# ADVENT Second Sunday of Advent



# The One We Await Shapes Our Waiting

John the Baptist takes center stage today. John's mission is to remind us that the broken world as we know it is not the will of God. John assures us that God will soon intervene but we have to be ready if we are to be a part of what God is about to do in our midst. John wants each of us to review our lives, sifting weed from grain and then to go into the water to come out renewed and ready for what is to come. Repentence in preparation for the Lord's coming is the only way to get at the meaning of Advent.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**



Saturday, December 14

4:30 p.m. Cecelia, Charlie & Cecelia "Sissy" Hajek

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Arthur Klekar

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



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

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 Responsorial Psalm: 146 Second Reading: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

# Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8, 2019

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

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Stazy & Frank Hajek.



### 2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2019 Assessment	\$7,813.00
Contributions So Far	\$ 4,980.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$ 2,833.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Rosemary Klekar Pat Masek
Pam & Nathan Vrazel Celina Kalina
Frances & Leon Kubenka Georgia Cerny

We thank all those who contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous support we should be able to pay off our remaining debt to the bishop. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund to do their part.

# ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Edith Kalina Mary & William Olsovsky Mary & Charlie Bartos & Family

# ST. MARY'S CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Edith Kalina Anonymous Donor

#### PREPARE!



John the Baptist is one of the models offered to us for our imitation. He announced the advent of Jesus. He himself lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of those who came to hear his message. What he preached was repentance, or

change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life but of the character of that life. He called for a return to righteousness, to lives of integrity, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He spoke against presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, against complacency and the shirking of responsibility, against disinterest in the welfare of others.

This is a powerful image in a world such as ours, where we are tempted to compromise our principles in favor of enhancing our status, where we are instructed to get what we want with the least amount of effort, where we are encouraged to disregard the needs of others and take care of "number one."

# Praha Altar Society Bake Sale Update

Thanks to the generosity of so many of our members, and the Flatonia community, we made \$1,171.00, and were completely sold out by 10:00 a.m.!

We appreciate the support of the Flatonia National Bank, everyone who provided delicious homemade items for our sale, those who made cash donations and all of the shoppers!

fori Janecka and Robin Cerny

# REFLECTION

# **Announcing the Coming Savior**

In a very real sense, the gathering at the Jordan presided over by John the Baptist in today's gospel was liturgical in character. Many from the surrounding area had come to hear the Word of God as spoken by John, and to listen to its interpretation and its application to their lives. Some were baptized in preparation for hearing an even more challenging Word, soon to be among them in the person of Jesus Christ.

Within our own liturgical assembly, we hear anew the challenge of this Word of God about the necessity of conversion. It is our decision whether or not to welcome the transformative Word, but upon that choice will hang our effectiveness as witnesses to the coming Kingdom of God.

John was a witness to that Kingdom par excellence. He reminded his hearers that repentance would lead to membership in the coming Kingdom, while a failure to repent would reap judgment.

The repentance that will best welcome the One who comes to save us consists in a radical surrender to Jesus Christ in all our living.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 9 – Jason Jackson

December 13 – Alan Decker

Frances Kubenka

- Rudy Patek

December 14 – Elaine Hoffman

## 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.

Pray for the repose of the soul of *Edith E. Kalina* 

and for the comfort of her loved ones.

May she rest in peace.



# SECOND COLLECTION THIS 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. *Be generous*.

#### **Bulletin Insert: Advent/Christmas Schedule**

#### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



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

**Christmas Altar Flowers Needed:** You are encouraged to make a donation. Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in Church.

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

**Communion to the Homebound:** All homebound parishioners who want to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Day are asked to call Pat Masek.

**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.

#### **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:

Pray For Freddy

Pray For Our Family

For Health & Happinss

For Morales & Zachary

For Gretchen & Tony Loro

For Conversion of Loulle M...

For Thorsten, Riche in Frieden

For Pregnancy Wished For (Infertility)

In Memory of Mom & Dad, Mimi & Papa

Hope Everyone Has A Good Life (I Am A Kid)

For Health & Hearts For God For My Children ...

For Financial & Physical Healing For My Family ...

For My Continued Good Health & A Good Job Decision

For Healing From Cancer, Healing for Robert & Family For Poor Souls in Purgatory, Conversion of Fermin A. &

For Poor Souls in Purgatory, Conversion of Fermin A.

For The Sick

- Votive Candle Intentions to be continued