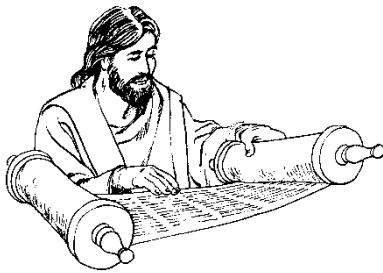


January 24, 2016

Ordinary Time

Third Sunday



The Word Proclaimed

In both the first reading from Nehemiah and the gospel passage from Luke we see the dynamic power of the Word of God as it is proclaimed. This word reminds the people of their identity as People of God. It calls them to the faithful living out of the implications of their identity.

There is something unique about hearing the word of God: Hear the word of God proclaimed and allow it to take root in you.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by the Praha Altar Society for the special intentions of the Altar Society members.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, January 30

4:30 p.m. Sidonia & Louis Fishbeck

Sunday, January 31

8:00 a.m. Ludmila & Paul Pokluda

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm: 71

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

No Mass, Bible Study
Wednesday, January 27

C.C.D.
Wednesday, January 27

Ash Wednesday – February 10



Mass Schedule:

St. Mary's, Praha

5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's, Moulton

6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Restoring Maticka Praha



To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to st_joe@sbcglobal.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Altar Society Meeting Today after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Updates about cookbooks and other topics will be discussed. 2016 dues of \$5 may be paid. Make plans to join us. *New members are always welcome.*



St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. Society #4 Quarterly Meeting, Sunday, February 7 in the school chapel after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.



HOLY ROSARY MEN'S A.C.T.S. RETREAT

February 18 -21, 2016

You are invited to join us to spend a weekend with God attending an A.C.T.S. Retreat. This is an opportunity for spiritual renewal and making new friends. Its aim is to enhance our relationship with Our Lord and with other Christian men who accompany us on this journey of faith. This retreat is hosted by Catholic men, with spiritual guidance from Roman Catholic Faith.

Registration forms are available at the entrance to church.
For more information contact Andrew Velasquez.

REFLECTION



The Word of God A Response Is Expected

The Word of God elicits various responses from those who hear it.

In today's First Reading, the people were assembled at the Water Gate. Ezra read out of the scroll, bringing the Law to people who had no inkling of the scrolls contents. "They were weeping as they heard the words of the Law," because they had no idea of how Yahweh wanted them to live. They accepted the word with all its blessings and challenges. They cried out in response, Amen! Amen! We hear and we will obey! The people were at a turning point in their history and they knew it.

Similarly, in today's Gospel selection, the people have gathered in the synagogue of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. They also listened intently to the sacred scripture as Jesus read from the scroll of Israel. The ritual of Jesus rolling the scroll, the reaction of the people in the synagogue, and Jesus' concluding words, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" symbolizes a new era, a time of deliverance. Jesus publicly declares his identity and mission. The people in the synagogue were probably unaware that Jesus is the prophet who is filled with the Spirit. He is the one who inaugurates the year of deliverance; the one who launches the era of eschatological fulfillment.

We too are at a new season of the Liturgical Year. As we journey through this short period of Ordinary Time (in preparation for Lent) how we will respond to the Word of God? Will hearing God's Word proclaimed make a difference in our lives? Will we be moved into the new age of fulfillment, eager to be transformed?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 24 – Eugene Chaloupka
January 26 – Virginia Olsovsky
January 28 – Stephen Lev
January 29 – Judy Kubenka
January 30 – Gentry Doyle

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Church in Latin America

Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Collection proceeds are used for:

- training seminarians and religious men and women
- providing pastoral care to the sick
- providing formation training to pastoral ministers within parishes
- strengthening family ministries
- developing ministries to youth and indigenous people.

Please be generous.

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL – JANUARY 25

On January 25 the Church celebrates the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, a conversion story par excellence. Through Paul's tireless preaching and writing, Christ became known throughout the Roman world. Read the accounts of St. Paul's conversion in the Acts of the Apostles 22:3-16 and 9:1-22. He welcomed many helpers, such as Timothy and Titus, whose feast we celebrate on January 26.



This week reflect on your own ongoing conversion and those who have mentored you along the way.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Challenged by God's Word



From Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth, from Paul's converts gathered at a house church in Corinth, from Ezra and all who came together at the Water Gate, we turn to another setting and another assembly, our own – the community of St. Mary's, Praha – gathered around the Word of God. Here we stand, men, women, and children old enough to understand. Here, we too, are blessed and challenged by God's Word.

Shall we, like Ezra and the Israelites, find in the Word of God a cause that will rouse our faith and a plan that will inspire in us good deeds? Good lives? Shall we too rejoice in celebrating the gift of the Word that brings us life?

Shall we, like Paul's correspondents, hear the Word and be reminded that we are uniquely blessed individuals who, by grace, are capable of being bound inextricably to one another as one body? Shall we be, in turn, mutual blessings for one another? Shall we honor and value our differences as God-given or shall we affirm the suspicions of the disbelieving, that true community caring and sharing is an unrealistic and unattainable ideal?