following the 9:30 Mass at the St. John rectory. Members please bring food for everyone to enjoy. Dues will also be collected. Everyone is invited. For more information call Evelyn at 979-562-2364 or Peggy at 979-562-2246.

ST. JOHN EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations towards Easter flowers can be put in the flower donation envelope or mailed to Pam Besetsny at 5325 W. County Line Road, Schulenburg. We appreciate your generosity!

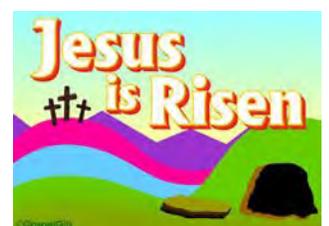


ASCENSION OF OUR LORD EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations to Easter Flowers in memory of loved ones at Moravia church may be given to Dorothy Olsovsky or dropped in collection basket marked who it is for.

ST. JOHN RAFFLE PRIZE DONATION

Donations are being accepted for the St. John raffle ticket prizes. We will accept donations thru April 26th. Please contact Theresa Eckhardt 743-4435 or Ann McBride 561-6261 or mcbride@cvctx.com if you are interested in donating. Thank you in advance for your donation toward the raffle.



Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2015

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Bernadette Soubirous

Bernadette was a good but simple teen from a poor family in the south of France. The Blessed Virgin Mary chose to visit Bernadette eighteen times in a cave beside the Gave River (1858-59). A miraculous spring with healing waters poured from the spot and Lourdes remains one of the most visited religious sites in the world. Bernadette suffered terribly, but bravely, from learning difficulty, poor health, world scrutiny. After becoming a nun, she died at the age of 35.



We are one Body

On the road to Damascus, Jesus told Saul that when he attacked Christians, he attacked Jesus. "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 26:15). Our Lord cannot be separated from the members of his Body. We stand united with all who suffer for Christ.

"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:54



The Year of Consecrated Life

Most of us are called to a vocation of marriage and family, but some are called to live with Christ in a different relationship. For some of these chosen, this involves leaving aspects of the world to put themselves at the service of others in the Consecrated Life.

Caretakers of Christ's Church:

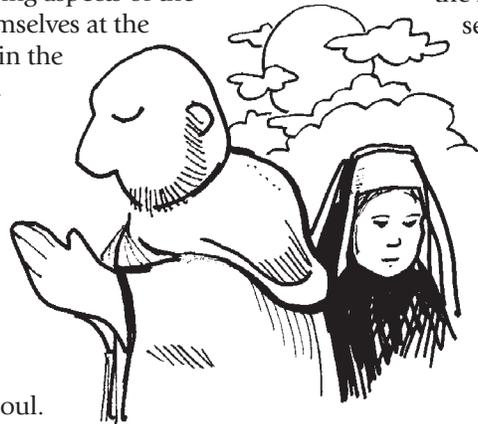
The role of a someone consecrated to God by vows of chastity, poverty and obedience is often as a caretaker of the soul. Whether it is teaching in schools, providing aid to the sick and dying, caring for those in need, or living a life dedicated to manual labor and prayer, they bring Christ's charity to the world.

Someone to pray for us: For the consecrated religious, praying can be a full time job. To better understand the needs of God's children and to learn the Father's will, they often separate themselves in some manner from worldly cares. This way, they can freely represent us on the front lines of the battle for salvation.

Real role models:

"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Those living

the consecrated life try to live their baptismal promises more intensely and serve with open hearts and willing spirits. When looking for role models, we can look to these men and women striving to live a holy life for God.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics need faith?

"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Christians know that Jesus is our Savior and our lives are in his hands. We also know that by virtue of his suffering,



death, and Resurrection, we have hope of sharing in his glory in Heaven. He said so.

It is through faith that all the other virtues flow. Through faith we believe, *"For with God, nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).*

The path that Easter built

Easter is more than a happy ending to Jesus' travels on Earth. In fact, it leads to a new life for anyone who follows Jesus. Here are some ways to find the right path.

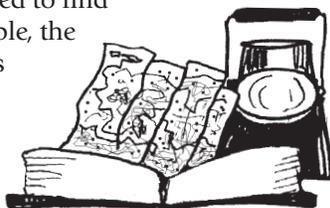
Use a map. Our faith holds all the tools needed to find peace, personal well-being, and security. The Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Mass point the way.

Travel light. Avoiding materialism is the challenge of our time. Keeping only what we need reminds us of our dependence on

God, gives us an appreciation for what we have, and helps us be more sensitive to others in need.

Follow a guide. The journey can be easier when someone lights the way. Perhaps a priest, deacon, or religious in your parish can become a spiritual mentor. Or choose one of the saints to be a role model who can light the path.

