

December 20, 2015

Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Threshold of Fulfillment

On this Sunday we stand on the threshold of fulfillment, filled with anticipation of the Lord's coming, while we celebrate his presence in our midst. The future God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it. Today, we are invited to pause at the treshold and gaze for a moment into this future as with joy and hope Mary and Elizabeth meet.

An invitation is extended to us today so that we can appreciate the gift being given to us.

MASS INTENTIONS



Thursday, December 24

10:00 p.m. Benefactors of the Parish

Friday, December 25

8:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners

Saturday, December 26

4:30 p.m. Annie Dornak

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. George Cerny

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

No Bible Study

Wednesdays December 23 & 30

No C.C.D.

Wednesdays, December 23 & 30

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far	\$5,594.40
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,937.60

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

Julia Stryk

Ollie Pospisil

Celine Kalina

Gail & Dennis Stryk

Elyse & Eugene Chaloupka

Our parish quota to the Bishop should be paid by the end of the year. We are behind on our contributions this year. We thank those who have contributed and we ask those who have not done so yet to consider making a donation so that we can meet our quota.

We are almost there! You can help!

Restoring Maticka Praha



If you have not done so already, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a 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.

ORIENTATION – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Maranatha!

Today we light the fourth candle (violet) on the Advent wreath. The fullness of the lit wreath reminds us of the coming celebration of Christmas and our commemoration of the incarnation. The rhythm of Advent differs from that of Lent. It rises in a steady crescendo towards the full light of Christmas. The crescendo of



Advent is reflected in the liturgical readings, which, beginning with the prophecies of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, find their culmination on this Fourth Sunday of Advent in a series of readings that focus on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the annunciation of Jesus' birth. The readings bring together the major themes of the first three Sundays of Advent. Namely, promise, repentance, transformation and joy. We now stand on the threshold, eager for the doors to be opened so that we can step inside and enjoy the marvels prepared for us there.

REFLECTION

Standing on the Threshold

Today's readings open a crack and we are amazed that everything inside seems so ordinary. The readings get us ready for the imminent future, giving us glimpses into the mysteries we are about to celebrate.

Through the crack, we see Bethlehem, an unsophisticated little village that is but a stone's throw from the thriving capital, Jerusalem. If we look further through the crack in the door, to the side we will see a young pregnant woman hastening to help an older relative who is also with child. There is nothing extraordinary about this either, especially in a society that is family oriented. Young women acted in this way. Catching these glimpses of ordinary life we might ask: Just what is God up to? Why does God choose what is ordinary to carry the radiance of the divine? Is it possible that we overlook the unpretentious through which God is revealed and mistake what is loud and flashy for what is truly marvelous?

God's choices recounted in today's readings insist that the mystery of the incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives. All that is required is an openness to do God's will, a willingness to respond to God's call.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 26 – Dennis Olsovsky

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Dec. 22 –Virginia & Dennis Olsovsky

CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO THE ELDERLY AND HOMEBOUND

We thank Georgia Cerny, Leona Herzik, Pat Masek, Gail Stryk and Kathleen Svatek for baking cookies for our homebound parishioners on behalf of our Parish Family. Cookies and poinsettias were delivered by Pat Masek and Fr. Gabriel to: Georgiann & Louis Barta, Stazy Hajek, Mary Jasek, Doris Kalina, Joyce Kubecka, Sireta & Frank Michalek, Josie Mikulik, Earline O'Brien, Ollie Pospisil, Hattie Stryk, Julia Stryk and Louis Stryk. Remember them in your prayers this Christmas.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

My dear friends,

May you have a blessed Christmas. May Christ's coming among us bring happiness and peace to all families.

God bless,



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Christmas Collection For The Poor In the spirit of sharing blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters, a collection will be taken up at the Christmas Masses. *We encourage you to be generous.*

Communion to the Homebound – All homebound parishioners who want to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Day do please contact Pat Masek by Dec. 21.

2016 Religious Calendars have been placed at the church entrances. One calendar per family please.

Praha Cookbooks Make Great Christmas Gifts – Cookbooks will be available for sale after Mass. Proceeds from the sale goes to the Church Restoration Fund.

Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations

IMO George Cerny

IMO Richard O'Brien

IMO Oscar & Mary Filip

IMO Lev & Jasek Families

Elaine & Johnnie Hoffman

IMO Lala & Tousek Family

IMO Anton & Ludmila Migl

IMO Harry Herzik & Family

IMO Victor & Justine Prause

IMO Ernest & Marcella Chaloupka

IMO Delphin Janecka & Henry Migl

IMO Alois & Lillie Kalina, Gerald Kalina

IMO Robert R. Schaefer, Vrana & Schaefer Families

IMO Ida & Edwin Frohnafel, Cecilia & Ed Brautigam

IMO Nick Janak, Millie Janak, Godfrey Petru, Anastasia Petru

IMO Alois A. Anderle, Adolph Anderle, Joe F. Svatek, Frances Svatek

IMO of the Joe & Louise Machalec Family, the Chas & Elizabeth Patek Family

IMO Louis T. Fishbeck, Sidonia Fishbeck, John R. Pokluda, Catherine Pokluda

IMO Allan Wiedemann, John & Katherine Pokluda, Rudy & Hattie Wiedemann

IMO M/M Thomas Petru, M/M Doug Brown, B.F. (Red) Dailey, Robert W. Petru

IMO the Moeller Family, the Kalina Family, Claude & B. J. Kalina, Elrose Moeller

IMO Benjamin Smolik; Victor, Hattie & Jerome Hermis; Louis, Albina & Mary Smolik

IMO Eugene A. Patalik, Frank & Stazie Patalik, Elizabeth & Louis Cerny, Frank & Annie Cerny, Albina & Joe Patalik, Louis J. Cerny

IMO Frank Hajek Jr., Stazy & Family, Margie Davis, John & Anne Okruhlik & Family, Frank & Elizabeth Hajek & Family, Fr. Edward Bartsch

We thank all those who donated toward the Christmas Flower Fund so far. You may still make a donation.

