

September 2, 2018

## Ordinary Time

Twenty-second Sunday



### Authentic Holiness

**The readings of today warn us against sinking into that place of disconnectedness called hypocrisy and urges us toward integrity and authenticity of life. To guard against this emptiness, requires a daily reconnection with God through Jesus.**



**Altar Flowers bookings available:  
September 8-9, 15-16 & 22-23.**

Contact the Parish Office or Lori Janecka.

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, September 8

4:30 p.m. Cecelia "Sissy" Hajek

Sunday, September 9

8:00 a.m. Henry Joe Henke, Jr.

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



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

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146**

**Second Reading: James 2:1-5**

**Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

### PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – TODAY



#### ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

*Come out and join us today, September 2, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. It brings our community together for fellowship. A free will donation is appreciated.*

### LADIES MINI RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 22

The Catholic Daughters #2570 of Flatonia will host a Ladies Spiritual Mini-Retreat with Sister Digna Vela of Victoria. Title is "**Living Contemplatively in a Busy, Hectic World!**" The day will begin with a breakfast buffet at 8:30 a.m. with the presentation to follow from 9:00 a.m. to noon. No charge for retreat or breakfast, but free will donation accepted. It is open to ladies of the parish from Praha, Cistern, Flatonia and surrounding CDA courts. Bring your Bibles. A signup sheet is in back of the church. Contact Kathleen Svatek at 214-280-7828 for more information.

*Please join us for Prayer, Learning, and Fellowship.*

Deadline to sign up is Wed. Sept. 12.

### ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Emil Lev*

*Robin & Bill Haenel*

*Shanna & Blake Dickie*

*Debbie & Michael Russell*

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*We finally return to Mark's gospel after our sojourn through John's sixth chapter. We left Mark at his version of the story of the miracle of loaves. We resume today as Jesus continues his mission: Pharisees and scribes pick on Jesus' disciples for their table manners. Jesus blasts the religious leaders for paying more attention to human rules than to divine ones. It is the evil within that makes us unclean.*

*Today's three readings bring up one of the most vexing issues of our faith. Just what religious rules and regulations does God demand we keep, and which ones can we discard? Is it possible that some of our most fervently kept laws don't come from God? This was especially brought front and center in a mid-1960s poll of American Catholics. The Catholics were asked just one question: "Which is the more important law: love of neighbor or not eating meat on Friday?" The majority responded, "Not eating meat on Friday."*

*Over the centuries, many of us were led to believe the religious rules came directly from God. But now we're not too certain. Are there no limits? Just what can we change and what can't we change? And how do we know?*

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Gary Greive.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



September 2 – Sireta Michalak

September 4 – Bryn Stryk

September 7 – Dennis Mican

September 8 – Hilary Grahmann

– Kolbe Ray Hutzler

## REFLECTION

### *Motives of the Heart*

In today's gospel the Pharisees and scribes challenge Jesus, asking why his disciples don't follow the practices that have been handed on regarding ritual washing. The roots of these practices are found in Exodus 30:19; 40:12. They concern the custom of priests to wash their hands and feet before entering into the tent of meeting. By the second century BC some Jews who were not priests had voluntarily assumed the practice of ritual washing of hands before Morning Prayer and before eating. In the gospel washing extends also to the utensils for preparing the meal and to the purification of the dining couch. The Pharisees seem to presume these should be universal practices. But such observances would have been nearly impossible for peasant farmers, fishermen, and itinerants such as Jesus, given the scarcity of water and contact with dead fish and other pollutants. This "tradition of the elders" (v. w) would have been largely defined and maintained by urban elites.

In response to the Pharisees, Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah, exposing the disconnection between lip service and motivations of the heart. It is not only that Jesus' opponents have forgotten the true motivation for their religious practices; they have substituted humanly contrived practices for God's commandments. Jesus points toward examination of our inner motives. Our practices must flow from and reflect our profound experience of God's love and care.

It can happen, however, that originally good practices deteriorate over time into meaningless customs, or, worse yet, into showy external observance. It is good to periodically examine our religious practices, assessing how well they embody God's love and how they impel us toward greater love of one another.

It is important to recognize the ways in which the heart can stray, as the ending of today's gospel emphasizes. The enumeration of vices is a typical teaching device used by philosophers (see also Rom. 1:29-41, Gal. 5:9-21). Jesus warns that it is not external observance or lack of it that determines one's relationship with God but a heart that is ever being transformed by the love of God and neighbor, which then becomes visible in concrete acts.

### Praying With Scripture

1. Invite Jesus to help you conduct an inventory of your heart. What are your motivations for the religious practices you have embraced?
2. How does his love in your heart express itself in action on behalf of the most vulnerable? – Barbara E. Reid

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



September 5 – Judith & James Kubecka

## 2017 Praha Picnic Raffle Winners List

1. \$2200 HEB Gift Cert. - Ray Novak, East Bernard
2. \$1000 Gift Card - Joyce Kobza, Schulenburg
3. \$1000 Gift Card - Heather Kalina, Spring Branch
4. \$1000 Gift Card - Annette Howard, Victoria
5. \$750 Gift Card - Gary Miller, Alleyton
6. \$500 HEB Gift Cert. - Darlene Bartek, Austin
7. \$500 Gift Card - Travis Bollom,
8. **\$400 Gift Card - Ken Stryk, Praha**
9. \$300 Gift Card - Debra Barrientos, San Antonio
10. **\$250 Gift Card - Matt Cerny, Moulton**
11. \$200 HEB Gift Cert. - Patricia Parma, San Antonio
12. \$200 HEB Gift Cert.- Joe & Debra Neskora, Moulton
13. \$200 Gift Card - Lisa Hajek, Bellville
14. \$200 Gift Card - Justin Hutzler, Ft. Worth
15. \$200 Gift Card - Carl Taylor, Flatonia
16. \$200 Gift Card - Lois Vincek, Beasley
17. \$200 Gift Card - Linda Williams, Tomball
18. \$200 Gift Card - Everett Jalufka, Moulton
19. \$200 Gift Card - Andy Kuba, Rosenberg
20. 10 Qt. Fryer/ 5 Gal. Propane Cylinder - Tiffany Simper, Live Oak
21. **\$100 Gift Card - Allen Cerny, Praha**
22. **\$100 Gift Card - Daniel Cerny, Praha**
23. \$100 Macker's Sausage & Process. Gift Cert.-Shirley Lanni, Flatonia
24. \$100 Oak Ridge Smokehouse Gift Cert.- Sandra Opersteny, Marlin
25. 2018 American Eagle Silver Dollar - Donna Masek, Flatonia
26. \$100 Patek Grocery Gift Cert. -Wanda Doubrava, Weimar
27. \$100 Gift Card - Mary Ann Owen, Moulton
28. \$100 Gift Card - Bobby Fajkus, Victoria
29. \$100 Gift Card - Melvin Dierschke, Sealy
30. \$100 Gift Card - Bubba Olle, Schulenburg
31. \$75 Parker Lumber Co. Gift Cert.- Alvin Kocian, Moulton
32. \$75 Floy Farm Interior Design Gift Cert.- Julius Hutzler, Melissa
33. \$50 Werner's 594 Grill Gift Cert.-Daniel Smolik, Moulton
34. \$50 Gift Basket - Will Lawrence, Moulton
35. \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Cert.- Kasen Kurtz, Richmond
36. \$50 Gift Card - Megan Meier, Brenham
37. \$50 Brookshire Bros. Gift Cert.- Debra Barrientos, San Antonio
38. \$50 Gift Card - Michael Lockstedt, Houston
39. \$50 Gift Card - Shannon Simper, Moulton
40. \$50 Flatonia Veterinary Clinic Gift Cert.- Ed Baca, Houston
41. \$50 Gift Card - Larry Mican, Sweet Home
42. \$50 O'Reilly Auto Parts Gift Cert.- Scoute Kalina, Spring Branch
43. \$50 Gift Card - Carol Brune, New Ulm
44. \$30 Gift Card - Tracy Olivarez, Columbus
45. 2018 American Eagle Silver Dollar - Danny Hensley
46. \$25 Olde Town Tea Room Gift Cert.- Jeff Masek, Houston
47. \$25 Arlan's Market Gift Certificate - Karen Janak, Flatonia
48. \$25 Robert's Steakhouse Gift Certificate - Betty Petras, Gonzales
49. \$25 Macker's Sausage & Processing Gift Cert.- Gail Smith, Austin
50. \$25 Diane's Diner Gift Cert.- Mike Steinhauer, Flatonia
51. \$25 Moravia Store Gift Cert.- Gene Chumchal, Yoakum
52. Wink's Tech Solutions Gift Cert. (Any iPhone Case In Stock) - Dennis Koehler, Adkins

*Thanks to all who donated cash, goods & services as Raffle Prizes and to those who purchased Tickets. Special thanks to Melvin Hutzler for donating \$2200 in Raffle Prize money.*

## Moulton Church Picnic September 16

*Look Out For More Details.*