

ADVENT

Third Sunday of Advent



Are You The One Who Is To Come or Should We Look For Another?

This is the question John in prison sent his disciples to ask Jesus. Responding to John's disciples, Jesus gave evidence for his works rather than words. Whenever Jesus encountered people, the result was transformation. The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. People are restored to the fullness of humanity – signs of salvation. The evidence abounds. The promised Messiah is here.



Flowers for the Altar this weekend are donated by Robin & Gary Cerny in memory of Annie (Vacek) & Frank Cerny and Anastasia (Migl) & John Stryk.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 17
4:30 p.m. Katherine & John Pokluda
and Allan Wiedemann
Sunday, December 18
8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Joe Machalec
& Charles Patek Family

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
Responsorial Psalm: 24
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Praha Annual Meeting /Christmas Party Today, 2:00 p.m. in the School Chapel.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far	\$5,345.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$2,273.00
Number of Families Who Have Contributed	30
Number of Families Yet to Contribute	46

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

- Nancy & Kirby Farek*
- Beatrice & Rudy Patek*
- Lori & David Janecka*
- Anna & Michael Fishbeck*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. We are close to paying off our debt to the diocese. We are counting on you to make our quota for the year.

St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

- Anonymous Donor - \$1,000*
- In Memory of Louis Stryk*
- Robin & Gary Cerny - \$100*
- Geralyn & Charles Klimitchek - \$20*

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS



The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.

Remember to pray for the following intentions:

- For Our Family*
- In Thanksgiving*
- For Peace In Family*
- For Cathy & Her Family*
- In Memory of Stephen E. Jones*
- For Peace & Direction In My Family*
- For My Brother, Daughter, Sister-in-law*
- For Special Intention of Hank & Betty Lou*
- For The Faith & Hope of My Children To Be Stronger Everyday*
- For Safe Travel for Family & Friends During the Christmas & New Year's Holidays*

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

REFLECTION

Ministry - Cause of Great Joy!

Following his interchange with John's disciples, Jesus made one of the most definitive and audacious statements of his entire ministry. Praising John, he called him, "more than a prophet," saying he was greater than anyone born of woman. At the same time, making a clear distinction between the past and present, Jesus went on to say "the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he." This was not a put down of John but the announcement that something new was happening.

Jesus represented God's definitive intervention in human history. The time of prophecy, the time of waiting has come to an end. From Moses through John, the prophets had talked about God. In Jesus, God had come to dwell among the people. With the culmination of Jesus' life in his death and resurrection, God would be as fully revealed as will ever happen in human history. The least of those who recognize that truth have received a greater revelation than John.

We will find a cause for great joy when we continue the ministry and compassion of Jesus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 13 – Alan Decker
– Frances Kubenka
– Rudy Patek
December 14 – Elaine Hoffman

Jesse Tree in Church

Each year the Jesse Tree appears in Church during the season of Advent. Some wonder what it is all about. The symbols placed on the tree are used to show the lineage of Jesus.

Jesse was the father of the great King David of the Old Testament, so Jesse is often looked upon as the first in the genealogy of Jesus. Ornaments placed on the tree are based on the Bible.

This week reflect on these scripture passages daily.

Dec. 11 *Jesse*: 1 Sam. 16:1-13

Symbols: crimson robe, shepherd's staff

Dec. 12 *David*: 1 Sam. 17:12-51

Symbols: slingshot, 6-pointed star

Dec. 13 *Solomon*: 1 Kings 3:5-14, 16-28

Symbols: scales of justice, temple, two babies and sword

Dec. 14 *Joseph*: Matt. 1:18-25

Symbols: hammer, saw, chisel, angle

Dec. 15 *Mary*: Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Symbols: lily, crown of stars, pierced heart

Dec. 16 *John the Baptist*: Mark 1:1-8

Symbols: shell with water, river

Dec. 17 *Jesus is Wisdom*: Sirach 24:2; Wisdom 8:1

Symbols: oil lamp, open book

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

*Retired Fund for Religious.
Be generous.*

Parish Advent Penance Services



**Moulton - Thursday, December 15,
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Praha – Wednesday, December 21,
5:00-6:00 p.m.**

Come express your desire for holiness by embracing your brokenness. Join us celebrate the Sacrament of

Reconciliation. Come and experience God's mercy.

Gaudete Sunday



This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday* after the Latin word *gaudere*, to rejoice. Rejoicing is the theme of the day. Today's Entrance Antiphon says: **Rejoice in the**

Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near. – Philippians 4:4-5

It reminds us of the tone of joy that permeates the entire Season of Advent. The basis of our joy is this: "THE LORD IS NEAR". The use of rose vestments and the rose candle on the Advent Wreath underlies this day's special character. It expresses our joy at the Lord's coming.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Dec. 11 - K.J.Z.T. #4 Meeting / Christmas Party

Dec. 15 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

**Dec. 21 – Parish Penance Service, Praha
– Christmas Social, Praha**

**Dec. 24 & 25 – Annual Christmas Collection for
the Poor and Needy**



Parish Christmas Social

Everyone is invited to the school after the Advent Confessions for food and fellowship. Parishioners are asked to bring Christmas Cookies/Dessert. All are welcome.

Christmas Altar Flowers Needed

You are encouraged to make a donation. Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in church.

Christmas Cookies For The Homebound

Pat Masek and Fr. Gabriel will visit the homebound of the Parish on Wednesday, December 14.

Need a stocking stuffer or Christmas Gift? Praha Cookbooks make wonderful Christmas gifts. Contact Kathleen Svatek after church or call at 214-280-7828.