

December 1, 2019

ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent



Actively Waiting For God

The coming of the Son of Man will be sudden and unexpected. People before the flood were busy with their own life's pursuits, oblivious to anything else: "the flood came and destroyed them." If we are negligent, we will end in disaster. The Gospel reminds us that we must continue to live with renewed watchfulness!



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Robin & Gary Cerny in memory of Annie (Vacek) & Frank Cerny and Anastasia (Migl) & John Stryk.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 7
4:30 p.m. Olga & Adolph Masek
Sunday, December 8
8:00 a.m. Richard O'Brien

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Second Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: 72

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Louis Barta.



2018 Breaking Bread Missals are at the main entrance of Church. Feel free to take copies home.

2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2019 Assessment \$7,813.00
Contributions So Far \$ 4,470.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 3,343.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Ellene Vrazel
Rose Mary Klekar
Anonymous Donor*

Do please consider making a donation.

DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday this year. Therefore, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on Monday, December 9th but it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

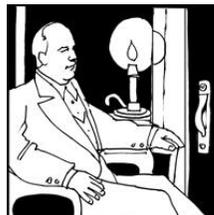
Introduction to the Season of Advent

The themes of the coming end-time, the last things, the end of the world, the last judgment and the New Heaven and New Earth celebrated on the Last Sunday of the Year (the 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time) come to a climax on the First Sunday of Advent. Thus, the successive Liturgical Years dovetail into one another. From the Second Sunday of Advent on, themes in preparation for the incarnation (the birth of Jesus) are introduced.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Stay Awake!

The Gospel of Matthew begins the season of Advent by focusing on Christ's second coming at the end of time. Matthew tells us to "*Stay Awake!*" It is not a question or a suggestion, it is an order. We must do this. It also means we must be in it for the long haul.



Our faith is not an hour on Sunday – a switch we turn on and off. Our lives must reflect the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God's coming is to live it every moment.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Those who wish to make a donation toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the Church could do so in memory of, or in honor of their loved ones. *Christmas Flower envelope attached.*

Sanctuary Light Booking Available – December 15

To book the Sanctuary Light (\$20) contact the Parish Office.

REFLECTION

Life on the Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is the overarching theme of this First Sunday of Advent. It also sets the tone for the entire Advent Season. We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God but the readings turn our attention to our own journey to God.

The readings provide us with clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into plows and pruning hooks. Saint Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, and a disposition open to a change of heart.

The life we must live must be lived in the actual world in which we find ourselves. We are called to journey deeper into our lives, not outside of them. That is where God is present. And if we are truly alert and attentive, we will discover that it is in our lives, as ordinary as we may think they are, that we will discover God. There we will find fulfillment, and there the Son of Man will come to us.

MARANATHA, COME LORD JESUS

Each year, we begin the great Church year as the natural world goes into transition. Days grow shorter, the air becomes colder and we anticipate winter. This season of Advent is a reminder that we live in a state of transition even now. Christ has come into the world; Christ will come again, and we live our lives between those great promises of God with the help of the Spirit. As we move toward Christmas and the celebration of new birth in the world, our lives should reflect our eager watching for the coming of Christ, not just at Advent but all the time.



Advent Prayer

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, by signs and wonders, great and small, you prepare us for the fulfillment of your promise.

He is the light that will dawn. He is the bright morning star of justice. His presence is the sign of your love, and his grace will increase our love – for one another and for you.

Grant us patience as we wait for Christ to come in the fullness of time. Help us to see the signs that point to him and to stay awake so that when he arrives, we will be found watching and ready. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

– 2009 Liturgy Training Publications

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 3 – Deloris Smolik
December 6 – Colten Cerny

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



December 7 – Dianne & Richard Niemann

PRAHA COOKBOOKS

Praha Altar Society is selling their Praha Cookbooks for \$15. These cookbooks make lovely Christmas or Bridal Shower gifts. Please contact Georgie Cerny or Kathleen Svatek if you wish to purchase cookbooks before the holidays.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Retired Fund for Religious

The annual appeal for Retired Religious raises funds for aged nuns who served ministering to the needs of others for many years.

Note: Sisters taught in St. Mary's Church School here in Praha for free for many years. *Be generous.*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Advent Schedule

Dec. 11 – Community Advent/Christmas Concert, Moulton

Dec. 16 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

Dec. 17 – Penance Service, Hallettsville

Dec. 18 – Parish Penance Service, Praha

Dec. 19 – Penance Service, Shiner

Dec. 20 – Penance Service, Yoakum

Advent/Christmas Decorations in Church: We thank Lori Janecka for decorating the Church so beautifully for the Advent/Christmas .

Christmas Cookies for The Homebound: Contact Pat Masek if you can help make some homemade Christmas Cookies to be delivered to the homebound.

Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor: A Special Collection for the Poor will be taken up at all the Christmas Masses.

Need a stocking stuffer or Christmas Gift? Praha Cookbooks make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you are in need of a cookbook or 2, please contact Kathleen Svatek after church or call at 214-280-7828.