

October 23, 2016
Ordinary Time
Thirtieth Sunday



***Be Merciful To Me,
A Sinner***

Today we reflect on the attitudes one brings to prayer rather than on the prayer itself; self-righteousness or humility.

Jesus tells the parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector who go to the temple to pray. The Pharisee does not actually pray. Rather, he explains to God why he is better than other people. In contrast, the tax collector knows that he is a sinner. His is a prayer of petition: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, October 29
4:30 p.m. Claudie & Valentine Jurek
Sunday, October 30
8:00 a.m. The Deceased of St. Anne's K.J.Z.T.
Society #4

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Wisdom 11:22—12:2

Responsorial Psalm: 145

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

PREPARATIONS FOR VETERANS DAY

The Memorial Chapels for the nine Praha men killed during the Second World War are being restored. The restrooms by the church are also being refurbished in preparation for the upcoming Veteran's Day Celebration, November 6. The Veteran's Day Mass is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

November 1st – *The Feast of All Saints*

We celebrate all those men and women whose lives in some way mirrored the Paschal Mystery of Christ on a profound level.

Mass Schedule: Praha – 4:30 p.m.
Moulton – 6:30 p.m.

November 2nd – *The Feast of All Souls*

On this day we make expiation for the dead. We pray for the forgiveness of all their sins, that God may bring them to himself to join the Saints.

Mass Schedule:
Praha – Blessing of the Graves at 4:00 p.m.
Mass at 4:30 p.m.
Moulton – Mass at 6:30 p.m.
Blessing of the graves after Mass.

Book of The Dead

In keeping with the Church's tradition of praying for the dead, we will display the Book of the Dead. It contains the names of our loved ones prayers were requested for on the *All Souls Envelopes. You are invited to leaf through the pages, and note the names. You may write the names of others you might want our parish family to pray for.

It is a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead.
2 Maccabees 13:44-46

*Return your All Souls envelope by October 31.

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Stasney, Richmond, TX - \$100

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

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 Daniel Nixon

In Memory of Leon Jasek

For The Machalec Family

In Memory of Eugene A. Patalik

For Melinda Varden – Mother – Grandmother

In Thanksgiving for a Successful Heart Surgery And Now Healing

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

REFLECTION

Judgment Belongs To God

Luke displays wonderful irony in his story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Throughout the gospel, Luke has contrasted the genuine faith of sinners and foreigners with the hypocrisy of self-righteous insiders.

The Pharisee of this story places himself far above other people on his own merits: He notes commandment-breakers – of whom he is not one. He draws God’s attention to the outcast tax collector, to whom he bears no resemblance. God is then reminded that every Monday and Thursday the Pharisee fasts and that all his food is “clean” (it has been tithed); he made his ritual harvest – festival offering on all that he had. He believes that his scrupulous practices make him better than anyone else, particularly those he considers sinners. But his very words condemn him and betray his own heritage.

By contrast, the tax collector relies on God for his justification: This man clearly sees how he stands before God. He has nothing to offer. Even his own people have cast him away from society because of his collusion with Roman authority as a collector of the Emperor’s taxes. His penitence (beating the breast was and is a common gesture for penitents) leaves room for God to act and he is made right before God by God’s grace and his own humility.

The conclusion Jesus draws from the story is that judgment belongs to God. The tax collector knows how he stands with God. The Pharisee works in complete illusion. For the tax collector, God sets the requirements of their relationship; the Pharisee makes his own rules and sets his own standards. One man knows in the depths of his being that he is not God; the other is overwhelmed by a striking resemblance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



October 25 – Harvey Berckenhoff

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



October 26 – Frances & Leon Kubenka

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Shiner Strudel Sale November 12

Homemade Apple Strudel (Unbaked Only) - \$15
For Moulton & Flatonia orders and deliveries
call Philip & Jennifer at 361-594-8468.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



This day is designated to offer prayer and financial support for missionaries around the world. It is also a day to remember that the Church is missionary at its very core. All the baptized are called to carry on the mission of Christ and to proclaim the good news to the world.

Be generous.

Pharisee or Tax Collector

The Pharisee is not a horrible villain, nor is the tax collector a hero. Despite his arrogance, the Pharisee is, in fact, a pillar of the community, faithful and dependable. Because of his generous tithing, the salaries of ministers are paid so that they can preach on this parable. This problem is that his prayer and his life are out of sync. It is the same with the tax collector. While his prayer for mercy is in the best spirit of penitence, his life is not. Neither character can be absolutely embraced or dismissed. Each simply shows us a side of ourselves that needs integration.



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY



The last Sunday in October is a special day set aside to honor priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and to affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. Priesthood Sunday is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International, an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Prayer

Lord God, thank you for all priests. We know they do not seek or desire recognition for the Priesthood you have chosen them for, yet it is to You we wish to give thanks for calling them to guide and nourish our parishes. We ask You to bless them, for providing the Eucharist for us – our “Food for the Journey” and for proclaiming “The Good News” with conviction and enthusiasm.

Grant them the joy experienced on their Ordination Day all the days of their lives and look kindly upon them as they strive to do Your will. Bless them abundantly, care for them tenderly and above all, let them feel the love and appreciation we have for them. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.