

January 29, 2017

Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday



"Blessed"

What blessing is there in being poor? In sorrowing? In hunger or in being thirsty? These burdens are usually avoided. Jesus however pronounces these very burdens "blessed." Today, we come to grips with the struggle inherent in our calling as disciples. The Beatitudes are the great guide for Christian living.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 4

4:30 p.m. Vlasta Pekar

Sunday, February 5

8:00 a.m. Louise & Joe Machalec

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm: 112

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16



Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Frances Anderle and Julia Stryk.

Mark Your Calendar

Praha Altar Society Meeting, next Sunday February 5th in the School after Mass. Election of officers will be held and members can pay 2017 dues of \$5.00. Make plans to attend. New members always welcome.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far	\$6,545.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,073.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Pat Masek

Anonymous Donor

Josie & Alphonse Kubenka

We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. **It is not too late. You can still make your contribution towards our 2016 quota. The Diocese is accepting contributions through February 28, 2017 for the 2016 D.S.A. assessment.**

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Felipe Camacho, Austin, TX - \$20

In Memory of John Blazek

Sharon Blazek Ryan - \$20

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

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – Feb. 2

We recall and honor the bringing of the infant Christ to the temple by Mary and Joseph for the prescribed offering. According to Jewish law, this was to take place 40 days after the child's birth. It is in the midst of this ritual action that two holy prophets, Anna and Simeon, beheld the Christ child and recognized him for who he was: the promised Messiah who would redeem and save all people.



World Day for Consecrated Life - February 2

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. It is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

REFLECTION



The Inescapable Way of the Beatitudes For The Disciple

The first word of each Beatitude may be confusing for those who do not understand. The people called “Blessed” are people in a painful situation. To accept and understand this paradox, we must first turn to Jesus, because to be a disciple means to learn from the Master, follow his manner of life and his way of thinking. The Beatitudes could best be appreciated as a self-portrait of Jesus as well as an invitation to be like him in every regard. *It is Jesus who is* the poor in spirit, the meek, the one who hungers and thirsts for justice, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemaker, the persecuted – unto death. He is however exalted in glory and seated at the right hand of the Father, therefore – “Blessed.” Therefore, those who share what he has been, who are identified with him in their poverty already share in his glory and are “Blessed.” The reward is not delayed; it is already in this very identification. What remains to come is the manifestation of that bliss. Those described in the Beatitudes, already possess the earnest money and, in some way, the title to happiness.

By contemplating Christ, we can understand that we are “Blessed” and why.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 29 – Judy Kubenka
 January 30 – Gentry Doyle
 January 31 – Jerome Kalina
 February 3 – Mrs. Dennis Mican

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



February 4 – Sireta & Frank Michalak

Church Tours

According to the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce 1,868 people toured the Church on registered tours between October to December 2016.



THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

For centuries the Catholic faithful have found ways to express their love for the living presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, not only in Mass, but in a rich variety of devotions. The reservation of the consecrated hosts in a tabernacle arose out of a practical need – so that Eucharist could be taken to the sick and homebound – but over time the reserved sacrament became an object of prayer in its own right. In the Middle Ages devotion to the Blessed Sacrament grew by leaps and bounds, in proportion as the faithful received Holy Communion less and less frequently. Practices such as adoration (simple prayer before the tabernacle), exposition (prayer before the consecrated host, exposed in the ciborium or in a monstrance), and benediction (the blessing of the people with the sacrament, exposed in a monstrance) allowed the faithful to come close to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.



Mass is of course the most important way in which we adore and praise the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament. But other rites can also help us to enter into the mystery of the Eucharist. Prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, whether reserved in the tabernacle or exposed in a monstrance is, above all, a prayer of love and thanksgiving.

HOLY ROSARY WOMEN’S A.C.T.S. RETREAT March 16 – 19, 2017



A.C.T.S.

You are invited to join us to spend a weekend with God attending an A.C.T.S. Retreat. This is an opportunity for spiritual renewal and making new friends. Its aim is to enhance our relationship with Our Lord and with other Christian women who accompany us on this journey of faith. The retreat is hosted by the Holy Rosary Women’s A.C.T.S. Community and the send-off will be from the St. Rose Family Center in Schulenburg.

*Registration forms are available at the entrance to church.
 For more information contact Kathleen Svatek at 214-280-7828.*

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:

For The Unborn

For Me & My Family

For Rose Mary & Emma

For The Good News To Share From Our Lord

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued