

March 19, 2017

Lent
Third Sunday



Choosing Christ

The readings of today clearly place before us the choice we have to make. It is a choice between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognize the grace being offered to us and make the right choice? It is a choice made in faith.

MASS INTENTIONS



* **Thursday, March 23**

5:30 p.m. For the Welfare of Parishioners

Saturday, March 25

4:30 p.m. Cecelia & Charlie Hajek

Sunday, March 26

8:00 a.m. Mary & Jerome Kocian

* *The Lenten Mini-Retreat Mass and Class will be held in the School.*

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: 23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

PRAHA ALTAR SOCIETY

In an effort to include all women in the parish, the Altar Society would like to be able to communicate by email with those that have access to the internet. Please email Robin Cerny at rlcerny@aol.com so that you can be included on the list. All women are welcome and encouraged to join. Dues are \$5.00 and the society supports the needs of the parish and its members.

Thank you. Lori Janecka, President Altar Society

2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment \$7,670.00
Contributions So Far \$ 300.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$7,370.00

We thank the following for kicking off our DSA Appeal:

Pat Masek

Marcus Jasek

Henrietta & Elton Moeller

Do please consider making a donation.

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Mike Petru - \$20

Barbara & Terry Archibald, Pearland, TX - \$20

Thomas C. Brown, Schulenburg, TX- \$500

In Memory of Frances Anderle

Julia Stryk - \$25

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

ORIENTATION

The Mid-Point of Lent

We are nearing the mid-point of Lent – a good time to reflect upon our Lenten journey thus far.



On Ash Wednesday we were invited to grow in our relationship with God through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. At this half-way mark we ask ourselves: "Are we faithful in praying, fasting and giving to the poor? Are we spending more time in prayer and doing so more

devoutly? Are we steadfast in what we gave up and more diligent in doing good deeds? Are we turning away from sin and increasing in the love of God?" *We still have time to reform our lives.*

LENTEN FISH FRY



St. Joseph's Church, Moulton

Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$8.00 Per Plate

Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

Dine in the Parish Hall Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.

We thank all those who are supporting the Fish Fry.

REFLECTION

Journey of Faith to a Destination Unknown

Today, we hear the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus proclaimed again in our hearing. We are reminded that her experience is also our own. Washed with living water at baptism, blessed with the holy waters of the Easter vigil, we are washed, forgiven and transformed as she was.

Unfortunately, however, some of us continue to doubt that such a radical transformation is possible and we enter hesitantly into the life-altering season of Lent. To guide, prompt and prod us on our way toward the goal, Henri Nouwen once offered the following encouragement: "Do not despair, thinking you cannot change yourself after so many years. Simply enter into the presence of Jesus as you are and ask him to give you a fearless heart where he can be with you. You cannot make yourself different ... Let Jesus give you a new heart, a new spirit, a new mind ... let Jesus transform you by his love."

This is what the woman of Shechem did. Let us follow her lead.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March 20 – Fr. Gabriel
March 21 – Mary Bartos
March 25 – Martin Svatek

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 Family

For My Petitions

For Consuleo Benarcles

For Healing Within The Family

For My Son-in-law's Depression

For Emmanuel J. S.: Healing Prayer For His OCD

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

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

Wednesday, April 5 Praha 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 7 Moulton 5:30 p.m.

Priests from the area will be assisting.

** No scheduled confessions in Praha nor in Moulton during Holy Week.*

Parish Weekly Mini-Retreat

Thursdays of Lent: Mass 5:30 p.m., Class 6:00-7:00 p.m.

To participate, bring your Bible.

Easter Flowers: It is the tradition in our parish to have Easter Lilies for our Easter celebration. Use the attached envelope to make your donation in memory of your loved ones. Drop the envelope in the collection basket of mail.



Easter Egg Hunt: Donations of 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: Leave your canned goods for the needy at the back of Church.

Our Joyful Walk Toward Holy Easter
See insert.