

December 2, 2018

Advent

First Sunday of Advent

The Advent Way of Life



The readings for this First Sunday of Advent contain a number of promises, all pointing to the same reality, namely, peace and fulfillment. What is expected of those who receive the promises? – An Advent way of life exhorts us to *wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ*. This way of life requires us to live the usual unusually well. It informs the attitudes that color our judgments and motivations.



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

MASS INTENTIONS



Friday, December 7

5:00 p.m. Stazy Hajek

Saturday, December 8

4:30 p.m. Mary Ann & Emil Lev

Sunday, December 9

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

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Emil Lev.



2018 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2018 Assessment \$7,761.00
Contributions So Far \$ 5,598.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 2,163.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Anonymous Donor

Pamela & Nathan Vrazel

**Our D.S.A. quote is to be paid no later
than the end of the year.**

Do please consider making a donation.

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



We thank the following for their recent contribution:

Space City T's (Model T Club), Houston, TX - \$475

In Memory of Stazy Hajek

Helen Schaefer - \$25

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

DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

The Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. She was in a state of grace sharing in God's own life.

Mass Schedule

Vigil Dec. 7 – 5:00 p.m., Praha

– 6:30 p.m., Moulton

Mass of the Day, Dec. 8 – 6:30 a.m., Moulton

Copies of *The Workbook for Lectors* and *At Home With the Word* are available at the main entrance of the Church. To order a copy for yourself call 800-933-1800.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Those who wish to make a donation toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the Church could do so in memory of, or in honor of their loved ones.

Christmas Flower envelope attached.

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Christmas Party and short meeting Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m. Members and their families are invited to attend.

**Remember the sick in your prayers this week,
especially Joyce Janecka and Cindy Masek.**

REFLECTION

The Comings of the Christ

With the Season of Advent, a new liturgical year begins, and we are called to look back with gratitude on all that has been and forward with hope to what will be. In looking back, we are to ponder on the towering miracle of God's visit to this planet.

Born of Mary from the line of David, God has come to us in Jesus, the "just shoot" celebrated by Jeremiah (first reading). Through his words and works, Jesus has established God's justice on earth. All who believe and are bound to God in love and hope are also bound to one another. Those so bound, insists Paul, are to increase in love for one another and for all people, and to conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner that honors God and God's greatest gift to humankind, Jesus.

Our rejoicing in the fact that God has actually been here is half the meaning of Advent. The other half focuses our attention on the second coming of Christ, which is described in today's Gospel; although the language is symbolic and quite picturesque, it instills in us a sense of the suddenness of the end. When Christ appears with the power and glory, the human experiment will end, illusion will give way to reality, the temporary will disappear before the permanent and the king will be seen for who he is. We, for our part, are to be vigilant at all times and pray for strength. Our annual remembrance of the Incarnation celebrates God's desire to become immersed in every aspect of our lives. To do justice to this great gift, we are also to immerse ourselves in the world. There we will find Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 3 – Deloris Smolik
December 6 – Colten Cerny



Congratulations
Dianne & Richard Niemann
on your Golden Wedding Anniversary
December 7, 2018

Czech Advent/Christmas Concert Today At 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Thomas Sovik, Professor of Music Theory in the College of Music at the University of North Texas, and his students will perform *Giovanni Pergolesi Stabat Mater*. Following will be a Christmas sermon in Czech, traditional Czech Christmas songs and a social reception in the School.

* *There is no charge to attend the Concert. A free-will offering will be taken up at the Concert for the St. Mary's, Praha Church Restoration Fund.*

Overview of the Season of Advent

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

In all three cycles of the lectionary there is a special focus for each of the four Sundays, beginning with a gospel of the Lord's return on the first Sunday, John the Baptist on the second and third Sundays and the beginning of the infancy narrative on the fourth Sunday. This year, Cycle C, St. Luke's gospel is proclaimed for all four Sundays of Advent. The outline of the gospel readings looks like this:

First Sunday - *The return of the Lord.*

Second Sunday – *John the Baptist, a call to conversion.*

Third Sunday – *The relationship of John to Jesus.*

Fourth Sunday – *Mary and the events immediately preceding Christ's birth.*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Dec. 2 – Czech Advent/Christmas Concert

**Dec. 5 – Community Advent/Christmas Concert,
Moulton**

Dec. 9 – K.J.Z.T. Meeting/Christmas Party

Dec. 10 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

Dec. 11 – Penance Service, Hallettsville

Dec. 12 – Parish Penance Service, Praha

Dec. 13 – Penance Service, Shiner

Dec. 14 – Penance Service, Yoakum

Advent/Christmas Decorations in Church: We thank Lori Janecka for decorating the Church so beautifully for the Advent/Christmas season and Robin Cerny for helping.

Christmas Cookies for The Homebound: Contact Pat Masek if you can help make some homemade Christmas Cookies to be delivered to the homebound.

Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor: A Special Collection for the Poor will be taken up at all the Christmas Masses.

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.

R.I.P.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Mariella Lemon and for the comfort of her loved ones. Mariella is the daughter of Leona Herzik. *Funeral arrangements pending.*