

August 25, 2019

Ordinary Time

Twenty-first Sunday



The Narrow Gate

Today's liturgy is the last in the sequence of the 18th to 21st Sundays in Ordinary Time unit. It acts as a kind of conclusion to a set of instructions given by Jesus on salvation, indicating the type of life one should lead, and the choices required to gain salvation. In fact, it leads us here and now to the threshold of the banquet hall in the Kingdom of God. The gate is narrow and will not be left open indefinitely. When it is closed, some who thought they had a right to enter will find themselves locked outside. Yet the call to the banquet has been made far and wide "from east to west, north to south." What are you doing about this invitation now? There are no guarantees.



Flowers for the Altar this weekend are donated by Bernice Laseur in memory of Joyce Kubecka.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, August 31
4:30 p.m. Marcella & Ernest Chaloupka
Sunday, September 1
8:00 a.m. Louis Barta

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

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

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 68
Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Mark Anderle.



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

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Robert Bland, Taylor, TX - \$20

*In Memory of Theresa Okruhlik Bures
Cathy & Albert Bures, Yoakum, TX - \$500*

In Memory of Hattie Stryk

Robert Lev - \$100

Betty Patalik - \$20

Robin & Gary Cerny - \$100

Elizabeth & Leo Janak - \$20

Henrietta & Elton Moeller - \$50

Connie & George Timko, Georgetown, TX - \$100

In Memory of Julia Stryk

Anonymous Donor - \$100

Elizabeth & Leo Janak - \$20

Theresa & Dennis Tousek - \$20

Henrietta & Elton Moeller - \$50

*In Thanksgiving For Daughter's Wedding at St. Mary's
Rhonda & David Stryk, Pearland, TX - \$500*

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 Hattie Stryk

Angeline Jalufka

Peggy & Ron Sitka

Mildred & Allan Timm

Helen Schaefer

Ruth & Clarence Metzger

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Mary & Charlie Bartos & Family

In Memory of Julia Stryk

Alice Poth

Jyl & Dean Stavinoha

Evelyn (Stryk) & Michael Kassey

Mary & Charlie Bartos & Family

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Tomas Barta: Barbara & Gene Bridges

Flatonia Catholic Daughters Mini-Retreat September 14, Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Bishop Brendan Cahill's presentation: *Contemplating the Face of Jesus with Mary*. Cost of presentation, \$10 (cash-payable that morning) includes morning coffee and lunch. Registration 8:00 a.m., presentation 9:00 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m., followed by CDA meetings in the afternoon.

Surrounding CDA courts will also be attending. Ladies of Flatonia, Praha, and Cistern are invited. *You may sign up in the back of the church or call Kathleen Svatek at 214-280-7828. Deadline to sign up is September 6.*

REFLECTION

Will All People Be Saved?

Today's gospel passage, brings up the question "Will all people be saved?" Jesus' answer appears to be "no." It is true that the good news is announced to all. All have the opportunity to respond, but here we learn that entering God's Kingdom is not automatic. On the other side of the narrow door is the householder who has the power and authority to open and close at will. There may well be a long line of expectant people. Whether or not they get in is entirely at the discretion of the householder.

In the Kingdom of God, places are set for those who respond in faith. So Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel will be there along with all whose hearts are changed by the gospel's proclamation. At the Lord's Table they will feast with God as the Scriptures promise. In God's judgment, human expectations can be shockingly reversed, unlikely people will get through the narrow door and even latecomers to salvation may take precedence over those who presume themselves to be worthy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August 25 – Nathan Vrazel
August 26 – John Decker, Sr.
August 27 – Anna Fishbeck
– Kathleen Svatek
August 28 – Marcella V. Henke
August 29 – Johnny Barcak
– James Pfeil
– Gail Stryk
August 30 – Rylie Noska

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



August 26 – Esther & Edward Brautigam
August 27 – Hilary & Greg Grahmann

50th

Congratulations
Elyse & Eugene Chaloupka
on your Golden Wedding Anniversary
August 30, 2019

Cistern Picnic Today: Cistern parishioners were at our Picnic to help us last week. It is only fair that we also attend their Picnic today to support them. At least go get a plate. Thank you.

Moulton Church Picnic - September 15

PRAHA PICNIC UPDATE

We thank all parishioners and out-of-town friends of the parish who contributed to the success of the Picnic. We are working on the final Picnic figures.

The Moulton Church Picnic is only three weeks away – September 15. A lot is going on now. We ask you to bear with us. We will publish the full Picnic Report as soon as possible. Do not forget to support the Moulton Picnic. Many Moulton parishioners donated, worked and helped in various ways to make the Praha Picnic successful. Again, thank you for your support.

For a continued list of Picnic Donors and the Raffle Winners List see insert.

Orientation

The 22nd – 24th Sundays in Ordinary Time

Already the tone of the scriptures is beginning to change. For weeks we have been hearing parables of the Kingdom, the cost of discipleship, meaning of the coming of the Messiah, and of his dying. Now the scriptures are starting to turn toward the second half of the Ordinary Time season. As Jesus gets closer to Jerusalem, his destination, the questions arise, as in the readings for today: Who will be saved? Who will be first in the Kingdom? By what means will we be saved? The scriptures contend that God's plan, known from the beginning of time, continues to unfold.

In the space of these three Sundays, we read a significant portion of Chapter 14 and all of Chapter 15 of Luke. The Gospel for the 22nd Sunday contains a parable that is set in the context of a meal. The Gospel of the 24th Sunday ends with a parable that speaks of another feast: that prepared by a father to celebrate his younger son's homecoming.

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1



ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Come out and join us Sunday, September 1, in the Parish Hall. It brings our community together for fellowship. A free will donation is appreciated.

Our Praha Pancake Sundays have been a big success in the community. It takes approximately 8 volunteers to make the morning go smoothly. The time commitment is 7:15-10:00. Everything necessary for the breakfast is provided - but we can use some more hands!

The dates remaining for Praha Pancake Sundays for 2019 are: September 1, October 6 & November 3.

If you would like to help please contact Lori Janecka at (361) 772-4307 or lorijanecka@gmail.com