

MAY 3, 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

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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### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 2	6:00 p.m.	Bernice Neskora	Moravia
Sunday	May 3	9:30 a.m.	Ludwig & Adela Dittrich	St. John

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 9	6:00 p.m.	Nerissa Cahal	St. John
Sunday	May 10	9:30 a.m.	Evelyn Barcak	Moravia

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 16	6:00 p.m.	Eddie Vrana	Moravia
Sunday	May 17	9:30 a.m.	Larry Berger & Lebert & Leona Berger	St. John

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### May 3: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-66; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. Through his wounds, we have been healed and have returned to our shepherd. Let us listen for his voice and follow him.

### May 10: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

We are a “chosen race, a royal priesthood” called to place our faith and trust in the Spirit of Jesus who guides the community of faith.

### May 17: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

The people of Samaria come to worship the Lord and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is this same Spirit that leads us into the truth. In the body, Jesus was put to death; in the Spirit, he was raised to life. We are called to this same glory.

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**All Ministry Schedule is on hold until further notice. The Mass is live-streamed on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartCatholicChurchHallettsville> and on the Radio Stations FM 99.9 & FM 94.3**

FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PARISHIONERS

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



**From the Desk of Msgr. John**  
**DIOCESE GUIDELINES FOR GATHERING AT CHURCH AND MASSES**

Parishes can return to celebrating Mass with a Congregation. We need to be careful to follow the safety guidelines proposed by our local officials. Here are some things to consider:

- + **People over the age of 65 should be encouraged to continue participating from home.**
- + **People with a heart condition or diabetes, or have other underlying at-risk conditions, should be encouraged to continue participating from home.**
- + **Dispensation from Sunday obligation to attend in person is extended through May, especially with respect to people who may be considered physically well to attend, yet believe it best to stay at home.**
- + Parishioners should take their temperatures before coming to Mass and should not attend if exhibiting any signs of sickness.
- + Those unable to attend the Mass could make an appointment with the priest to receive communion at the church office during the week or attend Mass during the week.
- + Concerning the celebration of Sunday Mass, consider the following:
  - ❖ Weddings and Funerals are permitted, utilizing size consideration and social distancing protocols.
  - ❖ In order to accommodate social distancing protocols, pastors are to allow in their churches **no more than 25% of the mandated fire code seating capacity of the building.**
  - ❖ Those of the same household can be seated together in a pew.
  - ❖ An usher or team of ushers should be trained to make sure the church doesn't exceed attendance limitations and people follow social distancing protocols.
  - ❖ Ushers/greeters are encouraged to wear gloves and masks, and to open and close doors for parishioners upon their arrival and departure.
  - ❖ Parishioners should be careful not to gather too closely when entering or leaving the church, or stand too close in the communion line.
  - ❖ Priests, usher and parishioners should wear masks.
  - ❖ **Pews should be sanitized thoroughly between Masses. Please bring wipes to clean the seats and pews in front of your row.**
  - ❖ Bathrooms should be sanitized thoroughly between Masses.
  - ❖ Missalettes and hymnals should be removed from the pews and not utilized during sacramental and liturgical celebrations.
  - ❖ Liturgical ministries should be limited in number – possibly celebrating Masses with one altar server and only one lector.
  - ❖ Collection should be done in such a way that no one is required to touch the basket, for example **have the basket at church entrance and ask people to make contributions when entering or exiting.**
  - ❖ Priests and Eucharistic Ministers should wear masks during distribution of communion.
  - ❖ The distribution of Communion is an especially sensitive time. The person receiving communion should be encouraged to receive in the hand. When communion has concluded the presiding priest should combine the consecrated hosts at the Tabernacle.
- \* Pastors can celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for the Catechumens and Candidates at a time when it seems possible to do so safely and with reverence.
- \* Bishops Cahill and Fellhauer have postponed Confirmations through May 18. We will need to consider what to do for re-scheduling.
- \* Parish meetings and gatherings of a smaller size on parish grounds may be resumed, while utilizing established protocols for social distancing and other safety measures.

