

APRIL 30, 2023

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. JOHN AFFUM

REV. JAMES DVORAK

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

St. John the Baptist Church

Saturday..... 6:00 p.m.
(on 2nd and 4th)
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
(on 1st, 3rd, and 5th)
First Friday8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Hour

Ascension of Our Lord Church

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

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
(Click on “Catholic Cemeteries”)
Safe Environment: 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.....713-501-9860 (cell)
Barbara Appelt832-643-4590 (cell)

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 Guenther979-562-2124
..... 979-562-2328 (work)
.....979-743-0369 (cell)

MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	April 29	6:00 p.m.	Clarence & Evelyn Haas & Larry Kocich	Moravia
Sunday	April 30	9:30 a.m.	Alphonse Besetzny	St. John

First Friday May 5 8:00 a.m. – Followed by Holy Hour – In Thanksgiving St. John

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 6	6:00 p.m.	Melvin Jurica	Moravia
Sunday	May 7	9:30 a.m.	James & Willie Mae Krupala	St. John

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	May 13	6:00 p.m.	Ross, Diane & Devon Goldberg	St. John
Sunday	May 14	9:30 a.m.	Living & Deceased Mothers	Moravia

April 30: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/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 to his voice and follow him.

May 7: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/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 14: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/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 who 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.

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 broadcast on the Radio Stations FM 99.9 & FM 94.3 on Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

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

ASCENSION CHURCH USHERS FOR MAY: Daniel Steffek, Dale Janak

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

MORAVIA PICNIC RAFFLE DONATIONS are being accepted until May 19 for the Moravia Ascension Church Picnic on July 16, 2023. Please contact Arlene Becan at 361-798-0304.

The **ST. JOHN ALTAR SOCIETY SPRING BRUNCH** will be held immediately following Mass on Sunday, May 7. All members are asked to bring a dish and all parishioners are invited to attend. Annual dues will be collected. Please call Ann McBride at 979-561-6261 with questions.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 29 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Brant Redman, Barrett Redman

Sunday, April 30 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Layne Sevcik, Trent Sevcik

Saturday, May 6 – 6:00 p.m. – Moravia – Brant Redman, Barrett Redman

Sunday, May 7 – 9:30 a.m. – St. John – Mary Beth Krischke, Dylan Orsak

Saturday, May 13 – 6:00 p.m. – St. John – Dillon Goedrich, Kullen Kutac

Sunday, May 14 – 9:30 a.m. – Moravia – Alaina Halata, William Halata

From the Desk of Msgr. John

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, fan into flame the gifts
I received in my Baptism and Confirmation.

I want to receive the fire of Your love
as Your disciples did at Pentecost.

Come with wonder and awe,
with wisdom, understanding, and counsel,
with courage and faith in You.

Holy Spirit, may my actions witness
to Your presence in my life.

Help me to see the ways my strengths
can serve others in their weakness.

In all my interactions, I want to radiate
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Breathe new life into the world through me.
Amen.

From the Desk of Msgr. John

A two-night **Parish mini-Mission** is scheduled at Sacred Heart Church for Wednesday and Thursday, **May 3-4** beginning at 7:00 p.m. both evenings. The presenter is Fr. Ken Geraci, a priest of the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Kentucky who presented the “Why Be Catholic?” mission here last August. The subjects for the mission are:

- **Wednesday: Spiritual Warfare.** Confessions will be offered from 6-6:50 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. we will have Eucharistic Exposition and the Mission talk with Benediction to close. Confessions will again be available after the Mission.
- **Thursday: Deliverance & Healing Service** Confessions will be offered from 6-6:50 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. there will be Eucharistic Exposition, a short talk and prayers followed by the Eucharistic Healing Service closing with Benediction.

This event is for the entire family, children too! Please pray for the fruitfulness of our mission.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

CULTURE OF LIFE WITH THE EUCHARIST – “The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world....Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: He is God with us. Seek Him *without tiring*, welcome Him *without reserve*, love Him *without interruption*: today, tomorrow, forever!” [St. Pope John Paul II]

The late Fr. John Hardon, SJ, a holy and gifted priest, used to say, “There is no stopping abortion without the Eucharist.”

