

November 29, 2015

## Advent

### First Sunday of Advent

#### *The Advent Way of Life*



The readings for this First Sunday of Advent contain a number of promises, all pointing to the same reality, namely, peace and fulfillment. What is expected of those who receive the promises? – An Advent way of life exhorts us to *wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ*. This way of life requires us to live the usual unusually well. It informs the attitudes that color our judgments and motivations

### MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, December 2  
6:00 p.m. For the Parish Family  
Saturday, December 5  
4:30 p.m. Mary Ann Smolik  
Sunday, December 6  
8:00 a.m. Ernest Chaloupka

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

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Second Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

**First Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 126  
**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6



### BIBLE STUDY

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

The New Liturgical Year Begins today, November 29.

- Free copies of *At Home With The Word* are available at the Church entrance for those who put in an order. To order a booklet call 800-933-1800.
- The *Workbook For Lectors* is available in the sacristy. Lectors pick up your copy.

**C.C.D. Wednesday, December 2**

### 2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment .....	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$4,325.64
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$3,206.36

*Our parish quota to the Bishop's office should be paid by the end of the year. We are way behind in our contributions. Do please consider making a payment so we can fulfill our obligation to the Bishop.*

### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



#### Advent/Christmas Confession Schedule *Parish Penance Services*

*Praha* – Wednesday, December 16, 5:00 p.m.  
*Moulton* – Thursday, December 17, 5:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Altar Flowers



Those who wish to make a donation toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the Church could do so in memory of their loved ones. *Christmas Flower envelope attached.*

#### Christmas Parties/Socials

*St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Annual Meeting, Christmas Party/Brunch Dec.6, After 8:00 A.M. Mass*  
All members and their families are invited to attend. RSVP to Georgie Cerny (361-865-3354) or Nancy Jasek (361-772-2356) with number of persons attending from your family.

### THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.



The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

## REFLECTION

### *To Appear Before the Son of Man*

Each year, the First Sunday of Advent focuses on the coming of the Lord, of which no one knows the day nor the hour. The certainty of this manifestation is at the heart of Christian faith, of the assembly and of the Sunday Eucharistic celebration itself. The liturgy allows us, here and now, to participate sacramentally in the salvation that has already come, that comes now, and will come again. Everything proceeds on its way from this time toward the end of time. This is the meaning and importance of Advent, this season that opens the liturgical year and defines it from beginning to end.

On this First Sunday of Advent (Year C), we hear the witness of Luke. St. Luke stresses, on one hand, the attitude that we must assume when we see the signs pointing to the Lord's return; on the other hand, he emphasizes the role of prayer in our vigilance.

With this Gospel, we read a passage from the Book of Jeremiah and an extract from St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. Paul's prayer for them as they await the coming of the Lord is that they *increase and abound in love for one another and for all*. We are to prepare in the same way, by growing in love, by growing in fidelity to our covenant relationship with God. What will you do this Advent to prepare for the coming of the Lord?

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 3 – Anton Okruhlik  
– Deloris Smolik

**2015 Breaking Bread Missals** are at the main entrance of Church. Feel free to take copies home.



"Too much information."

## MARANATHA, COME LORD JESUS

Each year, we begin the great Church year as the natural world goes into transition. Days grow shorter, the air becomes colder and we anticipate winter. This season of Advent is a reminder that we live in a state of transition even now. Christ has come into the world; Christ will come again, and we live our lives between those great promises of God with the help of the Spirit. As we move toward Christmas and the celebration of new birth in the world, our lives should reflect our eager watching for the coming of Christ, not just at Advent but all the time.

### *Advent Prayer*

*Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, by signs and wonders, great and small, you prepare us for the fulfillment of your promise. He is the light that will dawn. He is the bright morning star of justice. His presence is the sign of your love, and his grace will increase our love – for one another and for you. Grant us patience as we await for Christ to come in the fullness of time. Help us to see the signs that point to him and to stay awake so that when he arrives we will be found watching and ready. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

– 2009 Liturgy Training Publications

## ORIENTATION

### *The Sacrament of the Liturgical Year*

Typically, the liturgical year calls to mind only the Christian calendar of Sundays and feast days that, instead of beginning on January 1 and ending December 31, goes from the First Sunday of Advent to the Thirty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Feast of Christ the King. This deviation from the common secular calendar is not strange. We are used to other similar deviations, e.g. the school year, the financial year, the Chinese New Year and others.

Without the Word of God there would be no sacred history; nor would there be a liturgical year. "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1) the Word of God created heaven and earth and all they contain. God's word called us to life and entrusted the universe to us. This was God's first revelation of himself and of his plan: Sacred history had begun. In sum, the liturgical year is presented as an itinerary marked by the Word of God proper to each Sunday. It constitutes a unity where everything participates in the mystery of salvation. The Liturgical year develops, therefore, a spirituality of responsibility of acting to bring about the reign of God, its peace, justice and joy in a world that is never without meaning into our own historical time. It opens the pathways of our creative imagination, enlightened and stimulated by the Word of God.

### *Manor FFA Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast*

December 7, In Honor of Pearl Harbor Day

7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Staci Bartos.