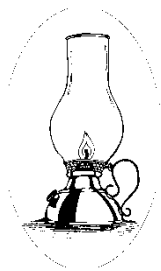


February 5, 2017

## Ordinary Time

Fifth Sunday



### ***“You Are The Light of The World”***

We expect to hear Jesus say of himself, “I am the light of the world,” as he does in the Gospel according to John (8:12). Jesus is the light and for several weeks we have heard scripture characterize Jesus in this way.

This Sunday, however, as we hear another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus charges his disciples to be salt and light of the world. That commitment to be salt and light translates into the activities described in today’s first reading. Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked; remove from your midst false accusation and malicious speech and do not turn your back on your own.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by the Praha Altar Society in honor of all Praha Altar Society members past and present.

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 11

4:30 p.m. Louis G. Stryk

Sunday, February 12

8:00 a.m. Emma & Julius Stryk

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



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

**First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20**

**Responsorial Psalm: 119**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37**

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:

***Carolyn Berner, Houston, TX - \$20***

***In Thanksgiving to God for the good life he has given us***

***Barbara & David McLaughlin, San Antonio, TX - \$20***

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

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT

Ash Wednesday is less than a month away – March 1. It will be here before you know it. As we prepare for the upcoming season of Lent, when we



turn our minds and hearts back to the God of mercy we reflect on why we celebrate Lent.

Every year in the middle of a week in late winter we go to Church and have the ashes smudged upon our clean foreheads. Every year the churches are filled to overflowing with the regulars and the not-so-regulars. Why do we still undergo this ritual of ashes that is centuries old, as old as the prophets who pleaded with God’s people to turn back from sin and toward God? We go because we need to go, because at least once a year we need to be reminded that our deepest hunger is the hunger for God.

Lent is a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, a gift of contemplation, and a gift of quiet so that we may listen to the Word, who whispers to us to come back to the God who created us. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.

*– Cullen from Loyola Press: Finding God in Ash Wednesday*

### PLEASE NOTE

**Parish Office Hours will be limited to 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Monday – Thursday for the next two weeks while Mary Lou is on vacation. Non-emergency requests will be taken care of when Mary Lou returns.

**Praha Altar Society Meeting, Today, February 5<sup>th</sup>** in the School after Mass. Election of officers will be held and members can pay 2017 dues of \$5.00. Make plans to attend. New members always welcome.

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - FEBRUARY 11

## REFLECTION

### *Salt And Light For Others*

The instructions given to the disciples in last Sunday's gospel continue in today's. Jesus employs two metaphors to characterize the essence of discipleship: salt and light.

The importance of salt cannot be questioned by anyone. It is not only essential for life itself, it is also valuable for preserving, seasoning and purifying food and for fertilizing. In a sense, salt loses its separate identity when it salts something else. Its value resides in the way it acts on another substance. This is what Jesus is alluding to when he says that salt is worthless if it loses its taste. It can no longer act on anything. This is an important characteristic to remember when we apply this metaphor to the disciples. Their worth is gauged according to the influence they have on one another.

The second metaphor is light. The disciples are told that they are the light of the world. Two distinct images are used to exemplify the role played by light. These are a city on a mountain and a lamp on a stand in a house. The first calls to mind the countryside at night. There are no lights on the road to dissipate the darkness. Then on a hill in the distance one can see the lights of a city. The surrounding darkness only accentuates the light from the city, which serves as a beacon leading the traveler to a place of safety. The second image is a lamp intended to provide light in a house. The flame is uncovered and held high so its rays light up the entire room.

True disciples are the light that shines in the darkness of ignorance of faithlessness. They enlighten others not by words but by their manner of living. It is this manner of living that declares to the world that the reign of God has indeed been established in their midst.

*How are you salt and light for others?*

On February 11, the Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick



will be celebrated throughout the Church ... The theme of this year's celebration is "Amazement at what God has accomplished: 'The Almighty has done great things for me....'" (Lk 1:49). Instituted by

my predecessor Saint John Paul II in 1992, and first celebrated at Lourdes on 11 February 1993, this Day is an opportunity to reflect in particular on the needs of the sick and, more generally, of all those who suffer. It is also an occasion for those who generously assist the sick, beginning with family members, health workers and volunteers, to give thanks for their God-given vocation of accompanying our infirm brothers and sisters. This celebration likewise gives the Church renewed spiritual energy for carrying out ever more fully that fundamental part of her mission which includes serving the poor, the infirm, the suffering, the outcast and the marginalized (cf. John Paul II, *Motu Proprio Dolentium Hominum*, 11 February 1985, 1). – Pope Francis

### *Prayer for the Sick*

*Merciful Jesus, during Your life on earth You showed great concern for the sick and the infirm. Have compassion now on all those who are sick or in pain. Grant them a healing of mind and body and restore their strength and spirit. Comfort them with knowledge that we are praying for them, and give them peace with a sense of your presence. May they know that in a special way they are united with You, their suffering Christ. May they contribute to the welfare of the whole People of God by associating themselves freely with your Passion and death for the salvation of the world. Bless, too, those who take care of the sick. In their own time of need, bestow on them a hundred fold the blessings they have given to others. Amen.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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February 6 – Gene Patalik Jr.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



February 5 – Heather & Donald Jasek

## HOLY ROSARY WOMEN'S A.C.T.S. RETREAT March 16 – 19, 2017

The retreat is hosted by the Holy Rosary Women's A.C.T.S. Community and the send-off will be from the St. Rose Family Center in Schulenburg.

Registration forms are available at the entrance to church.  
For more information contact Kathleen Svatek at 214-280-7828.

## 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 Yolanda Y.*

*For Safe Travel*

*For Our Country*

*Pray For The Unborn*

*For The Health of My Nephew*

*That I Receive A Lung Transplant*

*In Thanksgiving For God's Many Blessings*

*For Our Mother To Return To Good Health*

*For Mason, Nicolas, Robinh, Dean & Lauren*

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued