

DECEMBER 13, 2020

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH  
7026 FM ROAD 957  
SCHULENBURG, TX 78956  
ST. JOHN, TEXAS



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH  
11134 FM 957  
SCHULENBURG, TX 78956  
MORAVIA, TEXAS



REV. MSGR. JOHN C. PETERS, V.G., PASTOR

REV. SCOTT J. HILL

REV. JOHN AFFUM

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

Website: [www.shcatholicchurch.org](http://www.shcatholicchurch.org)

E-mail: [rectory@shcatholicchurch.org](mailto:rectory@shcatholicchurch.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**St. John the Baptist Church**

Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.  
(on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sunday ..... 9:30 a.m.  
(on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>)  
First Friday .....8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Hour

**Ascension of Our Lord Church**

Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.  
(on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Sunday ..... 9:30 a.m.  
(on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)

**MARRIAGES**

Consult the Pastor six (6) months in advance before making any plans or decisions.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Welcome to our parish family. Please stop by the Rectory or call to register.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Please call the rectory.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Saturday Evening—5:30 p.m.

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)**

Dana Daughtry 713-822-3019-cell or 979-562-2381  
EWTN-Cable Channel 71 or Dish Channel 261  
Direct TV Channel 370 **RADIO:** 99.9 FM & 94.3 FM

**WEBSITES**

Cemetery: [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)  
(Click on “Catholic Cemeteries”)  
Safe Environment: [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)  
(Click on “Safe Environment Program,” then on “eAppsDB”)

**PARISH CONTACTS**

**St. John the Baptist Church**

Elsie Farek.....979-562-2159

**Ascension of Our Lord Church**

Robert & Mary Kendall.....361-217-0624

**HALL RENTAL**

**St. John the Baptist Church**

Frank Forestier  
Barbara Appelt .....832-643-4590 (cell)  
..... 361-865-2446 (home)

**Ascension of Our Lord Church**

Kathy Guenther ..... 979-562-2124 (home)  
..... 979-562-2328 (work)  
.....979-743-0369 (cell)

**CEMETERY**

**St. John the Baptist Church**

Dorothy Berger.....979-562-2187

**Ascension of Our Lord Church**

Kathy Guenther .....979-562-2124  
..... 979-562-2328 (work)  
.....979-743-0369 (cell)

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## MASS SCHEDULE

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### Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	December 12	6:00 p.m.	Alphonse Bezetzny	St. John
St. John	December 13	9:30 a.m.	Julius Drozd and Annie Holub Drozd	Moravia

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	December 19	6:00 p.m.	Philip & Kathy Guenther's 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary	Moravia
Sunday	December 20	9:30 a.m.	Edgar, Lillian and Kenneth Besetzny	St. John

### Christmas Eve: (Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord)

Thursday	December 24	5:00 p.m.	Leroy & Dominic Loth	Moravia
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### Christmas Day: (The Nativity of the Lord)

Friday	December 25	9:30 a.m.	Ladik & Dolores Valicek	St. John
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### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday	December 26	6:00 p.m.	Mildred Fojtik Dixon	St. John
St. John	December 27	9:30 a.m.	Larry Kocich	Moravia

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### December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1-46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

### December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Sm 7:1-5; 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-28

David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise forever.

### December 24: Christmas Eve (Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord)

Readings: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5; 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17; 22—25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

God's covenant gloriously shines forth in the birth of Jesus, son of David.

### December 25: Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord)

Readings: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Darkness is scattered for God's grace has been revealed in the birth of the Messiah.

### December 27: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Readings: Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105: 1-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Mindful of his covenant, God blesses the faith of Abraham and Sarah in their son, Isaac. The child Jesus and his parents are blessed by Simeon.

**Ministry Schedule has been made. If there is a change, you will be notified. The Mass is live-streamed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Facebook. The link for the Mass is:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartCatholicChurchHallettsville> and also on the Radio Stations FM 99.9 & FM 94.3 on Sunday at 8:00 a.m.**



### **From the Desk of Msgr. John**

*Today is “Gaudete” Sunday—Latin for “Rejoice.” We are celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent as we draw closer to Christmas. Hopefully, we have been preparing ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. We rejoice in that. Let us use these last two weeks of Advent to really reflect upon what this season is all about. Let us pray for all who have died recently and all who are seriously ill. Let us pray for them and their families as we continue our Advent Journey to Christmas.*

*We thank Harvey Jahn for making and providing our unique Advent Wreath in the Foyer of the Church. It has the traditional four candles of Advent on the wreath and the Christmas candle in the middle. It also has six candles between each of the four candles to remind us of each of the days of Advent during that week. It is said that the person who came up with the idea of the extra candles thought it would help the children realize how much closer we are to Christmas Day as we light each candle of the week.*

*May you all have a very blessed, happy and healthy Christmas!*

### **FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PARISHIONERS**

**If you have information for the Bulletin, please be reminded that the Deadline for Bulletin entries is Tuesday at Noon.**



### **ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 12 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Harley Wilson, Heather Wilson

Sunday, December 13 – 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Wade Shimek, Bryce Machicek, Dylan Orsak

Saturday, December 19 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Harley Wilson, Heather Wilson

Sunday, December 20 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Dylan Orsak, Brant Redman, Dillon Goedrich, Bryce Machicek

Thursday, December 24 – 5:00 p.m. – Moravia – Harley Wilson, Heather Wilson

Friday, December 25 – 9:15 a.m.- Wade Shimek, Bryce Machicek, Dylan Orsak

Saturday, December 26 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Dylan Orsak, Brant Redman

Sunday, December 27 – 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Wade Shimek, Bryce Machicek, Dylan Orsak

*Please pray for the Veterans who have served Our Country and have sacrificed and given so much for our freedom. Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.*

### **PRO-LIFE CORNER—**

*As we can see in readings and the Gospels, the details of Jesus birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth, and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires.*

*Abortion is diametrically opposed to this vision of peace, life and love. May all believers take renewed strength and courage to speak out against abortion, consistent with the vision of Christmas and the proclamation of the Gospel.*

### **ATTENTION TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

**A mask must be worn to Church at all Masses and any event that is held in the church. Social Distancing is required until further notice.**

## PATRIOTIC ROSARY

**Prayer for our Country:** First Sunday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. Under the St. John Pavilion to pray the Patriotic Rosary. The prayers and songs are provided. Social distancing is used and you may sit as far back as needed for your comfort. Families are welcome.

**Sacred Heart Home & School Association** is having a "Cattle or Cash" raffle! Tickets are \$100 and the drawing date is 12/18. This was created to make up for the famous strudel bake. Call 361-798-4251 for more details. We also have the option of purchasing online via Venmo. Here is the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=indianshsa&set=a.1835478429936232>

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AWARDS NIGHT

Date: Monday, December 14, 2020,

Place: KC Hall--Hallettsville

Social: 6:00 p.m.

Meal: 7:00 p.m., Awards Presentation to follow.

## Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) Court #797 Mass

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is in need of Rosary Leaders for each of the Masses. If you are interested in being a Rosary Leader, please contact Phyllis at the Rectory (361-798-5888).



## *We Love Catholic Schools* SWEEPSTAKES

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Each Participating School Will Have a \$1,000 Prepaid VISA Card Individual Winner Drawn from Tickets Sold by Their School. Drawing to be Held Friday, February 12, 2021

**For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:**

**Sacred Heart Catholic School**

**361-798-4251**

DONATION: \$5.00 EACH

TICKET SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021





# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2020

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Holiday advice

The holiday season is an important time in the Church but, in the midst of a pandemic, it can also be a time when health worries, money worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8).



### Unborn joy

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..." (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. With the coming of Christmas, look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill His plan.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



## God is love

We call God "Creator," "Savior," "Father," yet when we really want to understand who He is, one word is enough. God is love.

