

January 14, 2018

Ordinary Time Second Sunday



What Are You Looking For?

In response to this question of Jesus the two disciples of John the Baptist, asked Jesus *where are you staying?* The two disciples speak their desire to follow Jesus. Jesus' reply, *come, and you will see* means that he is ready to accept the two men's request. They, on their part in total freedom must be willing to accompany Jesus wherever he goes. *So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day.* Jesus today asks us the same question. *What are you looking for? What is your response?*

ALTAR FLOWER BOOKINGS AVAILABLE



Jan. 21/22 & 27/28 Feb. 3/4 & 10/11

Do you want to donate flowers for the Altar? You could do this in memory of a loved one, or an anniversary date or for any occasion. To sign up contact Lori Janecka (Altar Society President) or call the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 20
4:30 p.m. Mary & Jerome Kocian
Sunday, January 21
8:00 a.m. Ludmila & Paul Pokluda

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment \$ 7,670.00
Contributions So Far \$ 7,175.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 495.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Ken Stryk
Melvin Hutzler
Kathleen & Martin Svatek

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!
HELP US MAKE IT!

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



We thank the following for their recent donations:

Emma Nsertra Hackeber - \$20
Mark Motard, Houston, TX - \$20
Kim & Reid Wilson, Houston, TX - \$20
In Memory of All the Czech People - \$20
Vladimir Bandas & Family, Czechoslovakia
Melvin Hutzler, Bulverde, TX - \$200
(pledged payment)

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

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – JANUARY 18-25

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18, and concludes on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. This year's theme "*Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power,*" is taken from the book of Exodus 15:6. Throughout 2018, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY JANUARY 15, 2018



The federal holiday reminds us of Dr. King's achievements and of our continuing moral obligation to build a just society with equal rights for all.

MASS BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

February 3 & 4

REFLECTION

Considering Our Vocation

Ordinary Time is ushered in with a meditation on the call to discipleship. This call is not reserved for a select few. It accompanies our baptismal commitment and is issued to all Christians.

Discipleship is not something we take upon ourselves. It is an invitation from God. It might come to us in the form of an inner call, a kind of a dream or inspiration. Or our interest might be captured by a person or an event that first attracts us and then beckons us to investigate further. It can come in the innocence and naiveté of childhood, in the vigor of young adulthood, or in the wisdom of years. It comes when God calls us. We could be called during some religious event, while we are in the embrace of our family, or when we are out with our friends. The ordinariness of the occasion can sometimes deceive us into misjudging the significance of the event. But if we are attentive to the promptings of our heart we will be given the insight needed to recognize what is really happening: we are being called by God.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 17 – Elizabeth Janak

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 J.J.'s Intentions

Please Pray For My Family

For All My Tests to be Negative

For My Children to be Healthy & Happy

For The Health & Well Being of Our Son, Bob

Eternal Rest For Michaela Mata, M. Bertha Dimas, A. Munoz

For Ruben Velasquez & Justine Velasquez for Good Health

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

Poinsettias: The manger scene in the Church has been disassembled and the poinsettias have been placed at the back of church. Parishioners who contributed towards the Poinsettia Fund are welcome to take a poinsettia home after Mass. Please use care in removing the plants – pick up leaves that drop.

Responding to God with Our Lives

God wishes to know each of us intimately and whatever we do for God and for others should flow from that relationship. Our lives constitute a response to God's call. Each person's vocation in life merges at a certain point with one's very being. At that point, one's vocation and one's person become just one thing. It is not just priests and religious brothers and sisters who have vocations. Even though the practice of medicine, law or engineering can be profession they can at the same time be vocations. To have a vocation means that everything one does in life has the potential to realize some of the good ordained in the world by God. By valuing all we are and by doing everything as a response to God's call, we begin to understand how important it is to be quietly sensitive to the overtures of God.

LOOKING AHEAD LITURGICALLY

ORDINARY TIME - CYCLE B



Each year of the three-year Liturgical Cycle, (A. B. C.) is dedicated to one of the synoptic Gospels, (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This year we are in Cycle B. We read from Mark's Gospel. Most of the Gospel readings will be read from the beginning of Jesus' ministry (Mark 1:12-20) through the discourse on the coming of the Son of Man (Mark 13:24-32). Because Mark's Gospel is noticeably shorter than Matthew's or Luke's Gospel, it would have been difficult to find enough material for all the Sundays. This is why the reading of Mark's Gospel is interrupted at the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus' walking on the water, and the cures wrought in Gennesaret (Mark 6:35-56). For five Sundays from the 17th – 21st we read the Discourse of the Bread of Life from John's Gospel (John 6:1-69). We resume the reading of Mark's Gospel on the 22nd Sunday (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23).

Every year on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time we read a passage from John's Gospel. This year being Cycle B, it is the call of the first disciples – John, Andrew, and his brother Simon Peter (John 1:35-42). As we go along in the year, St. Mark's Gospel shows Jesus always on the go, unceasingly moving elsewhere, farther, and urging his disciples to make up their minds to follow him without ever stopping and getting settled.

Mark's Gospel challenges us, "This is no longer the time to remain neutral. You must choose sides – for or against Jesus. He is not shut up in the tomb. Throw your lot with Jesus, the Living One, the Son of God."