

January 15, 2017

Ordinary Time

Second Sunday



“Behold the Lamb of God”

There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus.

Today, as we return to the beginning of Our Lord’s public ministry we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen One of God. John the Baptist is baptizing people. Jesus is baptized. John witnesses the descent of the Spirit on Him. Later John sees Jesus and calls him the “Lamb of God”, and then directs his disciples to follow Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, January 21
4:30 p.m. Mary Ann Janacek
Sunday, January 22
8:00 a.m. Paul Vrazel

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23—9:3
Responsorial Psalm: 27
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Frances Anderle and Julia Stryk.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thanks to all the ladies that baked the cookies I had gotten for Christmas. They were very good and I appreciated them.

Happy New Year!
Thanks again!

Earlene O'Brien

St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Matıcka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Melvin Hutzler, Bulverde, TX - \$200
(Pledged Payment)

In Memory of Jim Masek
Pat Masek - \$25

Mary Jasek & Family - \$100

Mrs. Jim Masek & Family - \$295

We received the follow note from Mrs. Masek:

Father Gabriel,

The family of Jim Masek wants to thank you for letting us have the funeral service in St. Mary’s Church in Praha.

The organist and choir didn’t want anything, but they said to make a donation to the church. Enclosed is a donation in their honor.

We thank you and may God bless you and the organist and choir.

Mrs. Jim Masek and Family

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

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – JANUARY 18-25

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18, and concludes on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. This year’s theme is *Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us* (cf 2 Corinthians 5:14-20). This biblical text emphasizes that reconciliation is a gift from God, intended for the entire creation. As a result of God’s action, those who have been reconciled in Christ are called in turn to proclaim this reconciliation in word and deed. Throughout 2017, join Christians everywhere in praying “for the full unity which is Christ’s will.”

Prayer

We give thanks, O God, for you bless the Church with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Help us support one another, to be respectful of our differences and to work for the unity of all those throughout the world who call upon Jesus as Lord. Help us by your grace to continue praying the prayer of your Son that we may be one, that we may draw even closer together and recognize our unity is that of Yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

REFLECTION



Called to Discipleship

Ordinary Time is ushered in with a meditation on the call to discipleship. This call is not reserved for a select few. It accompanied our baptismal commitment and is issued to all of us. Discipleship is not something we take upon ourselves. It is an invitation from God. It might come to us in the form of an inner call, or an inspiration. It can come during some religious event, or even when we are out with friends. The ordinariness of the occasion sometimes deceives us. If we are attentive to the promptings of our heart we will be given the insight to recognize what is really happening; that we are being called by God.

This call to discipleship is a call to radical transformation. We hear the call and we stand open to what God asks of us. The invitation introduces us to a new way of life. We no longer belong solely to ourselves. We belong to the body of Christ. We are part of the mission of Christ.

Today, we rejoice in the fact of having been called to follow Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 17 – Elizabeth Janak
January 21 – Marcus Jasek
– Mary Ann Lev

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 My Family

For Special Intentions

For Improving Health for Julia Stryk

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 16: The federal holiday reminds us of Dr. King's achievements and of our continuing moral obligation to build a more just society.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Church In Latin America

Your contribution educates priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders; assists missionaries; trains catechists and supports the Church's work with the poor. Please be generous.

ORDINARY TIME - WINTER

2nd – 8th Sundays of Ordinary Time

Each year of the three-year Liturgical Cycle, (A, B, C) is dedicated to one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This year, Cycle A, is always associated with Matthew's Gospel. It has been called the first Gospel, as well as the Gospel of the Church. Exposure to the mind and message of Matthew's Gospel is a fitting way to begin our new year of Grace.

Since Easter is relatively late this year (April 16), Ash Wednesday falls on March 1. This will give us more time than usual to prepare for Lent.

The Lectionary

The First Readings come from a variety of sources, somehow related to the theme of covenant, the intimate relationship initiated by God that binds God to the people in both love and responsibility. The unfaithfulness of the people put the existence of the covenant in jeopardy, but another chance was given. The people are promised survival not because they deserve it but because God is faithful to covenant promises. Having been shown compassion by their God, in their turn they are called to attend to the needs of others, to live in obedience to the commandments, and to love their covenant companions as God loves them.

The Psalms are appropriate to the covenantal sentiments expressed in the First Readings.

The Second Readings are drawn from Chapters 1 through 4 of 1 Corinthians in which Paul focuses on the disorders that had arisen in this young Christian community. The Christians are following the world's practice of pitting one person against another rather than adhering to the gospel's injunction to communal unity. Because God's wisdom is so different from the wisdom of the world, only those who mature in faith will understand or even recognize it. Paul returns to the internal rivalry that precipitated the letter in the first place, and exhorts the Corinthians to preserve the unity that is theirs because the Spirit of God lives in them as in the temple.

The Gospel Readings with a few exceptions are taken from the Matthew's Sermon on the Mount – the long instruction Jesus directed to his disciples rather than to the crowds. In it he sketches the manner of behavior required of those who enter the reign of heaven. This includes the Beatitudes as well as Jesus' own interpretation of earlier Jewish traditions. It is clear he is asking more than the Law dictates. He insists on total commitment, not mere external conformity of superficial adherence.