

January 12, 2020

Sunday After Epiphany of the Lord (First Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Feast



“Behold the Lamb of God”

There is no break between Christmas and Ordinary Time – one flows almost seamlessly into the other through the Baptism of Jesus.

Today, as we return to the beginning of Our Lord’s public ministry, we stand in the country of the river Jordan, and recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the Chosen One of God. John the Baptist is baptizing people. Jesus is baptized. John witnesses the descent of the Spirit on Him. Later John sees Jesus and calls him the “Lamb of God”, and then directs his disciples to follow Jesus.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Jodi & Wade Gramlich in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their wedding.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, January 18
4:30 p.m. Mary Ann Lev
Sunday, January 19
8:00 a.m. Matilda & Anton Kubenka

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm: 40

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2019 Assessment \$7,813.00
Contributions So Far \$ 6,300.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 1,513.00

We thank all those who contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. We are close to paying off our debt to the bishop. We are counting on you to make our quota for 2019.

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

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Kathy & Paul Marek, Houston, TX - \$500

Marit & Timothy Doucet, Conroe, TX - \$250

ST. MARY’S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Marvin Zemlicka
Gussie Machalec*

ADDITIONS TO PARISH HALL

Kitchen Addition:

Construction will begin on a 16’ x 42’ extension of the northeast corner of the kitchen to give the stew cookers more space. The siding, windows, doors and east side porch will be removed. 15 concrete piers will be installed to support the new raised floor. The area will be framed to match the existing kitchen area. New overhead doors and a walk-in cooler will be installed.

Plates-To-Go Addition:

An additional 45’ x 30’ space for the plates-to-go will also be constructed. It will be connected to the north side of the parish hall (under the pavilion). Some windows and doors will be removed on the north side wall. New double doors, a concrete ramp, and roll up doors will be installed. This addition will provide more space for filling the plates-to-go, include an area for the walk-up plates-to-go, and will not take away space from the inside of the hall.

Robert Dornak of South Star Builders has been contracted for the construction project.

The Parish Hall was closed at the end of 2019 for renovations/additions to the hall. At this time, we are not booking/reserving the hall for reunions, weddings, etc. until the project is completed.

Additional Christmas Flower Donation

In memory of Ricardo Villegas

**The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Mary Ann Lev.**



REFLECTION



Called to Discipleship

Ordinary Time is ushered in with a meditation on the call to discipleship. This call is not reserved for a select few. It accompanied our baptismal commitment and is issued to all of us. 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, or an inspiration. It can come during some religious event, or even when we are out with friends. The ordinariness of the occasion sometimes deceives us. If we are attentive to the promptings of our heart, we will be given the insight to recognize what is really happening; that we are being called by God.

This call to discipleship is a call to radical transformation. We hear the call and we stand open to what God asks of us. The invitation introduces us to a new way of life. We no longer belong solely to ourselves. We belong to the body of Christ. We are part of the mission of Christ.

Today, we rejoice in the fact of having been called to follow Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 17 – Elizabeth Janak

THANK YOU NOTE

December 26, 2019

Dear Praha Parishioners,

Many thanks for all the cookies and flower. I have really enjoyed them. God bless you.

Happy New Year. Hope everyone will have a great new year.

Love,

Edna Miel

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

On this last day of Christmas Time, our prayers and readings turn to the ministry, by which God is revealed through Jesus, and to our transformation, by which God is revealed and glorified in our lives. Can we, like Jesus, focus on God and let our lives be filled with thanksgiving?

ORDINARY TIME - WINTER



2nd – 7th Sundays of Ordinary Time

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, Cycle A, is always associated with Matthew's Gospel. It has been called the first Gospel, as well as the Gospel of the Church. Exposure to the mind and message of Matthew's Gospel is a fitting way to begin our new year of Grace.

Since Easter is relatively late this year (April 12), Ash Wednesday falls on February 26. This will give us more time than usual to prepare for Lent.

The Lectionary

The First Readings come from a variety of sources, somehow related to the theme of covenant, the intimate relationship initiated by God that binds God to the people in both love and responsibility. The unfaithfulness of the people put the existence of the covenant in jeopardy, but another chance was given. The people are promised survival not because they deserve it but because God is faithful to covenant promises. Having been shown compassion by their God, in their turn they are called to attend to the needs of others, to live in obedience to the commandments, and to love their covenant companions as God loves them.

The Psalms are appropriate to the covenantal sentiments expressed in the First Readings.

The Second Readings are drawn from Chapters 1 through 3 of 1 Corinthians in which Paul focuses on the disorders that had arisen in this young Christian community. The Christians are following the world's practice of pitting one person against another rather than adhering to the gospel's injunction to communal unity. Because God's wisdom is so different from the wisdom of the world, only those who mature in faith will understand or even recognize it. Paul returns to the internal rivalry that precipitated the letter in the first place, and exhorts the Corinthians to preserve the unity that is theirs because the Spirit of God lives in them as in the temple.

The Gospel Readings, with a few exceptions are taken from the Matthew's Sermon on the Mount – the long instruction Jesus directed to his disciples rather than to the crowds. In it he sketches the manner of behavior required of those who enter the reign of heaven. This includes the Beatitudes as well as Jesus' own interpretation of earlier Jewish traditions. It is clear he is asking more than the Law dictates. He insists on total commitment, not mere external conformity of superficial adherence.