

August 30, 2015

Ordinary Time

Twenty-second Sunday



Authentic Holiness

The readings of today, warn us against sinking into that place of disconnectedness called hypocrisy and urges us toward integrity and authenticity of life. To guard against this emptiness, requires a daily reconnection with God through Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, September 2

6:00 p.m. For the Welfare of the Parish

Saturday, September 5

4:30 p.m. Frank & Elizabeth Hajek

Sunday, September 6

8:00 a.m. Frank & Sophie Olsovsky

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37



BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for a bible study class after Mass on Wednesdays until 7:30 p.m.

Mass Intention Bookings Available



September 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27.

To book a Mass contact the Parish Office in Moulton (361-596-4674).

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

Charlean Sury, Fayetteville, TX - \$20

Sam & Patsy Wotipka, New Braunfels, TX - \$50

Judith & James McCune, Wetumpka, AL - \$10
(Pledge Payment)

In Honor of Mary & Matt Burns

Karen & Doyle Coburn, Livingston, TX - \$500

In Memory of Henrietta & George Migl

Mary Lynn & Allen Brehm and

Aileen & Bob Shocklee - \$100

Donations From The Church Restoration Box

Clyde Morrison - \$6

Lori Najvar, Austin, TX - \$20

Victoria (Skopp) & Frank Bily- \$10

Charlean Sury, Fayetteville, TX - \$20

Jimenez Family (Love & Prayers) - \$10

In Memory of Annie & Anton Dornak - \$5

Jill & Andrew Grimes, Austin, TX - \$150

Mary & Raymond Martinez, Wallis, TX - \$25

D.J. Darilek In Memory of Edwin Darilek - \$5

Cindy & John Agnor, The Woodlands, TX - \$10

Nancy & Paul Wooldridge, Birmingham, AL - \$25

Kelleyne & Franklin Holub, Cypress, TX

In memory of Frank & Georgie Holub - \$25

To make a tax deductible donation towards the restoration project: Restoring Maticka Praha contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

Society News

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Praha Bake Sale, September 5 beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the front porch of St. Mary's School Chapel. The proceeds from the Bake Sale will benefit the Flatonia Fire & Rescue and the Turtle Wing Foundation of Schulenburg.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



August 30 – Elyse & Eugene Chaloupka
September 5 – Judith & James Kubecka

REFLECTION



Motives of the Heart

In today's gospel the Pharisees and scribes challenge Jesus, asking why his disciples don't follow the practices that have been handed on regarding ritual washing. The roots of these practices are found in Exodus 30:19; 40:12. They concern the custom of priests to wash their hands and feet before entering into the tent of meeting. By the second century BC some Jews who were not priests had voluntarily assumed the practice of ritual washing of hands before Morning Prayer and before eating. In the gospel washing extends also to the utensils for preparing the meal and to the purification of the dining couch. The Pharisees seem to presume these should be universal practices. But such observances would have been nearly impossible for peasant farmers, fishermen, and itinerants such as Jesus, given the scarcity of water and contact with dead fish and other pollutants. This "tradition of the elders" (v. w) would have been largely defined and maintained by urban elites

In response to the Pharisees, Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah, exposing the disconnection between lip service and motivations of the heart. It is not only that Jesus' opponents have forgotten the true motivation for their religious practices; they have substituted humanly contrived practices for God's commandments. Jesus points toward examination of our inner motives. Our practices must flow from and reflect our profound experience of God's love and care.

It can happen, however, that originally good practices deteriorate over time into meaningless customs, or, worse yet, into showy external observance. It is good to periodically examine our religious practices, assessing how well they embody God's love and how they impel us toward greater love of one another.

It is important to recognize the ways in which the heart can stray, as the ending of today's gospel emphasizes. The enumeration of vices is a typical teaching device used by philosophers (see also Rom. 1:29-41, Gal. 5:9-21). Jesus warns that it is not external observance or lack of it that determines one's relationship with God but a heart that is ever being transformed by diving love, which then becomes visible in concrete acts.

Praying With Scripture

1. Invite Jesus to help you conduct an inventory of your heart. What are your motivations for the religious practices you have embraced?
2. How does he love in your heart express itself in action on behalf of the most vulnerable? – *Barbara E. Reid*

AT HOME WITH THE WORD

Advent – Christ the King 2016

To foster full, conscious, and active participation in the Sunday Liturgy all parishioners are encouraged to prepare for the celebration. One way of getting ready for the Mass is to reflect on the liturgical readings at home. You realize that the *Breaking Bread Books* do not have the readings so copies of *At Home With The Word* are ordered for all those who sign up for them. A copy is \$8 but if you fill in the form below and return it in the collection basket, drop slot or mail it in by September 20, you get a copy for free.



2016 At Home With The Word

Yes, I use the booklet. Order me a copy.

Name _____

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We finally return to Mark's gospel after our sojourn through John's sixth chapter. We left Mark at his version of the story of the miracle of loaves. We resume today as Jesus continues his mission: Pharisees and scribes pick on Jesus' disciples for their table manners. Jesus blasts the religious leaders for paying more attention to human rules than to divine ones. It is the evil within that makes us unclean.

Today's three readings bring up one of the most vexing issues of our faith. Just what religious rules and regulations does God demand we keep, and which ones can we discard? Is it possible that some of our most fervently kept laws don't come from God? This was especially brought front and center in a mid-1960s poll of American Catholics. The Catholics were asked just one question: "Which is the more important law: love or neighbor or not eating meat on Friday?" The majority responded, "Not eating meat on Friday."

Within a few weeks, the second session of the Bishop's Synod on the Family will convene. All of us remember the uproar and confusion after last year's meeting. Some feared the church was about to change some of its longest-held regulations, especially those governing who may and who may not participate in receiving the Eucharist. Over the centuries, many of us were led to believe those rules came directly from God. But now we're not too certain. Are there no limits? Just what can we change and what can't we change? And how do we know?

Pope Francis seems to be following the example of Jesus in Mark's Gospel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



August 30 – Rylie Noska
September 1 – Bradley Kubecka
September 2 – Sireta Michalak