

December 16, 2018

# Advent

## Third Sunday of Advent



### What Should We Do?

This question appears three times in today's Gospel. The question reflects the questioner's desire and readiness to do something, to enter into a relationship with the Coming One. To the crowds who asked, as well as to the soldiers and tax collectors, John's answers stood as challenges to conversion such that they would no longer live solely for themselves but for others and for God.

This question should be on the lips of those who are eager to be renewed in the Spirit and mind of the coming Christ.

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 22  
4:30 p.m. Hayden Garrett Hummel and  
Sylvia & Fred Holub  
Sunday, December 23  
8:00 a.m. George Cerny

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



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

**First Reading:** Micah 5:1-4a  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 80  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45

The Sanctuary Light  
will be lit this week  
in thanksgiving to God.



### 2018 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2018 Assessment ..... \$7,761.00  
Contributions So Far ..... \$ 6,287.00  
Amount Yet to be Contributed ..... \$ 1,474.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

- Pat Masek*
- Ollie Pospisil*
- Melvin Hutzler*
- Timothy Pospisil*
- Carol & Randy Barta*
- Anna & Michael Fishbeck*
- Rosemary & Arthur Klekar*
- Elyse & Eugene Chaloupka*

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:

- Fr. Lambert Bily, San Antonio, TX - \$200*
- In Memory of Agnes & Louis Gaddy - \$1,000*
- In Memory of Wilma & O.A. Cielencki - \$1,000*
- Sallye & Scott Cielencki, Katy, 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.

### ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Mariella Lemon*  
*Georgia Cerny*



The Annual Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge will be celebrated by Bishop Cahill on December 28. A Rosary will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by Christmas carols, with Mass at 11:00 a.m. Refreshments will follow. For more information, phone 361-258-1514, or visit [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org).

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

## REFLECTION

### We Proceed In Joy

John the Baptizer came preaching with great enthusiasm; his was good news and his excitement about the coming Christ was so contagious that it evoked in his listeners a willingness to be taught. "What should we do?" asked the crowds. In response, John set forth a program of conversion that would create disciples for Jesus. His responses were aimed at the injustices and inequities that he and Jesus' Gospel were to address.

Despite the element of urgency and the references to the coming separation of good from bad, wheat from chaff, these words of warning are accompanied by promises that repentance will be met with forgiveness. Our conviction of God's presence empowers us to be joyful with the very joy of God. It allows us to stop worrying and being anxious and to look ahead to the day when we will be content to live in God's presence forever.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 18 – Mary Jasek

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



December 22 – Virginia & Dennis Olsovsky

## 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:z

*For Ken Campbell*

*For Jerry & Mary*

*For Justine Velazquez*

*For Ruben Velasquez*

*For Alice & Leroy K.*

*For Family & Friends*

*For Bryn – College Days*

*For The Eugene Snoga Family*

*For Mary – Give Her Strength*

*That Our Son Gets Home Safely*

*To Be Happy Together For Long*

*For All Those Suffering From Depression*

*Prayers For Philip & Louis Kaczmarek, Sr.*

*For Joseph Burkholder (premie), Dannette, Dave*

*For The Soul of Ron Cronen, For A New Married Life*

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD

### Gaudete! Rejoice!

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday* after the Latin word *gaudere*, to rejoice. Rejoicing is the theme of the day. Today's Entrance Antiphon says:



*Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I say, Rejoice.*

*Indeed the Lord is near.*

– Philippians 4:4-5

It reminds us of the tone of joy that permeates the entire Season of Advent. The basis of our joy is this: "THE LORD IS NEAR". The use of rose vestments and the rose candle on the Advent Wreath underlies this day's special character. It expresses our joy.

### Advent / Christmas Schedule

*Dec. 18 – Cookies to the Homebound*

*Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve (Vigil Mass, 10 p.m.)*

*Dec. 24 & 25 – Second Collection for the Poor*

*Dec. 25 – Christmas Day (Christmas Day Mass, 8 a.m.)*



### Christmas Cookies for the Homebound

Pat Masek and Fr. Gabriel will visit the homebound of the Parish Tuesday, December 18.

### Christmas Altar Flowers Needed

You are encouraged to make a donation. Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in Church.

### Communion to the Homebound

All homebound parishioners who want to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Day are asked to call Pat Masek.

### 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 Christmas Collection for the Poor envelope for this purpose. Drop the envelope in the collection basket or mail any time during the month of December.

**2019 Religious Calendars** have been placed at the church entrance. One calendar per family please.

**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.

