

March 24, 2019

Lent

Third Sunday



Living Water – Gift of God

Moses in today's first reading is presented as frustrated with the incessant and ungrateful grumbling of the Israelites, yet God responds with patience, providing a supply of water from the rock to the thirsty wanderers. The gift of water in an otherwise waterless desert became a sign of God's perpetual presence in the midst of his people.

The Samaritan woman in the gospel will also be given to drink of the water of life; through her, Jesus will teach each of us how to similarly satisfy all our thirsts in him.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, March 30

4:30 p.m. Gerald Kalina, Ernest Chaloupka

Sunday, March 31

8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

* We return to the Cycle A readings of Lent on Sundays.

SANCTUARY LIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

April 7, 14 & 28

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of The Smolik & Hermis Family.



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

We thank the following for their recent contribution:

Melvin Hutzler, Bulverde, TX - \$200
(pledged payment)

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

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Second Collection Today – Rice Bowl

Today as we hear the Israelites grumbling that they will die of thirst and Jesus offering living water to the woman at the well, we remember the people throughout the world who do not have clean and safe water to drink. Consider sharing your blessings with those in need of the basic necessities of life. Use your Rice Bowl envelope to help make a difference in someone's life. Be generous.



Prepare to Celebrate Easter

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

Monday, April 8 Moulton 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10 Praha 5:30 p.m.

Priests from the area will be assisting.

* No scheduled confessions in Praha during Holy Week.



Easter Egg Hunt: Donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt are welcome and appreciated. To make a donation, contact the Parish Office.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Food Drive: We will once again be collecting canned goods for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. in the home of Gerogia Cerny (President). All members are cordially invited and encouraged to attend,

Altar Society Membership Drive: All men and women of the parish are encouraged to join. The dues are \$5.00 per person. To join provide your name, address, phone number, email address and date of birth. You may drop your details and check for \$5.00 payable to the Praha Altar Society, in the collection basket or mail it to Barbara Prause, 8323 FM 340, Moulton, TX 77975. Thank you.

REFLECTION

Journey of Faith to A Destination Unknown

Each year at this time the Gospels hold forth teachers to guide and inspire us on our shared journey. Our mentor today is a “thirsty” Samaritan woman. Because of her physical thirst, she initially misunderstood Jesus’ offer of living water. Jacob’s well had satisfied the physical life of his descendants for centuries, but Jesus supplemented Jacob in offering *living water* that would give eternal life. Even without a bucket, Jesus and his gift of living water was greater than Jacob. Jesus’ gift is the truth of his teaching and he invites the thirsty to be satisfied with the word of God proclaimed to us. His invitation and her encounter with him set in motion a process of transformation whereby the woman evolved from a sinner to a witness.

God continues to reach out to us, offering us what satisfies. Like the Samaritan woman we must first come thirsting for God.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March 25 – Martin Svatek
March 26 – Josephine Mikulik
March 28 – Staci MacDonald

A.C.T.S FAMILY SOCIAL GATHERING – APRIL 6
at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, La Grange. Mass 5:00 p.m., social 6:15 p.m., meal 6:45 p.m., and Spiritual Reflection. Childcare available. Please RSVP - call or text 979-966-3597

ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH-MOULTON NEWS

Lenten Fish Fry Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.00 Per Plate
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

Dine in the Social Center Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.



Moulton Easter Picnic – April 21



Easter will dawn on us soon.

This Easter, **The Moulton Easter Picnic is back!**
I believe the revival of this age-old tradition is good.
See insert for more details.

ORIENTATION

The Midpoint of Lent

Are you at the midpoint of Lent and not much is going on? Maybe you began with the best of intentions, but you are not sure what you’re doing or what you want to be doing. ***Can your Lent be rescued? Yes. It doesn’t take long for God, when you are ready.***

The first step to beginning again has already begun. You have the desire for something real during Lent. What you need is a real desire – a real sense of expectation that God has something for you to hear, to learn, to change, and you want to be ready to listen. This desire can co-exist with fear, with resistance, with bad habits that have been obstacles in the past. God doesn’t need much of an opening to begin to free us and show us a transforming love. Once we say we want to make something of these precious days remaining in Lent then we can start naming some more specific desires.

It usually takes a little reflection, a bit of honest examination of conscience to really see what is getting in the way of being a follower of Jesus. It may be a streak of stubbornness or impatience or harshness that keeps putting us at odds with people. Perhaps there is an old wound or a fresh experience of hurt or loss that has turned into a festering anger that robs you of simple joys and sorrows or compassion for suffering of others.

Maybe you are obsessed with how you look or you may be compensating for some emptiness or loneliness or sadness or insecurity by trying to fill in what is missing with quite temporary satisfaction – over-eating, drinking too much, etc. Perhaps your conflicts with your spouse are getting to a bad place and you refuse to die to yourself in loving him/her.

Maybe you really have not paid attention to the needs of the poor. After some reflection you may just realize you’re not very grateful for what has been given you, and therefore, you’re just not very happy, generous or free.

Lent begins when you can say, “Help Me Lord!” Now you can turn to the Lord with some real concrete desires. You can practice waking up each morning and naming your desire. If you have a plan, you are more likely to follow it.

- *What are you going to give up each day?* Something you need to fast from, abstain from every day. Whenever you feel the temptation to do something that is a bad pattern, recognize it quickly and refrain from doing it. Practice some response that will replace it. It is basically training in self-discipline, for the purpose of letting God’s grace have a chance to work in you.

- *How can you be generous today?* Almsgiving is an important part of Lent. For most of us it involves being more generous to the poor. It is again, all about de-selfish-ing ourselves, so that God can free us to be more comfortable with the graces of gratitude and generosity.

Give Lent a new start in the days ahead.

God is offering you more than you can ask or imagine.

– Culled from Praying Lent, Creighton University