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill  
Bishop of Victoria in Texas

Issued April 27, 2020

*For St. John the Baptist Church, you will enter through the Front Entrance*  
*For Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia) Church you will enter through Front Entrance.*

**This is experimental for this week. We will see how it goes and see if we need to make any changes**

**MASSES THIS WEEKEND: MAY 2 AND 3, 2020**

Saturday	May 2, 2020	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary
Saturday	May 2, 2020	5:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart
Saturday	May 2, 2020	6:00 p.m.	Ascension of Our Lord (Moravia)
Sunday	May 3, 2020	8:00 a.m.	Sacred Heart
Sunday	May 3, 2020	9:15 a.m.	St. Mary
Sunday	May 3, 2020	9:30 a.m.	St. John the Baptist
Sunday	May 3, 2020	10:30 a.m.	Sacred Heart
Sunday	May 3, 2020	6:00 p.m.	Sacred Heart

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**SEATING FOR CHURCHES**

**Sacred Heart** can seat 140 people at one Mass.

**St. Mary** can seat 75 people at one Mass.

**St. John the Baptist** can seat 40 people at one Mass.

**Ascension of Our Lord** can seat 47 people at one Mass.

**Please come early.**

**If we reach the number and there are still people waiting, you will not be able to come in.**

**You may want to come to the next Mass.**

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**Weekday Masses**

Sacred Heart –(Weekday Masses) Monday-Friday--7:00 a.m. **and** Friday—8:05 a.m. (Friday will have two (2) Masses.

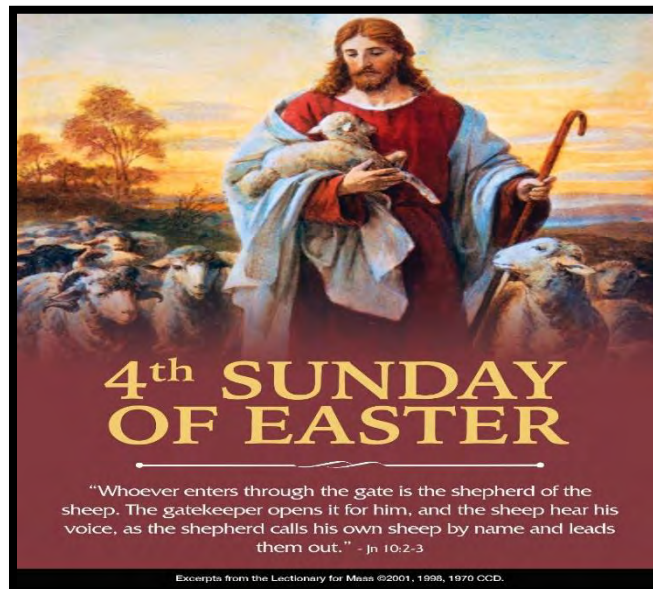
**Confessions**

Sacred Heart – 10:00 a.m.- Saturday

**Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters**

**Rev. Scott J. Hill**

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**ASCENSION CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MAY:** Mary Ann Pratka, Jeanette Chudej

**ASCENSION CHURCH USHERS FOR MAY:** Daniel Steffek, Dale Janak

**ST. JOHN CHURCH CLEANERS FOR MAY:** Lorine Kubenka, Diane Roeder

**ST. JOHN CHURCH USHERS FOR MAY:** Harvey Hermis, Ralph Besetzny

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*Please pray for the Veterans who have served Our Country and have sacrificed and given so much for our freedom.*

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*Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.*

### **PRO-LIFE CORNER—a Tribute to Mothers on Mother's Day**

This Mother's Day, we express our heartfelt thanks to our mothers for their unconditional love and guidance.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The mother is the one supreme asset of national life; she is more important by far than the successful statesman, or business man, or artist, or scientist." Today, mothers continue to play a vital part of our national character. On Mother's Day, we honor the women whose steadfast love and wisdom have made America a great nation.

