

November 1, 2015

All Saints

Solemnity



A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Today's feast assures us of a place within the great heavenly chorus when we accept the grace of being sealed as God's own and then choose to live in accord with that grace. It also reminds us that none of us is an only child. We belong to an immense family, a great cloud of witnesses, who constantly surround us and are in communication with us, praying for us and with us, urging us onward toward our final reunion with God and them.

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, November 2
5:00 p.m. Our Beloved Dead
Specially Remembered Today
Wednesday, November 4
6:00 p.m. For the Welfare of the Parish
Saturday, November 7
4:30 p.m. Robert Schaefer
Sunday, November 8
9:30 a.m. All Veterans

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146
Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44



BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for a bible study class after Mass on Wednesdays until 7:30 p.m.

Shiner Strudel Sale – November 14

Homemade Apple Strudel, Unbaked Only - \$14
For Flatonia and Moulton orders call 594-8468.

November 2nd – The Feast of All Souls

Today is a commemoration of all those who have fallen asleep in Christ, marked with the sign of faith. We pray for the forgiveness of all their sins; and we pray that God, in his great mercy, will bring them to himself to join the Saints.

Mass Schedule:

Praha – Blessing of the Graves at 4:30 p.m.

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Moulton – Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Blessing of the graves after Mass.

Expiation For The Dead

For if he (Judas) were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin.

– 2 Maccabees 13:44-46

NOVEMBER THE MONTH OF THE DEAD

November comes between the rejoicing of the harvest and the short, dark days of winter. It is a time when people focus on death and the dead. During the month of November we profess our solidarity with the saints and our ancestors on whose shoulders we stand.

Here at St. Mary's we honor our dead and pray for them, our mothers and fathers in faith who planted and nurtured the seeds of the Catholic Faith in Praha. Join us at the cemetery tomorrow, November 2 at 4:30 p.m. for the blessing of the graves.

We also have the opportunity to memorialize our loved ones through our Church Restoration Fund.

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund

If you have not done so already, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a two-year pledge in honor of your loved ones. You however, are free to make a one-time donation or pay for an item of your choice.

A *Book of Memory* will be displayed at an appropriate place in the Church to honor all donors in these categories:

Category I – \$10,000 and above

Category II – \$7,500 to \$9,999

Category III – \$5,000 to \$7,499

Category IV – \$2,500 to \$4,999

To make a tax deductible donation towards the restoration project: Restoring Maticka Praha contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

REFLECTION

People of God, People of Saints

Today's feast celebrates the whole company of saints, including all those not recognized by name in the Church calendar, all those who are part of the great multitude that now leaps for joy eternally in God's presence, shouting hallelujah!

At the end of the reading from Revelation this question is posed: Who are these wearing white robes and where did they come from? The Second Reading and the Gospel answer in part: These are all the beloved children of God, who worked at imitating God by continually searching for God's will in their lives. They are the ones who have been poor in spirit, have mourned without comfort, have longed for their inheritance with meekness; have hungered and thirsted unsated for justice, have been merciful and clean of heart, have tried to build peace and have suffered for all these choices. Their striving to live this way in imitation of Jesus has not always been perfect. They have stumbled and erred but have asked for forgiveness and have tried again. They are the ones whom others may never have thought of as saints but have placed their trust and hope in God, knowing that only by God's grace can they be washed clean and clothed in radiance. Many people may be surprised to find themselves among this heavenly multitude of witnesses.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



November 4 – Ernest (Junior) Chaloupka, Jr.
November 7 – Leo Janak

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



November 6 – Mary & Charlie Bartos

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



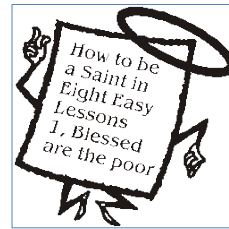
Beginning this Sunday, food baskets will be available at the Church entrance for canned goods. You may drop your canned goods at any time during the month of November.

Safe Environment Training for C.C.D. Students: An age-appropriate video will be shown to the C.C.D. students on Wednesday Nov. 4. The video *Bullies: Stand Tall Be Strong* is designed to help the children learn the importance of building good friendships: simple, practical, and effective responses to threats and physical abuse; and how to handle name-calling.

Church Grounds & Cemetery: We thank Dennis Stryk and Martin Svatek for keeping the grounds clean all year.

LITURGICAL ORIENTATION

This year November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Sunday. The feast overtakes the readings for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time by proclaiming scripture readings unique to it. All the readings focus on our status as "children of God" called into loving and eternal relationship with God and with all those who belong to God. In Psalm 24 we express our longing to be with God face to face as we strive to live Jesus' lifestyle



and values. The Gospel reading from Matthew specifies those values in terms of the Beatitudes. We are to live with total reliance on God, no matter what life may bring. Such countercultural statements seem so unrealistic and foreign to us yet, these are the very values that

are essential for all who claim to be the Lord's disciples.

The first reading from the Book of Revelation envisions the joy and ultimate victory of those who have lived lives of fidelity and trust in God, lives conformed to the Beatitudes. They are the victorious ones, dressed in white robes and carrying palm branches, clear indicators of those who have triumphed in their struggle against forces alien to God. Faithful to the values of the Beatitudes, they lived in constant hope and trust in God that allowed them to handle the challenges and struggles that are part of everyday existence.

The readings help us to realize the significance of the feast of All Saints and of the whole month of November, which is dedicated to the commemoration of all the faithful departed. This month is a most opportune time to reflect on our relationship to those who have gone before us "marked with the sign of faith." As children of God, both here on earth and beyond this life, we are challenged to live in constant fidelity to God's values and in constant trust that our loving God journeys with us, now and always.

53rd Anniversary ALL VETERANS DAY Honoring All Veterans Of All Wars PRAHA CEMETERY



Praha Church 9:30 A.M.

Mass To Be Offered For All Veterans

Assembly - 10:30 A.M. • Veterans Memorial Service - 11:00 A.M.

Flyover By Commemorative Air Force - 11:30 A.M.

– Special Tribute To All Veterans –

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Sponsored By Praha Veterans Club & Vietnam Veterans Chapter 870