

November 5, 2017

**Ordinary Time  
Thirty-first Sunday**



***Speaking With Integrity***

**This Sunday's readings seem to be for those who thrive on criticizing the clergy. Malachi lambasts corrupt priests and Jesus goes after the hypocritical religious leaders of his day.**

**It all sounds good until we remember that the Gospel is to call us all to conversion and not to reinforce our own self-righteousness.**

**Today's Gospel brings us into the core of Jesus' moral teaching. He challenges us to be who we say we are – a people of integrity. Are our words and actions perfectly integrated?**



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Robin & Gary Cerny in recognition of National Adoption Month – celebrating a family for every child.

*November celebrates the lifelong benefits to families touched by the miracle of adoption, honors birth mothers for their courageous choice and remembers children who still need permanent homes.*

**MASS INTENTIONS**



Saturday, November 11

4:30 p.m. Robert R. Schaefer

Sunday, November 12

8:00 a.m. Ludmila & Paul Pokluda

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



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

**First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 63**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY**



We welcome Fr. Tony Pesek, our Veterans, and our visitors to the Mass and program honoring our Veterans.

***Pray For Peace This Veterans Day***

Veterans Day celebrates those values, not the martial violence that puts America's soldiers to the test. The focus of this commemoration has always been on peace, not war. It was first called Armistice Day, for the November 11, 1918 peace agreement that ended World War I, what was then called the "War to end all wars." If Veterans Day has any message, it is to remind us of war's human cost and the many mourning families it leaves in its wake. It is also a reminder that armed conflict should never be accepted as an inevitability.

**"We must never resign ourselves to the absence of peace. Peace is possible. Peace is urgent. Peace is an indispensable condition for a life worthy of the human person and society." – Pope Benedict XVI**

**THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

**Nov. 22** – Thanksgiving Vigil Mass, **5:30 p.m., Praha**

**Nov. 23** – Thanksgiving Day Mass, 6:30 a.m., Moulton

Come celebrate God's goodness with the community. Canned goods and monetary offering will be collected to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

*Food baskets have been made available at the Church entrance for canned goods. You may drop your canned goods at any time. Drop the attached envelope for monetary donations in the collection basket or mail during the month of November.*

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

***Cathy & Andy Rackley, Tallahassee, FL - \$20***

***In Thanksgiving to God for Special Intentions***

***Grace Howard, San Antonio, TX - \$50***

***In Memory of Frank Michalak***

***Liz & Leo Janak - \$25***

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

## REFLECTION

### *All Are Humble Servants of God*

Today Jesus sums up his thoughts on the Scribes and Pharisees for the crowds and his disciples in the Gospel. The question that the Scribes and Pharisees have raised for Jesus is how to regard legitimate authority when those who have it abuse it.

Matthew in writing the Gospel wanted his Jewish audience to understand that although those who have legitimate religious authority in Jewish society rejected Jesus, Jesus was faithful to the law of Moses and, like Moses, had God's authority to do what he was doing.

The Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said, have fallen into the trap of teaching one thing and doing another. They had also become self-important. *All their works are performed to be seen.* Jesus warned his disciples to avoid falling into either trap: They must avoid investing so much authority in others so that those leaders do not become gods for them. *Call no one on earth your father.* No Rabbi or teacher should be mistaken for God. Rather than seeing themselves as authority figures, disciples of Jesus must regard themselves as servants. A disciple of Jesus must act for the good of others as Jesus himself came to serve and not to be served.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



November 7 – Leo Janak  
November 10 – Heather Jasek, Ken Stryk

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



November 6 – Mary & Charlie Bartos  
November 8 – Robin & Gary Cerny

## 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 Mary Christ*  
*To Get The New Apartment*  
*Pray For My Health & Faith*  
*May My Lab/Test Results Come Out Good*  
*Prayers for Healing – Physically & Emotionally*  
*For Good Health of Children & Grandchildren*  
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

## NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 5 – 11, 2017

National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the US dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

## Annual Safe Environment Training For C.C.D. Students – November 15

All parishes in the Diocese of Victoria are required to have a safe environment program which addresses providing a safe environment for all the children who participate in parish and diocesan programs. One of the requirements is that the parish has safe environment training for the youth (and their parents) annually. Therefore, in order to remain in compliance with the *Diocese of Victoria Safe Environment Program* policy, **age-appropriate videos will be shown to the C.C.D. students.** Parents may complete an opt-out form if they do not want their child to participate in the training.

In addition, we will send home a Parent's Guide booklet to each family. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the ways of protecting children from child abuse as illustrated in the booklet. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Parish Office or visit the diocese website, [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

### Safe Environment Presentations

**Grades K-4: Bullies - Stand Tall, Be Strong:** The goal of Safety N.E.T. Kids is to raise the awareness of children and their parents about abuse and abduction and to help children develop the necessary skills to avoid becoming easy targets. The children will learn about the importance of building good friendships; simple, practical, and effective responses to threats and physical abuse; and how to handle name-calling by instilling confidence with the aid of fun games and high energy content.

**C.C.D. Grades 5-6 – The Internet and You Staying Safe:** The Internet is an everyday part of life for most teens, yet many fail to realize why it is essential for them to use caution online. With humor that will appeal to young teens, this program talks about Instant Messaging, blogs, email, chat rooms, and social networks. Without using scare tactics, it makes teens aware of potential online dangers: predators, "phishing," identity theft, and cyberbullying. It is designed to make surfing the Internet a positive, safe experience. After viewing this program, students will be aware of Internet privacy and security issues, practice common sense rules for staying safe online, and take control of their Internet experience and make it a positive one.

## Shiner Catholic Church Strudel Sale, Nov, 11 \$15 (unbaked only)

For Moulton & Flatonia orders call Virginia & David Vinklarek (361-594-2343) by Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Area Picnics

Nov. 12 – St. Joseph Fall Festival, Boling