

December 6, 2015

Advent

Second Sunday of Advent



The Promise of Transformation

John the Baptist occupies center stage today. The preaching of John opens up a possibility of newness through repentance, the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Today's readings are filled with examples of changes that indicate such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendor of glory from God: every lofty mountain made low, valleys are filled, the way of God is made straight. This is the promise made to us today. As believers who continue to await Jesus' second coming, it is time to open ourselves so that God can accomplish his saving work among us.

Prepare the way! Make straight his paths!

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, December 7

5:00 p.m. For the Parish Family

Wednesday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Jerome & Mary Kocian

Saturday, December 12

4:30 p.m. Spec. Int. – Jurgen Hutzler

Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Matilda & Anton Kubenka, Lois Orsak

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

BIBLE STUDY



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

C.C.D. Wednesday, December 9

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far	\$4,375.64
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$3,156.36

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

Anonymous Donor

Pam & Nathan Vrazel

Rosemary & Arthur Klekar

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.

DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

On this day, we honor holy Mary and celebrate her conception in the womb of St. Anne. We praise God, who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life.

The bishops of the United States of America adopted the Immaculate Conception as patroness of the nation.

Mass Schedule: Vigil (Monday), Dec. 7, 5 p.m. Praha Mass of the Day, 8 a.m., Moulton

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Today – St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Annual Meeting, Christmas Party/Brunch, After Mass

December 16 – Parish Penance Service, Praha

December 17 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

December 24 & 25 – Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor and Needy

Christmas Altar Flowers

You are encouraged to make a donation in memory of your loved ones toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the Church. *Extra Christmas Flower envelopes at the church entrance.*

Praha Cookbooks Make Great Christmas Gifts

The Praha Cookbook Committee members will be selling cookbooks after the weekend Masses December 12 & 13, 19 & 20. We thank all those who submitted recipes and have already purchased cookbooks. Proceeds from the sale goes to the Church Restoration Fund.

Need a great stocking stuffer? St. Joseph's Altar Society Raffle Tickets for sale. \$2 each – 6 for \$10

- \$2,000+ worth of Gift Cards / Gift Certificates
- Hand Stitched Homemade Quilt, Baby Quilt, Afghan
- Gift Baskets and much, much more.

50 prizes to be given away at the Altar Society's Annual Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner in February.

Advent / Christmas Schedule – See insert.

REFLECTION



God Speaks Anew

In Advent we focus on two events: we put ourselves in the time of preparation for the first coming of Christ, and we kindle anew our expectation for his second coming. The second coming had been in the forefront of our attention on the last few Sundays of the Church year and especially on the First Sunday of Advent. Then, from the Second Sunday of Advent on, the first coming moves to the front of the stage; yet, the second coming is not ignored altogether, as the second reading shows. The importance of Advent expectation for God to act lies in the fact that human beings cannot produce their own salvation. The resources for salvation do not lie within the possibilities of humans, they can only come from outside. The recognition of God's active presence in our lives presumes that we are at a loss to save ourselves. So the *Prayer over the Offerings* allows for a plea for help when it says, *Come, we pray, to our rescue* with the protection of your mercy. In a way, such a petition at the altar of God positions us precisely within sight of a restored Jerusalem, *rejoicing that we are remembered by God*. God is among us Emmanuel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 6 – Colten Cerny



JUBILEE
Year of Mercy

See Insert.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Retired Fund For Religious



The annual appeal for Retired Religious raises funds for aged nuns who served ministering to the needs of others for many years.

Note: The Sisters taught in St. Mary's Church School here in Praha for free for many years. *Be generous.*

ORIENTATION –2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

The gospel for this Sunday puts us in the context and dynamic of the Advent Season: the immediate preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the beginning of a new Liturgical Year that sets forth, at this time, the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ – from nativity to Easter (the entire Christ-event) – its continuity in the Church, and its final fulfillment in the triumphant return of Christ. The importance of the Advent expectation for God to act lies in the fact that we cannot produce our own salvation. The resources of our salvation do not lie within the possibility of human history. They can only come from outside.



John the Baptist prepares us for this event this Sunday and the next.

Thought for the Week

John the Baptist A Voice Crying Out in the Desert

Today, John the Baptist announces an invitation to a new beginning not only to turn away from personal choices that impede God's coming but also to a collective repentance and a turn towards divine mercy. John the Baptist announced the advent of Jesus. He himself lived a life of



radical self-denial, but he did not require this of those who came to hear his message. What he preached was repentance, or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life but of the character of that life. He called for a return to righteousness, to lives of integrity, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He spoke against presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, against complacency and the shirking of responsibility, against disinterest in the welfare of others.

This is a powerful image in a world such as ours, where we are tempted to compromise our principles in favor of enhancing our status, where we are instructed to get what we want with the least amount of effort, where we are encouraged to disregard the needs of others and take care of "number one."