

September 13, 2015

Ordinary Time

Twenty-fourth Sunday



The Son of Man Must Suffer

Jesus seems to overturn our expectations. We look for one who will save us from the predicaments in which we find ourselves, and he comes to us as one who seems to be a victim of his own predicament. It is no wonder that we think there must be some mistake.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, September 16

6:00 p.m. For the Welfare of the Parish

Saturday, September 19

4:30 p.m. Adolph Jasek

Sunday, September 20

8:00 a.m. Henry Migl

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 54

Second Reading: James 3:16 -- 4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37



BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for a bible study class after Mass on Wednesdays until 7:30 p.m.

APPRECIATION
DINNER

**Picnic Appreciation Dinner
Sunday, September 27**

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

In Memory of Eugene A. Patalik, Sr.

Eugene A. Patalik, Sr. Family - \$165

Judith & James McCune, Jr., Wetumpka, AL - \$10

(monthly pledge payment)

To make a tax deductible donation towards the restoration project: Restoring Maticka Praha contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 24

"We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection: through him we are saved and made free."

Early in the fourth century St. Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher over the tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

Exaltation
of
the
CROSS

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. To this day the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor

Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief because we have come to understand that Christ used the cross as an instrument of our salvation. To take up our cross is not simply self-sacrifice; but in doing so, we unite ourselves to the sacrifice of Christ on His Cross.

REFLECTION

Dying With Jesus

Jesus seems to overturn our expectations. We look for one who will save us from the predicaments in which we find ourselves, and he comes to us as one who seems to be a victim of his own predicament. It is no wonder that we think there must be some mistake. Even the one who cries out in faith, "You are the Christ," can insist that there person must be rebuked: "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." How does God think? God's thinking seems to be the reverse of ours: Those who save their lives lose them; those who lose their lives save them; the seed must die before it can bear fruit: Jesus will be killed but will then be raised from the dead.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



September 14 – Robin Cerny
September 15 – Alphonse Kubenka
– Helen Schaefer
September 19 – Judie Lev

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



September 14 – Helen & Ernest Chaloupka, Jr.
– Elizabeth & Kyle Koncaba

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

By What Kind of Faith Do We Live?

Today we direct our attention to the figure of the Messiah. There are several messianic traditions, each one characterizing the anointed one of the future in a unique way. The readings show us the diverse expectations of the people and how unexpected Jesus' radical self-proclamation was. Finally, the epistle is a reminder of how far we still are from recognizing the presence of the Messiah in our midst.

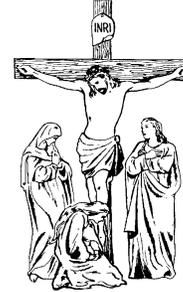
There are so many different understandings of the Messiah, many of them firmly rooted in our religious tradition. This very fact causes much of our misunderstanding. The people of Jesus' time held various views. They expected Jesus to act in a certain way, and they misunderstood him. Can we be so sure that we have the kind of insight they lacked? Can we claim to understand him? Or are we more like the people in James' community" people who profess faith in Jesus but who do not live it out; people who speak pleasant words to others, who say the right things but do not back up their words with good works? Is our faith really living? Do we recognize the Messiah in our midst?

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



**Black & Indian Missions,
Catholic Communications Campaign,
Catholic University of American**
Be generous.

ORIENTATION



Whoever comes to me must deny himself.

Mark's Gospel is written to Christians who are facing persecution and possible martyrdom. Mark is holding Jesus up as a model because Jesus did not choose an extended life on earth over fidelity to his Father's will. Jesus chose the cross. However, the cross did not ultimately lead to death; it led to eternal life.

Here, in today's reading, Jesus is telling the apostles that he must suffer and die. Peter, rather than supporting Jesus on the necessity of suffering, suggests that it isn't necessary. That is the question central to Mark's Gospel. A person who tries to persuade another that suffering is unnecessary is acting as Satan, is tempting the person who must face suffering to be unfaithful. Jesus rejects Peter's temptation in the harshest of terms.

Mark emphasizes the lesson to be drawn from this interchange by having Jesus explain the lesson to both the disciples and the crowd; "*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.*"



Congratulations
Anna & Michael Fishbeck
On your Silver Wedding Anniversary
September 15, 2015

**ST. JOSEPH'S, MOULTON
CHURCH PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY**