

January 22, 2017

## Ordinary Time

Third Sunday



### Called to Discipleship

**Today, Jesus calls the first disciples. As Jesus' followers, they were invited to serve at his side and speak and act in his name, dispelling the darkness of evil, ignorance, prejudice, pain and need while bringing God's good and gracious light to all. In considering the call of those first followers of Jesus, we find an opportunity for rethinking and reclaiming the varied calls that have made us who we are.**

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, January 28  
4:30 p.m. Robert R. Schaefer  
Sunday, January 29  
8:00 a.m. George Cerny

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



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

**First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13**  
**Responsorial Psalm: 146**  
**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**  
**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a**



Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Frances Anderle and Julia Stryk.

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



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*In Memory of Olga & Adolph Stryk*  
*Jeannette & Frank Miles, Flower Mound, TX - \$500*

We received the follow note from the Miles:

Dear Father Gabriel,

Please accept our donation of \$500 ... in honor of our mother and father Adolph and Olga Stryk. Please use it for the restoration fund or as you see where you might need it.

We thank you for your great effort to preserve Maticka Praha for our future generations.

We hope that 2017 will be a blessed year for you and all the parishioners.

God bless you,

*Frank & Jeannette Stryk Miles*

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

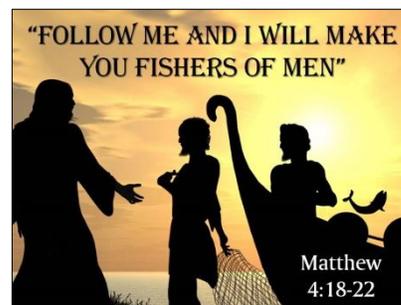
### ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Vaclac Masek*  
*Mary & Charlie Bartos*

### ORIENTATION

#### *Who is Your Spiritual "Pair"?*

Peter and Andrew immediately dropped their nets, their livelihood, to follow the renegade Jesus and two more brothers then followed. If Jesus were to walk through our



town today, what would you have to immediately drop to spread a great message? There are many lights (people) who chase our darkness away. Disciples are meant to be this light at all

times. Understanding the need for companionship, Jesus' first disciples were pairs – brothers. Who is your spiritual "pair" that you might want to come with you to feel more secure in walking a new path? If this person does not know how important they are to how you want to follow Christ Jesus, take time to affirm their discipleship and how it helps you be a better follower of Jesus.

## REFLECTION

### *Called to Spread Christ's Light*

There can be no light, not even a reflected light, without a light source, and for believers of both Testaments, that source is undeniably and irrefutably God.

In today's first reading the political situation of Israel has been engulfed by the darkness of Assyrian oppression. Nevertheless, Isaiah held out hope to his contemporaries, hope in the form of a call from God that would lead the people out of the darkness into the light. Followers of Jesus believe that Isaiah's promises were fulfilled in his coming. This belief is celebrated in the midnight liturgy for Christmas; in the birth of Christ, a new light has come.

The beginning of Jesus' public ministry in today's Gospel signaled the end of the era of darkness and the birth of the new age of reign of God. With the arrest (and eventual death) of John the Baptizer, Jesus takes center stage. He makes his way to the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, those first territories to be "darkened" by Assyrian aggression. By his very presence and through his words and works, Jesus brought light to that darkness. Those who wished to walk in his light would be challenged to take to heart his call to repent and welcome the reign of God.

To aid his efforts at being light and bringing light to all nations, Jesus called upon others to serve with him. First among those servant disciples were fishermen. They had a lot to lose by following him, yet they dropped everything and followed Jesus.

As teacher and healer as light and life, Jesus continues to call disciples to himself. Those who accept his call to belong to him are also challenged to belong to others, serving their needs, sharing their faith, encouraging their hope as Jesus did.

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children - January 22

**NOTE: Because January 22 falls on a Sunday in 2017, the designated observance for 2017 is Monday, January 23.**

The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a "throwaway culture." However, we have great trust in God's providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord's help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.



The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America,

January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion."

*As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.*

— US Conference of Catholic Bishops

### *Prayer*

*God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 24 – Eugene Chaloupka  
January 25 – Kermit Kurtz  
January 26 – Virginia Olsovsky  
January 28 – Stephen Lev

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

### *Church In Latin America*



Your contribution educates priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders; assists missionaries; trains catechists and supports the Church's work with the poor.

*Please be generous.*

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

### *The Call*

Discipleship is not something we take upon ourselves. We are called to it. Some people are very conscious of this call. They are aware of it in their aspirations and dreams; they recognize it in the events of their lives. They hear the call as clearly as Simon, Andrew, James and John heard the voice of Jesus. For others, the call to discipleship is not so clear. They may experience an undefined restlessness, a dissatisfaction with their lives. Or, they may be very satisfied with life when they hear the call, as the four in the gospel seem to have been. People can respond to the call in one of two ways. They consider the mere suggestion of discipleship an intrusion into their plans, or they drop what they are doing, leave their former concerns behind, and follow Jesus. In either case, the call to discipleship originates with God.