### **FORTY-CANS OF LENT EXTENDED THROUGH THE END OF MAY**



"**FORTY CANS FOR LENT**", a successful program promoted by the Knights of Columbus Council #2433 will be continued\* for the **2020 Lenten Season Pantry** to help those in need. Drop off your food products at the K of C Hall during business hours or at Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, or Ascension of Our Lord--Moravia Churches. Look for drop boxes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. If giving a check, make it out to the K of C #2433. Praise God for our giving community.

Michael Wick, Chairman

**Please donate only canned goods or non-perishables as stated on available flyers.**

### **GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

©LPi

# Growing in FAITH™

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

May 2020

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

Fr. John G. Peters, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St.

Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.



### Honor Mary

Jesus performed his first public miracle because his Mother asked. He said "no" at first, but his mother asked for help. The Bible is clear—Jesus listens to his Mother.

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6)



## Why does God let us suffer?

When we watch a loved one suffer – or suffer ourselves – hearing "it's God's will," can feel unsatisfying. The implication is that God directs us like chess pieces, and bad things result. In fact, germs, atmospheric conditions, human error, or just plain chance account for what is often outside of our control. It helps to remember that God is always present, he wills our good, and evil is not of his doing.

**God is always present.**

Our Father loves us deeply, cares about our concerns right down to the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). He urges us to respond well to a world we can't control. If we let him, God will enable us to learn and grow

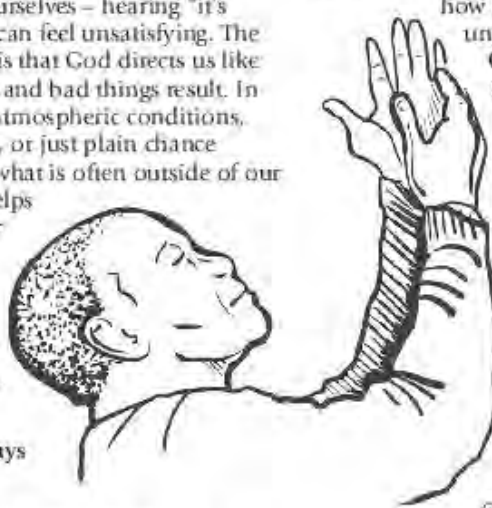
through our experiences, no matter how overwhelming or unpleasant.

**God wills our good.** It is not God's will that we suffer. The ways of the world aren't always in harmony with his will.

However, his plan for us will bring us the ultimate good. He loves us with true love and wants us prepped and ready for Heaven.

**God doesn't make evil.** What we see as evil in the world, God can use for good. When we cooperate with him,

suffering becomes meaningful, struggle worthwhile, victory affirming, and even the acceptance of what we cannot overcome life-giving, as they were for Jesus.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics call Pentecost the "birthday of the Church?"

On the feast of Pentecost, the Apostles were in the Upper Room where they held the Passover with Jesus. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles in the form of wind and fire. "And they were all filled with the Holy

*Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2:4).

Then the Apostles were emboldened and rushed out to preach the Gospel and baptized 3,000 people. We call this the "birthday" of the Church because this is the day when the Holy Spirit made the Church visible to the world.



## Jesus understands

*"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).* It is astounding to think that in his human nature, Jesus experienced fear and suffering, just like we do. Even better, he wants to help.

**Fear.** Early in his life, soldiers hunted him down to kill him. His neighbors threatened him with harm when they didn't like his teaching. He endured a horrific Passion. Jesus coped by relying on prayer, grace, and



confidence in his father's will. He showed us how so we can endure, as well.

**Suffering.** During his crucifixion, Jesus became sick, dehydrated, and exhausted as his body began to shut down. Once on the Cross, it became harder and harder for him to breathe. In fact, throughout his life, Jesus experienced how it feels for a body to fail. He knows how it feels to die. When we are sick and suffering, we can turn to him for a cure, or the grace and strength to accept his will. All we have to do is ask.

### from **S**cripture

#### John 20:19-23, Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit

This Gospel shows us a glimpse of how most of the disciples spent their first Easter Sunday - hiding in fear. They were terrified the Romans would find them and execute them. What if the Resurrection really happened as Mary Magdalene said? What if Jesus came looking for them? Would he punish them for abandoning him when they should have stayed?

Yet, Jesus appeared to them within the locked room and spoke words of peace. He wasn't a ghost; his glorified body wasn't limited by the physical world. He showed them his wounds as



"the living proof" of the Resurrection. Imagine the Apostles' great relief at having their Friend back. Jesus did come looking for them, not in anger, but offering his forgiveness.

Instead of punishing them, Jesus gave them a mission and the Holy Spirit to help them. He said, *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* (John 20:23), establishing the Sacrament of Penance. Having authority to forgive sins, the Apostles and their successors could continue Jesus' work after he returned to Heaven.

### Q & A

#### Why is Mary pictured with a blue mantle?

In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was covered in blue (or "violet") fabric for traveling (Numbers 4:5-6). God's Presence would "rest" on the Ark as a king sits on his throne (Exodus 25:22).

When Mary agreed to be the Mother of Jesus (i.e. God), she became his living "resting place." In art, Mary's blue mantle signals she is the new Ark of the Covenant.

Blue also indicates Mary's royal status. Jesus is the King of Heaven making Mary the Queen Mother. In Biblical times, the mother (not the wife) of the king was the queen. She wasn't as powerful as the king, but her intercession with him had significant influence.

Mary is not God, but her intercessory prayers for us are powerful because she is Jesus' mother. When we consider that Mary is also our mother by grace, her blue mantle invites us to entrust our concerns to her. Rather than an obstacle to Jesus, Mary leads us directly to him by a sure, safe path.



### Feasts & Celebrations

**May 12 - Sts. Nereus and Achilles** (1st century). Not much is known about them, but it is certain they were Roman soldiers under the Emperor Trajan. They converted to Christianity, were exiled from Rome, and eventually martyred.

**May 14 - St. Matthias the Apostle** (1st century). Chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot, St. Matthias is only mentioned once in Scripture, but had accompanied Jesus and the Twelve from the beginning. He spent his life preaching the Good News until his martyrdom.

**May 18 - Pope St. John I** (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while a deacon. His visit to Constantinople restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, he died in prison.

**May 21 - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** (1st century). This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*.)

## CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Let us pray, dearly beloved,  
To God the Father almighty,  
That He may extend His hand in mercy  
To all those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

(Silent Prayer)

Almighty ever-living God,  
Heal those who are ill,  
Grant happy repose to those who have died,  
Comfort those who mourn,  
Give solace to all who are afraid and alone,  
And protect those who are providing medical care.  
Make us instruments of your peace  
Among our brothers and sisters.  
In your mercy, alleviate our fears  
And eliminate this scourge,  
So that we may come together again  
To give you praise and to build your Kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen



## CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System Service—An authentic Language of a Women's Health and Fertility Introductory Sessions

### 2020 Group Introductory Sessions:

May 11	June 22
July 20	August 24
September 21	October 19
November 16	December 14

Mary's House, 300 South Dowling, Hallettsville, Texas

6:00 p.m. or call to make an appointment for a private introductory session.

Lara Haas, FCPI

361-772-1410

Larahaas.fertilitycare@gmail.com

**Our Church directories have been proofed but there is a delay with the printing since the company closed due to the coronavirus. We hope to receive the directories once the company resumes full operation. Thank you for your patience.**

**Next Bulletin: Sunday, May 17, 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, May 11, 2020**