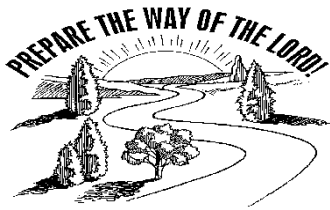


December 9, 2018

Advent

Second Sunday of Advent



The Promise of Transformation

John the Baptist occupies center stage today. The preaching of John opens up a possibility of newness through repentance, the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Today's readings are filled with examples of changes that indicate such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendor of glory from God: every lofty mountain made low, valleys are filled, the way of God is made straight. This is the promise made to us today. As believers who continue to await Jesus' second coming, it is time to open ourselves so that God can accomplish his saving work among us. *Prepare the way! Make straight his paths!*

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 15
4:30 p.m. The Deceased of the Frank & Sophie (Jasek) Olsovsky Family
Sunday, December 16
8:00 a.m. Annie Bartos

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: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Stazy Hajek.



Parish Advent Penance Services



Moulton – Monday, December 10, 5:30 p.m.
Praha – Wednesday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.

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

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
See Bulletin Insert

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 all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund so far to do their part so we can pay off our debt by year's end.

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



We thank the following for their recent contribution:

In Memory of Stazy Hajek
Esther & Edward Brautigam - \$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.

Czech Advent/Christmas Concert Update

The concert was well received. We thank Dr. Thomas



Sovik, Professor of Music Theory in the College of Music at the University of North Texas and his students for their performance; the University for sponsoring the event; and Fr. Jaroslavi Krivanek, a Hussite priest

from the Czech Republic for delivering a Christmas sermon in Czech and English. Special thanks to Randy Barta for once again coordinating the event and to Lori Janecka and Robin Cerny for organizing the social after the concert. Thanks also to the parishioners for providing desserts.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Cindy Masek.

REFLECTION

God Speaks Anew

In Advent we focus on two events: we put ourselves in the time of preparation for the first coming of Christ, and we kindle anew our expectation for his second coming. The second coming had been in the forefront of our attention on the last few Sundays of the Church year and especially on the First Sunday of Advent. Then, from the Second Sunday of Advent on, the first coming moves to the front of the stage; yet, the second coming is not ignored altogether, as the second reading shows. The importance of Advent expectation for God to act lies in the fact that human beings cannot produce their own salvation. The resources for salvation do not lie within the possibilities of humans, they can only come from outside. The recognition of God's active presence in our lives presumes that we are at a loss to save ourselves. So the **Prayer over the Offerings** allows for a plea for help when it says, **Come, we pray, to our rescue** with the protection of your mercy. In a way, such a petition at the altar of God positions us precisely within sight of a restored Jerusalem, *rejoicing that we are remembered by God.* God is among us Emmanuel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 9 – Jason Jackson
December 13 – Alan Decker
– Frances Kubenka
– Rudy Patek
December 14 – Elaine Hoffman



St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Christmas Party/Meeting Today, December 9, 2:00 p.m. Members and their families are invited to attend.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Retired Fund for Religious

The annual appeal for Retired Religious raises funds for aged nuns in need who ministered to the needs of so many all over the country for years.

Please be generous.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



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

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

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. 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.

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 Fabian C.
For Shannon T.
For Mom & Dad
To Heal My Left Knee
For The Family of Julie Harris
For Peace Among All People On Earth
For Lester Hoepfl & Family, For Larry Seifert
For Healing & Strength For The Kocurek Family
For Christina & Simon's Love, Faith & Health
Blessings For A Successful Medical Procedure
For The Souls of Antonia M. & Johnny A. Knapek
For Fr. Stuart, Ladonna, Linda, Kids & Grandkids
For Denise - Back & Hip, For Cole That He Is Fine
For My Family & That I Get Into LVN Program in 2019
Prayer For Those Suffering With Depression & Anxiety
For Baby Olivia, - That She Is Fine & Starts To Walk & Talk

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued