

ADVENT

Second Sunday of Advent



Announcing the Coming Savior

John the Baptist takes center stage today. John's mission is to remind us that the broken world as we know it is not the will of God. John assures us that God will soon intervene but we have to be ready if we are to be a part of what God is about to do in our midst. John wants each of us to review our lives, sifting weed from grain and then to go into the water to come out renewed and ready for what is to come. Repentance in preparation for the Lord's coming is the only way to get at the meaning of Advent.



Flowers for the Altar this weekend are donated by Robin & Gary Cerny in memory of Annie (Vacek) & Frank Cerny and Anastasia (Migl) & John Stryk.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, December 7
5:30 p.m. Richard O'Brien
Saturday, December 10
4:30 p.m. Annie & C. A. Griggs
Sunday, December 11
8:00 a.m. George Cerny

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Third Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Responsorial Psalm: 146
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Praha Annual Meeting/Christmas Party Next Sunday December 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the School Chapel. Members and their families are invited to join in the fun.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far	\$4,845.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$2,773.00
Number of Families Who Have Contributed	27
Number of Families Yet to Contribute	49

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous donations we should be able to pay off the remaining debt to the bishop before year's end. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund so far to do their part.

DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Vigil, December 7, NOTE 5:30 p.m. Praha
Mass of the Day, 8 a.m., Moulton (Family Room)

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Praha Altar Society - \$4,500
(profit from the Cookbook Sales at this time)
Melvin Hutzler, Bulverde, TX - \$200
(pledged payment)

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

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of Louis Stryk
Mary & Charlie Bartos

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:

In Thanksgiving
For Joe Trombatore
For My Mom & Dad
Prayers for Everyone
For Forgiveness & Guidance
For Family, Health & Juanita
For Marie Motal Krejci & Harvey Krejci
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

REFLECTION

The One We Await Shapes Our Waiting

In a very real sense, the gathering at the Jordan presided over by John the Baptist in today's gospel was liturgical in character. Many from the surrounding area had come to hear the Word of God as spoken by John, and to listen to its interpretation and its application to their lives. Some were baptized in preparation for hearing an even more challenging Word, soon to be among them in the person of Jesus Christ.

Within our own liturgical assembly, we hear anew the challenge of this Word of God about the necessity of conversion. It is our decision whether or not to welcome the transformative Word, but upon that choice will hang our effectiveness as witnesses to the coming Kingdom of God.

John was a witness to that Kingdom par excellence. He reminded his hearers that repentance would lead to membership in the coming Kingdom, while a failure to repent would reap judgment.

The repentance that will best welcome the One who comes to save us consists in a radical surrender to Jesus Christ in all our living.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 6 – Colten Cerny
December 9 – Jason Jackson

Jesse Tree in Church

Each year the Jesse Tree appears in Church during the season of Advent. Some wonder what it is all about. The symbols placed on the tree are used to show the lineage of Jesus.

Jesse was the father of the great King David of the Old Testament, so Jesse is often looked upon as the first in the genealogy of Jesus. Ornaments placed on the tree are based on the Bible.

This week reflect on these scripture passages daily.

Dec. 4 *Noah*: Gen. 6:5-8, 13-22; 7:17, 23, 24; 8:1, 6-22

Symbols: ark, animals, dove, rainbow

Dec. 5 *Abraham*: Gen. 12:1-3

Symbols: torch, sword, mountain

Dec. 6 *Isaac*: Gen. 22:1-14

Symbols: bundle of wood, altar, ram in bush

Dec. 7 *Jacob*: Gen. 25:1-34; 28:10-15

Symbols: kettle, ladder

Dec. 8 *Joseph*: Gen. 37:23-28; 45:3-15

Symbols: bucket, well, silver coins, tunic

Dec. 9 *Moses*: Ex. 2:1-10

Symbols: baby in basket, river and rushes

Dec. 10 *Samuel*: 1 Sam. 3:1-18

Symbols: lamp, temple

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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Dec. 7 – Pre-Christmas Concert, St. Joseph's

Dec. 11 - K.J.Z.T. #4 Meeting / Christmas Party

Dec. 15 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

*Dec. 21 – Parish Penance Service, Praha
– Christmas Social, Praha*

*Dec. 24 & 25 – Annual Christmas Collection for
the Poor and Needy*

Christmas Altar Flowers Needed

You are encouraged to make a donation.

Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in church.

Christmas Cookies For The Homebound

Look Out For More Details

Need a stocking stuffer or Christmas Gift? Praha Cookbooks make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you are in need of a cookbook or 2, please contact Kathleen Svatek after church or call at 214-280-7828. You may also ask an altar society member.

Bulletin Insert: Advent / Christmas Schedule

PREPARE!



John the Baptist is one of the models offered to us for our imitation. He 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."