Please, consider making a monthly or weekly Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament for the cause of the protection of human life. Offer your reception of Holy Communion for a pregnant woman facing challenging circumstances.

With God’s help, we can create a culture that honors life as the irreplaceable gift that it is!

2023 Moravia Easter Flowers Donations

Arleen Holmes in memory of Dyrel Holmes, August & Rosie Konvicka, J. H. & Rubye Holmes,
Loraine Deem, Franklin Konvicka, Linda Konvicka

The April 16th **WORKDAY AT ST. JOHN** was a big success. Thanks to those who were able to participate:

Andy Besetzny	Ed Kusy	Ernie Otto
Ralph Besetzny	Mike Kusy	Emerson Otto
Scotty Brossman	Garrett Kutac	Olivia Otto
Patrick Chaloupka	Bobby Mendel	Quinten Riche
Harold Kalich	Tony Orsak	Diane Roeder
Eugene Krupala	David Otto	

An enjoyable time was had by all, as we were all blessed with each other's company. **We will have another work day on May 20th**. All are welcome. With questions or concerns please call Ed Kusy at 979-743-5879.

CDA Court #797 – Craft Day – will be Monday, May 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Family Center. **First Friday Fellowship** – will follow worship at the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart on May 5. **Meeting** – will be Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Family Center.

Sacred Heart, Hallettsville **CHRISTIAN MOTHERS** will meet Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Family Center. Refreshments will be served.

A 50th Ordination Anniversary for Msgr. Dennis Darilek will be held Sunday, April 30 at St. Joseph Church in Moulton beginning with Mass at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will follow at the St. Joseph Social Center.

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY GRIEF MINISTRY – Parents of children who have died at any age, please join us for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall at Assumption Catholic Church in Ganado, Texas. Call team member Pat Hoelscher with any questions at 979-257-9984 or phoelscher@victoriadiocese.org.

Area Events:

- **St. Michael's, Weimar** – Spring Festival on Sun., April 30, Veteran's Memorial Park. Fried Chicken and Sausage meal \$12. Dine-in 11:00 a.m., Drive-thru Plates to Go from the St. Michael Family Center, Auction, Music, Bingo, Cake Walk, Kids Games, Car Show, Country Store.
- **Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn** – Mayfest, Sunday, May 7, Mass 10:00 a.m. under the tent, BBQ Pork & Sausage \$14, Drive-thru 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Live & Silent Auctions, Bingo, Music, Games, Country Store, Plant & Cake Wheels.
- **Holy Family, Victoria** – Festival, Sunday, May 7, Pork Steak Dine-in plates only \$12, Hamburgers \$6, Online auction until May 6, Live Auction 12:30 p.m., Raffle, Games

FRIED CHICKEN SUPPER – Home cooked by the Sacred Heart Booster Club: 3 pieces fried chicken, giblet rice, corn, green beans - \$12 per plate, Wednesday, May 3, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the KC Hall. Tickets available at SH School or Rectory or Hoffers Drive-In.

Sacramental Seal

Question:

What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

Answer:

Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal "by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible" (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual "point of no return" whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness. ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

If you had to summarize the essential core of the Christian life, what would it be? Mercy, truth, or love, perhaps? The readings today suggest another word which may surprise you. That word is *priesthood*.

St. Peter says to us, "**You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood...**" To be part of a priesthood is to offer a particular sacrifice in order for the community to survive and thrive. Jesus is the great high priest because he offers the one perfect sacrifice which heals and perfects the entire human race. Peter the Apostle wants us to know that all the baptized share in this priestly ministry. The whole of our lives, including every detail, is meant to become our acceptable offering to God.

The baptized exercise this priesthood in many ways, I'll mention three. At Sunday Mass, in private prayer, and in daily work. At Mass, we offer the sacrifice of our lives with that of the priest, who symbolizes Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a "morning offering" prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings of the day to come. In our daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and energy to do good for others. All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we share in the priesthood which saves the world. That's at the core of our faith.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Next Bulletin: May 14, 2023

All announcements can be sent by email to the Rectory at

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 9, 2023

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

May 2023

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

Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Act in confidence

Jesus does not want us to be troubled by worldly concerns.

