

December 3, 2017

## ADVENT

### First Sunday of Advent



#### *A New Year, A New Page*

**Like a blank page ready to be written on, the new Liturgical Year stands before us. Only God knows what is ahead. Advent invites us to allow the blank page to be filled not by our own plans but by the Word and Will of God. Through the experiences of living and growing, the divine potter helps to shape our hearts, our minds, and our wills. At the beginning of this new year, while we await the celebration of another Christmas, we place all we are and all we hope for in God's competent care while we wait.**



**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



Thursday, December 7  
**5:00 p.m.** Spec. Intention – For Rain  
Saturday, December 9  
4:30 p.m. Spec. Intention – Marcella Vana Henke  
Sunday, December 10  
8:00 a.m. Mary & Charles Vana

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



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

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**  
**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85**  
**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**  
**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

### Czech Christmas Mass Concert Today, 3:00 p.m. Reception to Follow at School



Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear *Česká mše vánoční* (Czech Christmas Mass) as it was performed on Christmas Eve 1796 in Rožmitál pod Třemšínem (south Bohemia).

The performance will take place at 3:00 p.m. A reception will follow with an opportunity to meet Mr. Zdeněk Beránek, Deputy Head of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C. This event is being sponsored by the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas in partnership with the College of Music at the University of North Texas. All are invited.

*Parishioners are invited to bring a dessert for the reception following the concert - contact Lori Michalec.*

*\* There is no charge to attend the Concert. A free-will offering will be taken up at the Concert for the St. Mary's, Praha Church Restoration Fund.*

### DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

#### Holy Day of Obligation

In teaching that Mary was conceived immaculate, the Catholic Church teaches that from the very moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of original sin. This simply means that from the beginning, she was in a state of grace, sharing in God's own life, and that she was free from the sinful inclinations which have beset human nature after the fall. – EWTN 1996

#### Mass Schedule

Vigil Dec. 7 – **5:00 p.m., Praha**  
- 6:30 p.m., Moulton  
Mass of the Day, Dec. 8 - 8:15 a.m., Moulton

### Introduction to the Season of Advent

Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. We were not present at the coming that we will celebrate on Christmas day, the coming of an infant, God incarnate. We have no idea when all of history will be fulfilled and Jesus "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." Our yearly Advent season is not just to remember one coming and hope for another. Rather, we are to celebrate a present coming. We are like the servants in Jesus' parable. We each have our own work. However, as we go about that work we are to "watch" constantly so that we recognize the many ways in which Christ is coming to us every day of our lives.

### ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Edward Machicek : Stazy Hajek*

## REFLECTION

### *Awaiting The God Who Comes*

We are going toward an encounter with the Lord who will manifest himself. But when will he come? At certain times and in certain places – even today – some say “Very soon!” They seem unable to resist the temptation to point to a certain date. New dates are successively put forward, and no matter how many false prophecies there are, another date is scheduled.

Others, opposed to this, are content with the certitude of immediate experience. Time passes, and nothing comes. They remain asleep. They are really not concerned, and they lack true vigilance. Jesus speaks to both these groups in this Sunday’s gospel.

The coming of the Son of Man (the parousia) will be sudden and unexpected. Mark repeats Matthew’s urgent warning (First Sunday, Year A): “Stay awake!” And always for the same reason: “You do not know when the appointed time will come.” But there is one difference between the two: Mark places the return of the Lord at night.

To place the moment of the Master’s return at night is unusual, and must have a meaning. While no one can work during nighttime hours (John 9:4), nevertheless, that is the time when the powers of evil display their activity; it is then that the enemy sows weeds in the wheat field (Matt 13:24-30). The term, “night” therefore, often – and quite naturally – has a negative connotation.

Like everyone, Christians live in the night of this world, but they do not belong to it. They will not be surprised by the day that will come during this night: the light is within them and keeps them in a state of watchfulness.

## 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 a Policeman on Trial*  
*For Evelyn Macik, Macy P. F.*  
*In Thanksgiving For Good Neighbors*  
*In Memory of Barbara Catherine Flanaga*  
*In Memory of Adolph Jasek’s 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
*For Safety From Evil, For Family & Friends*  
*Pray For Peace & Happiness For Mary & Tom*  
*For Financial Help For A New Home For Parents*  
*Pray For God To Bless The Life of Brew Olmstead*  
*In Honor of What Would Be My Parents’ 66<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*  
*For My Deceased Parents, For Healing For My Son Hayden & Conversion to Our Lord & The Church*  
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

## 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



*Today – Czech Christmas Mass Concert*  
*Dec. 6 – Community Pre-Christmas Concert, Moulton*  
*Dec. 10 – St. Anne’s K.J.Z.T. #4 Christmas Party*  
*Dec. 12 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton*  
*Dec. 13 – Parish Penance Service, 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

**St. Anne’s K.J.Z.T. #4 Annual Meeting/Christmas Party, December 10, 2:00 p.m.** in the School Chapel. All members and their families are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

**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.

**Bulletin Insert: Advent / Christmas Schedule**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 3 – Deloris Smolik  
December 6 – Colten Cerny  
December 9 – Jason Jackson

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



December 7 – Dianne & Richard Niemann



## WEDDING BANNES

**Sophie Mae Perry & Quintin Allen Pecena**