

July 30, 2017

Ordinary Time
Seventeenth Sunday



What Do We Do Now?

Today's Gospel of the parables of a treasure buried in a field and a pearl of great price is an example of how Jesus uses unattractive human behavior to speak of the Kingdom of heaven as the supreme value to be preferred above all else. By hiding the treasure the person goes to the extent of cheating in order to acquire some treasure trove of the owners of the field in which it was found. The Kingdom of heaven is of such great value that the most drastic action is worth taking to receive it.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 5

4:30 p.m. Louis G. Stryk

Sunday, August 6

8:00 a.m. Henrietta & George Migl

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Transfiguration of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Praha Picnic Souvenirs are here. If anyone wishes to buy a T-shirt or cap contact Frances Kubenka at 865-2242. Frances will be selling T-shirts and caps after Mass on August 13 & 14.

Picnic Memories

We received the following note this week and we thought we would share it with you.

Dear Father,

Thank you for the *Meal Ticket*. I hope and pray I can use it and enjoy the Picnic like I did when I was a young *child*. Fond memories from my childhood. We all have them, don't we?

Georgia Matusek

2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment	\$7,670.00
Contributions So Far	\$ 3,640.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$ 4,030.00

Do please consider making a donation.

The Statues of Saint Anthony of Padua and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Back In The Church

St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church (1195-1231)

It is difficult to find a church in Europe that does not have an image of this saint. He is claimed by Lisbon, Portugal where he was born and by Padua, Italy where he lived and died. He was named Fernando at Baptism but changed his name to Anthony after St. Anthony, Abbott when he became a Franciscan monk. Anthony is admired for his profound knowledge of the scriptures. In his last days on earth, he had a vision of the Infant Jesus that has become part of his popular images. The most common image shows Anthony with the child Jesus standing or seated on the Book of the Gospels displaying his affection for St. Anthony.

St. Anthony is also associated with many miracles. Once in Rimini, a small town in Italy St. Anthony was challenged by a heretic. The man took a mule that had not eaten for three days and placed it between its fodder and a consecrated host; after celebrating Mass, Anthony went, with the Monstrance, to the place where the mule was and the mule, paying no attention to the fodder, knelt down before the Blessed Sacrament.

Anthony is invoked in the search of mislaid or stolen objects. He whom popular devotion has nominated as finder of lost objects found himself by losing himself totally to the providence of God.

In our Church the statue of St. Anthony was placed in the place where the present ambo (pulpit) stands after the ambo was removed in the sixties. The statue of the saint has now been placed in its own dignified space.

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carmelite Religious and Doctor of the Church (1873 – 1897)

St. Theresa is also known as Theresa of Lisieux, France. She experienced suffering at an early age. At fifteen she entered the Carmelite Convent. In 1895, she began to write *The Story of a Soul*, in which she told of a spiritual journey. Tuberculosis caused Theresa's death in 1897. She had said that from heaven she would let fall a shower of roses. She is proclaimed patron of all missionaries, of Russia and of France.

In photographs she is shown wearing a Carmelite's habit, often contemplating the cross and holding an armful of roses. In our Church the statue was taken out of the Church to the school to create the St. Theresa's Chapel for daily Masses. The statue has now been placed in the Church on the *women's side*.

CHURCH PICNIC BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH PICNIC – AUGUST 15

How You Can Help With The Picnic?

Auction: Donate items of value to the auction. We need a variety of items for our guests. If you haven't decided what to donate to the auction yet, there are some quilts and wood crafted items available at the Parish Office in Moulton at reasonable prices. Stop by to make a choice.

Meat Donation Fund: Our Meat Donation Fund goal this year is \$10,000. We have a long way to go to meet our goal. Have you made your donation?

Raffle Tickets: Have you turned in your raffle stubs and donations yet? Contact Thomas Petru or Liz Janak to pick up extra tickets to sell.

Bingo & Music Fund Donations: It takes a lot to have good music for our guests. Bingo donations are needed as well. Can you help?

Country Store: The out-of-town people love homemade jelly, home-canned/baked goods, and hand-made crafts. Let's make sure we have plenty on hand.

Fr. Gabriel's Cake: Fr. Gabriel's Cake will be auctioned off at the Picnic. Make a donation towards it for a piece of cake.

Other Picnic Donations are welcome.

Desserts & Cake Walk: Get your ovens ready. We need at least 200 cakes (pies, strudels, rosettes ...) for the cake walk and can never have enough desserts for the meal. Also, the Cake Walk booth still needs volunteers for each shift. Contact Robin Cerny or Sharon Crowe.

Publicity: Pick up some flyers and post them at your place of work and at area businesses. Invite all your friends and family to the Picnic.

Contributions from out-of-town friends of the parish are accepted and appreciated. See Insert.

REFLECTION

Acquiring the Only Worthwhile Treasure The Kingdom of Heaven

Today we read three more comparisons that Jesus uses to help his disciples understand what he means by the *Kingdom of Heaven*. In both the parable of the buried treasure and the story of the pearl of great price, the person recognizes the value of his find and joyfully sells all he has in order to have that which is most valuable. Jesus' disciples must do the same. The third comparison is quite different from the other two parables. Just like the parable of the weeds and wheat of last week, the parable of the dragnet is used to teach that we are each accountable for our actions. The end for those who do good and those who do evil is not the same.

There is something about the Kingdom that resembles God's gift freely offered to us in today's first reading. Appearing to Solomon, God invites him to ask for whatever he would like. This demonstrates the generosity of God. The treasure we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain it. The Kingdom is something God is doing. It is not a possession to be acquired. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is to accept it. In a sense the Kingdom of heaven is ours for the asking. Unfortunately, we do not always recognize its value, and we do not ask for it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



July 31 – Daniel Cerny
– Kyle Koncaba
– Haley Taranowski
August 1 – Ellen Vrazel
August 3 – Carol Barta
– David Labay

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



August 2 – Judy & Stephen Lev

Area Picnics

August 5-6 – St. Anthony's Shrimporee, Palacios
August 6 – St. Joseph, Yoakum
– Sts. Peter & Paul Festival, Freslborg
August 13 – St. Michael Harvest Feast, Weimar
August 15 – Praha Picnic
August 20 – St. Andrew Summer Festival, Hillje
September 17 – Moulton Picnic

PLATES TO GO AT PICNIC

We have created a new gravel driveway for **Business Plates-to-go** and **drive through Plates-to-go line for individuals**.

FOR BUSINESS PLATES

- Take F.M. 1295 to Praha.
- Turn on South Knezek Road to the Hall.
- Make a Left turn onto the new gravel road behind the hall.
- Follow the signs to the Business Plates pick up station.

FOR INDIVIDUAL PLATES TO GO

- Take Highway 90
- Turn on South Knezek Road to Praha Hall.
- Make a Right turn onto the new gravel road behind the hall.
- Follow the signs to the Drive Thru Individual Plates To Go pick up station.

The walk up Plates To Go line will still be available.