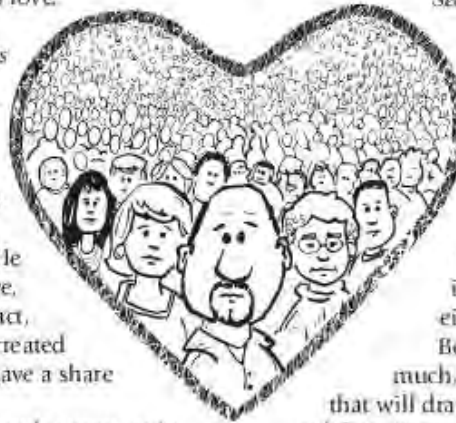
"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8). Love is the very nature and essence of God Himself. He doesn't just love, He is love. In fact, that's why He created us, so we can have a share in that love.

We are not simply swept up in the good will God has toward all his creations. He loves each of us as individuals and that love is never-ending and unconditional. "Can

a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name" (Isaiah 49:15-16). This is not necessarily because we are good; we can't possibly earn the vast love He has for us. But the good news is we can't lose it either.

Because He loves us so much, He denies us nothing that will draw us closer to him and to life in Heaven. "For God so loved the world," Jesus declared, "that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics believe in a "virgin birth?"

Before Jesus was born, Isaiah was told, "the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The virgin birth was documented in Luke 1:34.

Had Jesus been conceived like the rest of

us, He could not have been a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).



## Awaken to the presence of God on Christmas morning

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). An amazing truth occurred at the first Christmas; God came and lived among us. Even more amazing, He continues to live among us. During Advent, take steps to become more aware of His presence.

**Begin each day in his presence.** Before you get out of bed in the morning, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to



"Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Seek God's Word. Start your day with Scripture such as the daily Mass readings (found on [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) or another reading you choose. Ask God to teach you during the day from that selection.

**Speak to him throughout the day.** Picture the Lord next to you throughout your day and talk with Him as you experience the day together. Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk, suggested prayer shouldn't be confined to formal times.

### from Scripture

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, God chooses each of us in a special way.**

Mary and Joseph were forced to travel in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty and exhausting journey. Once there, they had no option for decent housing and had to stay in a stable with animals. Young Mary gave birth in crude conditions with no friend or family to help.



After a short time, they fled to Egypt with their newborn to escape threats from the government, and stayed there for several years. There

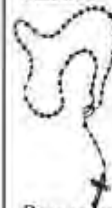
were no friendly faces to greet the family once they arrived and they had to make their own way in an unfamiliar land.

Refugees all over the world flee violence like the Holy Family. Catholics have a special charge to protect them and those who are vulnerable: children, elderly, and poor.

Like Mary's and Joseph's, God has a special place for each of us in his plan of salvation. Prayerfully ask God what he wants you to do for him and his kingdom.

### Q How do Catholics & benefit from A praying the Rosary?

The Rosary is a simple prayer adapted from the complex prayers of medieval monks. It's a powerful prayer because in it, we ask Mary—whose prayers are never refused—to pray for us. In addition, the



mysteries of the Rosary introduce us to the lives of Jesus and Mary. Each mystery is associated with a fruit. For example, the fruit of the mystery of the Annunciation is humility. Praying the

Rosary opens us to the graces to be more Christ-like.

A prayer with roots in Scripture, the Rosary begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic Faith. The Our Father that introduces each mystery is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary that follows is from the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591).** As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Briefly jailed over a misunderstanding, some of his best spiritual writing came from this experience.

**Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597).** Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and vigorously safeguarded the Catholic faith through writings and teaching. His work, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, is still used today.

**Dec. 26 – St. Stephen (first century).** A deacon of the early Church, St. Stephen preached that God can be found everywhere, not just in one place like the temple. He angered the Jewish authorities and became the first martyr of the Catholic Church.

**Dec. 27 – The Holy Family (1st century).** On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



#### 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)

**Mass Schedule for Christmas is as follows for our four parishes:**

**Sacred Heart**

**Christmas Eve—December 24**

4:00 p.m. in Church

4:15 p.m. in Sacred Heart Gym (This is to help divide our biggest Mass Crowd)

6:00 p.m. in Church

Midnight Mass in Church

**Christmas Day – December 25**

8:00 a.m. in Church

10:30 a.m. in Church.

*There will not be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.*

**The Midnight Mass and the 8:00 a.m. Mass will both be livestreamed.**

**St. Mary**

**Christmas Eve—December 24**

Midnight Mass in Church

**Christmas Day—December 25**

9:15 a.m. in Church

**St. John and Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia) Christmas Eve—December 24**

5:00 p.m.—Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia)

**Christmas Day—December 25**

9:30 a.m.—St. John

**CONFESSIONS**

**Sacred Heart**

December 15, 21, 22 – 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

December 23 – 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia)

Saturday, December 19 – 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

**St. John**

Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m.

**Ascension of Our Lord/Moravia Church Flower Donations**

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones at Ascension of Our Lord Church Moravia may do so by sending your donation and who it is for to:

Dorothy Olsovsky, 1721 CR 248, Schulenburg, Texas 78956. Please make checks out to Moravia Altar Society. Thank you.



**St. John the Baptist Flower Donations**

The Christmas flower envelope is in your Offering Box. (It has a space for “memory/honor of your loved ones.”) Please place the envelope in the Collection Basket or give your donation to Patricia Berger or Dianne Roeder.



**St. John Christmas Decorating**

Stay after Mass **TODAY**, December 13! Christmas Decorations will be put up in St. John Church. Do stay to help make our Church more beautiful for Jesus! Be a part of the transformation!

**AREA ACTIVITIES**

**Vysehrad Stew Dinner/Raffle:** St. Mary’s Parish Hall, Sunday, January 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.—\$10 per plate. Raffle Prizes. Purchase tickets at Hoffer’s, Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union and Vysehrad School, or contact any Vysehrad Student or Staff Member.

**MEMORIALS**

**Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church Building Fund**

**In Memory of Betty Stepanek:** Richard & Wilma Schaefer-\$15







# December

The Greatest Gift: *God comes to Us.*

What was the best gift you ever received? Why was it the best? Did you know that Jesus being born on earth was a gift from God? Yes, God's "gift" to us was that through Jesus, God became like us (human), so that He could show us how to live in love, peace, and joy.

This is one of the reasons why Advent/Christmas is so important to us as Christians.

## PRAY

Celebrate the Immaculate Conception by attending Mass on December 8<sup>th</sup>. (It is a Holy Day of Obligation!)

Pray a "Glory Be" prayer every time something doesn't quite go your way.

Pray a prayer of blessing over your Christmas tree. Prayer can be found on USCCB website (usccb.org). Link is also on DOV website.

## EAT

***"Bless us, O Lord! And these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen."***

Enjoy a picnic outside (or inside) this month.

Donate food or money to your local food bank.

Try a new recipe for a weekend meal.

Ask everyone at the table the best part of their day during the meal conversation.

While at the table, discuss what it might have been like on the night Jesus was born... Might it have been cold? Was it dark? Who might have been with Mary & Joseph?

***"We give you thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen. May the Lord grant us His peace. And life everlasting. Amen."***

## PLAY

Consider making a Jesse Tree or adding ornaments to your own tree that reflect the faithfulness of God found throughout the Bible.

Celebrate these December feast days: St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and The Feast of the Holy Family!

Set up an Advent wreath in your home. More details about this can be found on our website.

Make your Christmas decorations Jesus-centered.

For more advent activities, games, & ideas - check out our website!!

### Want More?

Visit our website:

<https://www.victoriadiocese.org/year-of-the-family>

Share pictures of activities using #DOVFamilies



Next Bulletin: Sunday, December 27, 2020

All announcements can be sent by email to the Rectory at [rectory@shcatholicchurch.org](mailto:rectory@shcatholicchurch.org) or can be called in to the Rectory to 361-798-5888.

Any announcements after the due date and time, will be published in the next bulletin, if applicable.

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020