

February 7, 2016
Ordinary Time
 Fifth Sunday



God Calls, We Respond!

Featured in today's Gospel are Peter, James and John, who thought they had found their place in life as fishermen. It all changed when they met the Lord. Their spiritual horizons were broadened and they realized that their lifes' search had only just begun. They would help others experience God in Jesus. We continue their mission as we in our turn help others recognize the presence of God in their lives.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, February 10
 5:00 p.m. For the Welfare of Parishioners
Saturday, February 13
 4:30 p.m. Albina & Louis Smolik
Sunday, February 14
 8:00 a.m. Emma & Julius Stryk

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Responsorial Psalm: 91
Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

No Bible Study Wednesday, February 10
No C.C.D. Wednesday, February 10

LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton
Ash Wednesday & Fridays of Lent
 5:00-7:00 p.m., \$8.00 Per Plate
 Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert



Dine in the Parish Hall
Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment \$7,532.00
 Amount Contributed \$6,721.28

We thank the following for their recent contributions:
Jenelle & Daniel Cerny

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:
Bernard Okruhlik, Spring, TX - \$500
Nancy & Thomas Petru - \$209
(pledge payment for pew restoration).

To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to st_joe@sbcglobal.net.

FR. GABRIEL BEREAVED

Fr. Gabriel will be away in Ghana for the funeral of his friend Kobby Yebo Okrah. Do please remember him in your prayers. While he is away Fr. Bob Fisher, S.V.D. will be in residence in Moulton to tend to your pastoral needs. The Parish Office will be open at regular hours.

ORIENTATION

Fear of God

Simon Peter's humble exclamation illustrates what is often referred to as the fear of God, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The word "fear" gives us the impression of something dark, negative, and harmful, but the fear of God is better defined as a moment of clarity and light. When we experience the fear of God, the Holy Spirit illuminates for us God's holy presence in our lives. In the face of God's holiness, we can often recognize, like Peter, the long way we have to go in our own holiness. The moment of the fear of God is a moment of awe and humility, when we recognize God's amazing power, love, and grace and become aware of our human weakness and limitations. It is an honest and inspiring moment of conversion, inviting us to God's holy presence, no matter the distance we find ourselves from it.

We know a person too well to allow them to speak God's truth authoritatively, because we recall a time when they themselves made mistakes. Who are they to preach? At the same time, God calls all of us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, the joy and hope of which outshines the imperfections of those who proclaim it. The proclamation of the Good News, through our imperfect lives, words, and deeds, is a testimony to God's grace working in our lives. Familiar prophets, whose pasts make us wonder about their right to preach, are in fact witnesses of God's healing grace, transforming those among us with checkered pasts into witnesses of the Gospel.

REFLECTION



A Call From God

Each of today's readings recounts a "call" from God to one sent forth to speak in God's name: the prophet Isaiah, the apostle Paul and Jesus' disciple Peter. These are important figures in the history of God's dealing with people, yet each one's imperfections are paramount in these accounts. Isaiah laments his uncleanness when confronted with the majesty of God; Paul says he is the least of the apostles, one who had persecuted the nascent church. In the gospel, Peter, in the face of a miraculous catch of fish, recognizes his unworthiness. Jesus does not argue with Peter's claim to be a sinner; he does not assure Peter that he is "good enough" to be a disciple, a student of Jesus. Instead, he comforts Peter as though the decision had already been made, and he announces that Peter "will be catching people" instead of fish.

If God chooses to act through such admittedly impure individuals – even one who had persecuted God's people – then what excuse do we have for refusing to heed God's call? Certainly, we say, *someone* needs to speak up in the face of injustice, *someone* needs to spread the gospel, *someone* needs to minister to the followers of Jesus – but not me! Perhaps we are really afraid, not of being unworthy but of what God's calling will cost us. What will people think? Will I have to give up what I enjoy? How painful will it be? (Isaiah, after all, was purified with a burning coal to the lips!)

Perhaps most striking is the story told of Peter and his fishing partners: "They left everything and followed Jesus." This was no casual Sunday afternoon outing by the lake. These people gave up the sources of their livelihood; they quit their jobs to follow an itinerant preacher.

Speaking for God carries a price. It is demanding. It is uncomfortable. It is our calling, too.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



February 12 – Matt Cerny, John Decker Jr.

Pray for the repose of the soul of

Anton Frank Okruhlik

and the comfort of his loved ones.

May he rest in peace.



LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD



Ash Wednesday - February 10

Mass Schedule:

St. Mary's, Praha

5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's, Moulton

6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

"*Come and admit you are a sinner in need of redemption*" is hardly an invitation the typical American would find favorable. The power of Ash Wednesday however, calls believers to their place of worship in droves to confess their sin, and even to wear a public sign of their repentance.

The blessing and administration of ashes opens this season of sorrow and mercy. Ash Wednesday has been observed throughout the universal church for over nine hundred years. It invites the baptized faithful into a spirit of repentance. Even those who do not frequent the Mass come to express their sorrow and to receive the symbol of repentance. This is a day of fast and abstinence. The faithful are asked to abstain from meat today. That includes poultry but not fish and seafood. Still, the idea is to eat simply, not lavishly as a sign of self-denial and repentance.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Fasting and Almsgiving: As Jesus' disciples we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters at home and in all nations. The Season of Lent provides us the opportunity to help those in need.

***Lenten Food Drive:** Leave your canned goods for the needy at the back of Church.

***Lenten Second Collection (Rice Bowl):** Begins next Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. Society #4 Quarterly Meeting, Today in the school chapel after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Praha Altar Society will be hosting the **February Birthday Party at Oak Manor Nursing Home, Flatonia, Friday, February 12, 3:00 p.m.** Members are encouraged to attend and to help serve refreshments. Enjoy the party!

HOLY ROSARY MEN'S A.C.T.S. RETREAT

February 18 - 21, 2016

You are invited to join us to spend a weekend with God attending an A.C.T.S. Retreat. This retreat is hosted by Catholic men, with spiritual guidance from Roman Catholic Faith. *Registration forms available in church.*