

December 10, 2017

## ADVENT

### Second Sunday of Advent



#### Shaken To Advent Awareness

On this Second Sunday of Advent the sacred texts proclaimed in our hearing speak a message intended to shake us into a renewed awareness of God's coming into our lives. We are reminded the coming of God in Jesus will demand that crooked ways of sin be made straight and that the rough places in our lives be shaken into smoothness. The prospect of Jesus' coming should shake us also with the realization of our need for penance and prayer, with a renewed resolve toward holy conduct and devotion.

#### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 16  
2:00 p.m. Florus – Janecka Wedding  
4:30 p.m. Anton Stryk  
Sunday, December 17  
8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Joe Machalec & Charles Patek Families

#### Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### Parish Advent Penance Services



**Moulton - Tuesday, December 12,**  
5:00 p.m. - ??  
**Praha – Wednesday, December 13,**  
4:30 p.m. - ??

Join other parishioners at the Penance Service. A good opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. *See insert.*

#### 2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment ..... \$7,670.00  
Contributions So Far ..... \$ 5,055.00  
Amount Yet to be Contributed ..... \$ 2,615.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Anonymous Donor* Pat Masek  
*Ernest Chaloupka, Jr.* Julia Stryk  
*Anna & Michael Fishbeck* Georgia Cerny  
*Rosemary & Arthur Klekar* Melvin Hutzler

*We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous donations we should be able to pay off the remaining debt to the bishop before year's end. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund so far to do their part.*

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Stephen Vrana, Houston, TX - \$50*  
*Carolyn & Eugene Patalik Jr. - \$30*  
*Clarice Marik Snokhous, Houston, TX - \$100*  
*Ruth & Clarence Metzger, Houston, TX - \$100*  
*Linda Wiedemann Moreno, Houston, TX - \$25*  
*Grace & Roger Howard, San Antonio, TX - \$50*  
*Sandra & Francisco Ceniseros, Rowlett, TX - \$50*  
*Frances & Roy Hargrove, New Braunfels, TX - \$50*  
*Rose Marie & Charlie Michna, Schulenburg, TX - \$100*  
  
*In Memory of The Parma & Bily Families - \$100*  
*Patty & Chris Parma, San Antonio, TX*

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

#### Czech Christmas Mass Concert

The Czech Christmas Mass Concert last Sunday was well received by many. Approximately 200 people attended the concert. In attendance was Mr. Zdeněk Beránek, Deputy Head of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C. and other dignitaries.

We thank the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas in partnership with the College of Music at the University of North Texas for sponsoring the event. We also thank Lori Janecka and her family for decorating/coordinating the reception and all those who donated desserts for the reception after the concert. Many are already asking if we will have it again next year.

#### WEDDING BANNES

Brianna Lyn Florus & Hank Joseph Janecka



## REFLECTION

### *Our God Who Comes To Save Us*

John the Baptist, like his predecessors made his announcement to people who were struggling to maintain the hope that God would hear their prayer and send them a savior. His contemporaries had a great spiritual hunger. Despite the harshness of his call to repentance, they flocked to him, acknowledged their sins and were baptized. John's camel-hair clothing and leather belt identified him as a prophet. John's diet underscored the two-edged nature of his message as well as the good news that Jesus would bring. Those who accepted the Gospel of Salvation in faith would know blessings (signified by the honey); those who did not were planting the seeds of their own destruction (symbolized by the locusts).

John's voice speaks of making preparations for one who is not only greater than he, but is greater than even the emperor. He is the Lord whose way is prepared not with stones that pave a new road, but with hearts whose faith has created a welcome for him. Hearts that have turned from all else to God – this is the welcome that will receive the One who comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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

## 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 Strength*  
*For Our Mom*  
*For My Prayer*  
*For Mom & Dad*  
*For World Peace*  
*For Theresa Laing – Health*  
*For A Child For Jon & Sandy*  
*For My Sister, Alicia Austria*  
*Say A Prayer For My Family*  
*For Brother Victor James Holland*  
*For Ruben Velasquez, Justine Velasquez*  
*For Laura Saucedo And All The Family: Went To Be With The Lord Today*  
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

### *Retired Fund for Religious*

The annual appeal for Retired Religious raises funds for aged nuns who served ministering to the needs of others for many years.

**Note:** Sisters taught in St. Mary's Church School here in Praha for free for many years.

***Be generous.***

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



### **Advent Transforms Us**

***The Season Sharpens Our Waiting,  
Deepens Our Hope***

The Season is a new time for us to wait for God's entry into our world. This is the cause for celebrations and the Church invites us to make adequate preparation to mark the event.

***Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight his path. (Mark 1:2-3)***

### **Advent / Christmas Schedule**

***Today – St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Christmas Party***  
***Dec. 12 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton***  
***Dec. 13 – Parish Penance Service, Praha***  
***Dec. 24 & 25 – Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor and Needy***

**St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Annual Meeting/Christmas Party, today, December 10, 2:00 p.m.** in the School Chapel. All members and their families are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

**Christmas Altar Flowers Needed:** You are encouraged to make a donation. Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in church.

**Christmas Cookies For The Homebound:** Look out for more details.

**Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor:** A Special Collection for the Poor will be taken up at all the Christmas Masses. You may use the attached envelope for this purpose. Drop the envelope in the collection basket or mail any time during the month of December.

**Need a stocking stuffer or Christmas Gift?** Praha Cookbooks make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you are in need of a cookbook or 2, please contact Kathleen Svatek after church or call at 214-280-7828.