"My peace I give you" (John 14:27). When you feel

yourself starting to worry or stew about a difficult situation (or person), act out your belief that your prayer for resolution will be answered. Substitute positive, cheerful thoughts for negative ones. God is in control.



Your Lenten change

Lent is a time when we make changes that bring us closer to God. During Lent, many of us fast from our favorite food or drink, and approach Easter a little lighter in spirit and in body. Don't forget that a Lenten change can continue beyond Easter. Consider continuing your Lenten fast on Fridays throughout the year, or for a week each month, for example. Find ways to make your Lenten change permanent.

Rest and relax

God expects us to be sure to rest. *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).



Welcome all God's children

God loves each of us uniquely and fiercely no matter where we come from or how we look. Those of us who follow Him know that it's not just important to love each other. It's God's law.

Celebrate diversity. Invite foreigners or people who are different from you to your home or church. Jesus was once a foreigner in a strange land and was grateful for the hospitality He received. There is great diversity in the Communion of Saints.

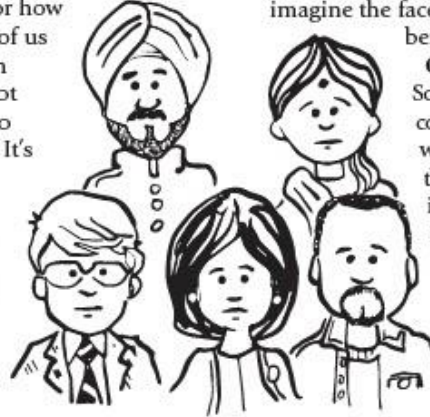
Practice patience. It can be tough to listen to someone with a speech impediment or a heavy accent. Imagine, though, how grateful that

person will be when you offer your attention. Perhaps it would help to imagine the face of Christ in the face before you.

Counsel the ignorant. Someone from another country, background, or with different abilities than yours might behave in what looks like an inconsiderate way out of ignorance or limitations. He might appreciate being informed.

Speak up. Don't stay quiet when you witness prejudice, and be positive about diversity if friends or relatives start criticizing others' faith, cultures or abilities.

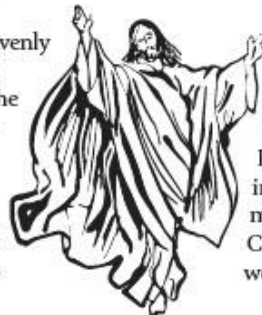
Act with love. The God of love gave of Himself so we could be reunited with Him. We share that love when we assume the best of others and look for the good in all God's children.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the Ascension?

Jesus' Ascension into heavenly glory is good news. Sacred Scripture explains that in the Ascension, Jesus, the High Priest, entered the heavenly temple to pray for us with the Father (Hebrews 9:24). Secondly, from his throne in heaven,

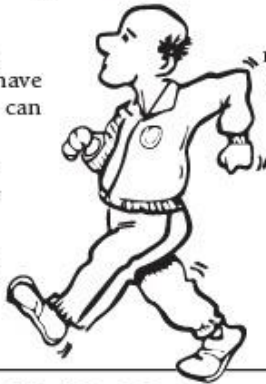


Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, who keeps us connected to Him, especially in the Eucharist. Lastly, since Christ entered into eternal glory, we as the members of His Body, the Church, may hope to follow if we remain faithful to Him.

Take good care of yourself. You belong to God.

Taking care of ourselves can become a low priority in the midst of other obligations. Yet caring for our bodies and minds is a duty we have to God. He needs us strong and healthy so we can help build up His kingdom.

Body: What you put into your body is even more important than what you put on it. Take steps to make your diet healthier and more nourishing. Avoid drugs or excessive alcohol. Doctors urge daily exercise and eight hours of sleep each night.



