

January 8, 2017

## Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity



### *Our Savior Is Born to Die For Us*

The action of the Magi resembles a liturgy of sorts where gifts are offered that both acknowledge Jesus' special role and interpreted his significance for us. Through his death on the cross (myrrh), Jesus becomes the saving sacrifice (frankincense) that liberates sinners, ratifies his Messiahship and establishes the Kingdom of God among us (gold).

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, January 14  
4:30 p.m. George Masek and Parents  
Sunday, January 15  
8:00 a.m. Ludmila & Paul Pokluda

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



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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6  
**Responsorial Psalm:** 40  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
**Gospel:** John 1:29-34

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Frances Anderle.

We pray for the repose of the soul of  
**Vaclav J. Masek**  
and for the comfort of his loved ones.  
*May he rest in peace.*



### 2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment .....	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$6,195.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$1,423.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Julia Stryk*  
*Gail & Dennis Stryk*  
*Nancy & Thomas Petru*

*We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. We are close to paying off our debt to the diocese. We are counting on you to make our quota for the year.*

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Mike Brhlik, Sugar Land, TX - \$40*  
*In Memory of Louis Stryk*  
*Henrietta & Elton Moeller - \$100*

*In Memory of Louis Parma*  
*Christina Parma, Windcrest, TX - \$2,000*

We received the follow note from Mrs. Parma:

Father Gabriel,

Please accept enclosed donation for restoration of St. Mary's Church of \$2,000.00 in memory of my husband Louis Parma who passed away March 8, 2015. I met Louis at Praha 15 of August celebration 70 years ago. He was a student at the school when growing up.

My grandparents are buried there.

God bless you and the parishioners and a Blessed New Year.

J.M.J.

*Christina Parma*

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

### THANK YOU NOTE

Parish Members,

We want to thank you for your recent donation. It will help us to serve those in need of food.

Thank you very much.

***The Directors of The Celebration House Food Pantry***

## REFLECTION



### **How Ready Are You For The Journey?**

The Magi from the East had only a rumor to go by and the natural witness of a star. They were however moved to embark on a very long journey. The scribes on the other hand had studied the scriptures; they knew the prophetic texts, and yet they did not make a move. Like the scribes, many of us know a great deal about Jesus and his teachings, but has this knowledge moved us to conversion, transformation, or growth? This great Feast of Epiphany challenges us to allow our knowledge of and relationship with Jesus to direct our lives, move us forward and maintain our willingness to journey wherever Jesus may lead us.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 8 – Jeanette Henke  
January 10 – Edward Brautigam

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



January 8 – Janelle & Daniel Cerny

## 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 My Daughter*  
*For Our Family Health*  
*Por Toda La Familia Nino*  
*For The Soul of Joaquin Nino*  
*For My Daughter and Her Family*  
*For Healing, Joy & Companionship*  
*For Anthony's Chastity & Molly's Chastity*  
*Conversion y Descanso Ateino de Joaquin*  
*For the Health & Well Being of the Resendez Family*  
*For Vaclav Masek, Adolph Jasek & Dolores Hernandez*  
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

## NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK JANUARY 8 – 14, 2017

### *Creating a Culture of Encounter*

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith:

*"For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."*

With respect to migrants, too often in our contemporary



culture we fail to encounter them as persons, and instead look at them as others. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious of their intentions. This week,

Catholics are called to participate through prayer and action to try and ease the struggles of immigrants, migrants and vulnerable populations and to reflect on the Church's obligation to welcome the stranger as children of God who are worthy of our attention and support.

## ORIENTATION

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany marks the apex of the Christmas Season. The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the universal saving concerns of God, which are shown in Jesus. It attests to the universal scope of Jesus' mission and God's all-inclusive plan of salvation. All human beings have worth and dignity; all have value and are intended to enjoy God's gift of salvation.

### **Extra Christmas Flower Donations**

In memory of Maria Perpetua Evangelista, Purfirio Blado, Shirley Cherian  
In memory of M/M Thomas Petru, M/M Doug Brown, Robert W. Petru, B. F. (Red) Dailey  
In memory of Henrietta & George Migl, Jan & Anastazia Migl, Hedwig & Henry Jasek, Roy Brehm