Bring a friend. Spiritual companions can help us maintain perspective, challenge us to grow, and make the trip more enjoyable.

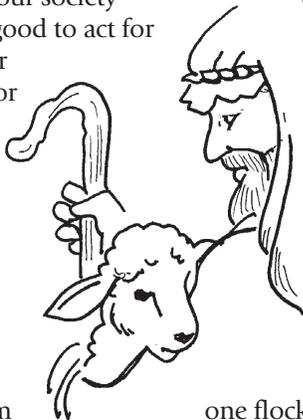


from Scripture

From Scripture: John 10:11-18, The Good Shepherd

This Gospel describes the ideal for our relationship with Jesus. In our society today, we are told that it's good to act for ourselves first, stand on our own, and do what is best for us as individuals. Our allegiance to others is secondary. The problem becomes, on whom can we rely for help when we encounter trouble?

In Jesus' day, a shepherd lived with his sheep, cared for them, and even put himself at risk to keep them safe. He kept them in a flock for safety to protect them from predators. Their shepherd was trusted and familiar, and



the sheep recognized his voice and wouldn't follow another, unknown voice. He was their Good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd for all of humankind. Jesus placed himself in the role of a shepherd and predicted that he would give his life for his sheep. Although his sheepfold began in

Israel, he hopes to have one flock made up of the whole world. His flock is the Church he founded and all who follow his voice are his sheep.



Q & A Is it better to say formula or spontaneous prayers?

Prayer is raising our hearts and minds to God and any form of prayer is key to maintaining a strong relationship with God.

Formula prayers are memorized prayers someone has written, while spontaneous prayers are vocalizations that come from the heart. Both types of prayer have the same goals – to praise God, ask for his help, to thank him, and reflect on his goodness.

When young Catholics are often taught formula prayers, such as the "Our Father", "Apostles Creed", and "Hail Mary", to help us learn about God and to develop the habit of speaking with him. Then, as we grow in our faith, praying spontaneously from the heart becomes another, more personal option. It is possible, and even fruitful, to combine both forms in our communication with God.

For example, spontaneous prayer during Eucharistic Adoration is made richer by enjoying the silence and presence of God. In turn, beginning Adoration with the Rosary – a formula prayer - can lay the groundwork for a higher level of spontaneous prayer.

Feasts & Celebrations

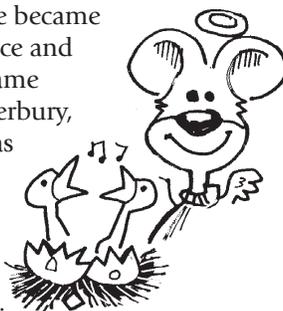
April 5 – Easter Sunday. The solemnity that marks Jesus' Resurrection. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

April 11 - St. Stanislaus (1079). As Bishop of Krakow in 1072, St. Stanislaus attempted to reform the violent and depraved king of Poland, Boleslas II. When his efforts failed, he excommunicated the king. In retaliation, Boleslas murdered the saint as he said Mass.

April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter

become the "Feast of Mercy." Jesus promised that anyone who honors him as the King of Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy – the prayer he gave to St. Faustina – will receive special graces and great mercy.

April 21 – St. Anselm (1109). A native of Italy, St. Anselm initially enjoyed a carefree life at court. After his mother died, he became a monk in France and reluctantly became bishop of Canterbury, England. He was exiled for rebuffing the king's interference in Church matters.



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)

You are invited to attend an informational presentation at Sacred Heart Family Center on Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.



VETERANS . . . SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS



Veteran Benefits in Texas

Are you or your spouse a veteran with:

- 90 days of consecutive, active military service
- One day of service during wartime
- With a discharge of any kind other than dishonorable
- At least age 65 or older
- In need of Aid and Attendance thru Home Health Care, Assisted Living or Nursing Home

If you can answer **yes** to these questions, then you should learn more about your benefits!

Learn how you can qualify for a little known, little used VETERAN'S IMPROVED PENSION BENEFIT of up to **\$23,396** a year **TAX-FREE**

- Especially reserved for Veterans & Surviving Spouses of Veterans
- According to a VA estimate, only one in seven of the surviving spouses of veterans who qualify for the pension actually receive the monthly checks.
- A VA study says that the veterans generally "are completely unaware that the program exists."
- The VA knows that many veterans and surviving spouses are missing out on the benefit.
- Only 27 percent of veterans and 14 percent of surviving spouses currently receive the money.*
*Knight Ridder Newspapers

Veteran Benefits in Texas has helped veterans, and their surviving spouses learn about benefits that can **INCREASE their INCOME, tax free**. We have helped Veterans receive benefits through Veterans Affairs, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Robert Dornak is an Accredited Agent with Veterans Affairs and can assist you in filing for the benefits.