

December 6, 2015

# Advent

## Third Sunday of Advent



### What Should We Do?

This question appears three times in today's Gospel. The question reflects the questioner's desire and readiness to do something, to enter into a relationship with the Coming One. To the crowds who asked, as well as to the soldiers and tax collectors, John's answers stood as challenges to conversion such that they would no longer live solely for themselves but for others and for God.

This question should be on the lips of those who are eager to be renewed in the Spirit and mind of the coming Christ.



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 16  
6:00 p.m. Emma Vrana  
Saturday, December 19  
4:30 p.m. Eugene A. Patalik, Sr.  
Sunday, December 20  
8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Charlie Patek & Joe Machalec Family

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

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

**First Reading:** Micah 5:1-4a  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 80  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10  
**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45



### BIBLE STUDY

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

## 2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment .....	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$5,024.40
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$2,507.60

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

Frances & Leon Kubenka                      Pat Masek  
Rosemary & Arthur Klekar                      Robert Lev

**Our parish quota to the Bishop should be paid by the end of the year. We are behind on our contributions this year. We thank those who have contributed and we ask those who have not done so yet to consider making a donation so that we can meet our quota.**

## Restoring Maticka Praha



### Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

Nancy & Thomas Petru - \$209  
(pledge payment for pew restoration)  
Judith & James McCune, Wetumpka, AL - \$10  
(monthly pledge payment)  
Donna & Paul Motard, Houston, TX - \$1,819  
Dorothy & Robert Huebel, Sugarland, TX - \$250

If you have not done so already, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge in honor of your loved ones. You however, are free to make a one-time donation or pay for an item of your choice.

A *Book of Memory* will be displayed at an appropriate place in the Church to honor all donors in these categories:

- Category I – \$10,000 and above
- Category II – \$7,500 to \$9,999
- Category III – \$5,000 to \$7,499
- Category IV – \$2,500 to \$4,999

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

## Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday

This Sunday, the Advent is called the Latin word



Third Sunday of *Gaudete Sunday* after *gaudere*, to rejoice. theme of the day.

Today's Entrance Antiphon says:  
*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.* – Philippians 4:4-5

It reminds us of the tone of joy that permeates the entire Season of Advent. The basis of our joy is this: "THE LORD IS NEAR". The use of rose vestments and the rose candle on the Advent Wreath underlies this day's special character. It expresses our joy.

## REFLECTION

### We Proceed In Joy

John the Baptizer came preaching with great enthusiasm; his was good news and his excitement about the coming Christ was so contagious that it evoked in his listeners a willingness to be taught. "What should we do?" asked the crowds. In response, John set forth a program of conversion that would create disciples for Jesus. His responses were aimed at the injustices and inequities that he and Jesus' Gospel were to address.

Despite the element of urgency and the references to the coming separation of good from bad, wheat from chaff, these words of warning are accompanied by promises that repentance will be met with forgiveness. Our conviction of God's presence empowers us to be joyful with the very joy of God. It allows us to stop worrying and being anxious and to look ahead to the day when we will be content to live in God's presence forever.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 13 – Alan Decker  
– Frances Kubenka  
– Rudy Patek  
December 14 – Elaine Hoffman  
December 18 – Mary C. Jasek

## ADVENT JOY



Advent is a time for joy, not because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ but because God is already in our midst (Emmanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a savior. We rejoice over the acts of God, which make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birth pangs, in the midst of the fragility of life. Advent joy springs from the realization that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between the *Already* and the *Not Yet*. – Dianne Bergant

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS 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:** The Sisters taught in St. Mary's Church School here in Praha for free for many years.

*Be generous.*

## Parish Advent Penance Service



**Praha – Wednesday, December 16, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**  
Moulton – Thursday, December 17, 5:30 p.m.

Many people still do not think of the sacrament of penance as an occasion for joy. They focus more on our sinfulness than on God's gracious mercy. The celebration of penance especially in Advent is a real celebration. The impulse to reform our lives flows from the awareness that the Lord is near – The Lord who comes to save us. The celebration leads us to a deep sense of true joy in the Lord.

*Come join us celebrate.*

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
*See Bulletin Insert*

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



**Dec. 16** – Parish Penance Service, Praha  
**Dec. 17** – Parish Penance Service, Moulton  
**Dec. 18** – Cookies to be delivered to the Homebound  
**Dec. 24 & 25** – Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor and Needy

### Christmas Altar Flowers

We encourage you to make a donation in memory of your loved ones toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the Church. *Extra Christmas Flower envelopes at the church entrance.*

### Praha Cookbooks Make Great Christmas Gifts

The Praha Cookbook Committee members will be selling cookbooks after the weekend Masses December 12 & 13, 19 & 20. We thank all those who submitted recipes and have already purchased cookbooks. Proceeds from the sale goes to the Church Restoration Fund.

**Need a great stocking stuffer? St. Joseph's Altar Society Raffle Tickets** for sale. \$2 each – 6 for \$10

- \$2,000+ worth of Gift Cards / Gift Certificates
- Hand Stitched Homemade Quilt, Baby Quilt, Afghan
- Gift Baskets and much, much more.

*50 prizes to be given away at the Altar Society's Annual Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner in February.*

## No C.C.D. Wednesday, December 16

C.C.D. students will participate in the Parish Penance Service.