Mind: Become picky about what you feed your mind, too. What you watch, read, and listen to influences the way you look at the world. Evidence shows that it's hard to regularly watch violent shows or movies and still be a calm and happy person. Programs or movies that portray infidelity or promiscuity as acceptable behaviors eventually dull our sense of sin. Feed your mind positive, Gospel-centered images that will build you up and inspire you. Surround yourself with people who do the same.

from Scripture

John 20:19-23, "Receive the Holy Spirit"

This Gospel passage gives us a glimpse of how the apostles spent their first Easter Sunday – hiding in a locked room. They were terrified the Romans would find them and execute them. To their surprise and great relief, Jesus appeared to them in glory and spoke words of peace. He showed them His glorious wounds as "living proof" of His Resurrection.

Then Jesus gave them a mission: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" establishing the Sacrament of Penance (John 20:23). He gave them the Holy Spirit, anticipating the feast of

Pentecost. Now, having authority to forgive sins, the apostles and their successors could continue

Jesus' work after He returned to heaven.

Jesus' appearance to His apostles reveals the fullness of God's mercy. He also sent the Holy Spirit to them. He descended powerfully on Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. That same

Spirit is gifted to us in Baptism and dwells in our souls. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love to you and help you become more like Christ each day.



Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (1st Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 10 - St. John of Ávila (1569). Born to wealthy, pious parents, St. John left a budding career as a lawyer to become a priest. At the request of his bishop, he worked and preached to renew the faith of Catholics in Andalusia.

May 18 – 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.*

May 25 – St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (1607). Born to a distinguished Florentine family, Catherine de' Pazzi became a Carmelite nun. Upon making vows, she experienced ecstasies, and became a mystic and a healer.



Q & A What is the meaning of the Miraculous Medal?

The Miraculous Medal, given to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830, was designed by the Blessed Mother to teach us three things:

Mary prays for us: The medal's front reads: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.* We don't pray to her; she prays for us! Of course, we can go directly to Jesus anytime. In fact, Mary's role is to bring us to Jesus as swiftly and safely as possible.

Evil can be defeated: Mary is shown crushing Satan's head, recalling the prophecy of his defeat (Genesis 3:15). Mary's humble "yes" to God paved the way for Christ's victory over death, sin, and evil. When we give God our "yes," then Christ's victory bears fruit in our lives.

Grace is always available: St. Catherine asked why only some of the gemstones in Mary's rings radiated light. Her answer? The dim gems symbolize "the graces for which souls forget to ask." God's grace is always available to us. All we have to do is ask.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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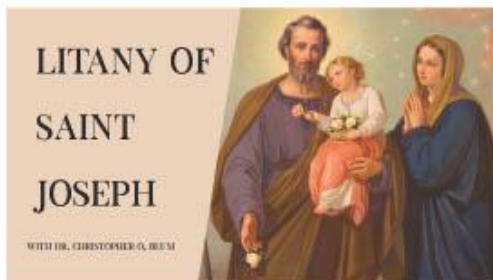
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of April 30, 2023



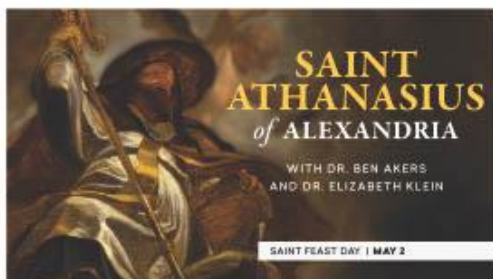
St. Joseph: Old and New (Part 1 of 4)

Join Taylor Kemp and Dr. Ben Akers as they comment on St. Joseph and his importance in the life of the Church. In this episode, they reflect on the Joseph of the Old and New Testament.



Litany of Saint Joseph

Join Dr. Christopher O. Blum as he prays the Litany of St. Joseph, asking for his intercession in your life and the lives of your loved ones.



Saint Athanasius of Alexandria | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they discuss the early Church Father, St. Athanasius. A bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Athanasius is remembered as the great defender of the Nicene Creed. He was exiled five times from his own diocese under four different emperors. A great teacher, his writings are accessible to both beginners and experts in theology, writing works that serve different needs in the Church.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.