

February 23, 2020

Ordinary Time

Seventh Sunday



"I the Lord your God am holy."

Summoned to Holiness

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth – punishment for injury – this primal law seems to be written in our human nature. But God, in giving the law to Moses, and Jesus teaching his disciples on a mountaintop, asks for something more. We are called to be holy – to be like God.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated in memory of William Pinebrook sponsored by Sharon Pinebrook.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, February 26

4:30 p.m. The Welfare of Parishioners

Saturday, February 29

4:30 p.m. Willie C. Migl

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Louis Stryk

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

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

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: 51

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of the Pokluda, Fishbeck & Tupa Families.



Sanctuary Light Bookings Available

March 1, 8 & 22 April 5 & 26

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

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

In Memory of Edith Kalina

Helen Schaefer - \$20

Clarice & Laurence Vecera - \$25

In Memory of John McClanahan

Elizabeth & Leo Janak - \$25

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Edith Kalina

Robert Lev

The Edith Kalina Family

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There has been a growing interest in having the Living Stations of the Cross at Praha this Lent. The date has been tentatively set for April 5. The plan is to have the Last Supper and entering of Jerusalem followed by the 14 Stations. A lot of volunteers will be needed to make this happen. Everyone is invited to participate - parishioners and non-parishioners alike. We will need 16 captains, one for each scene. If you desire to be a lead captain please let Lori Janecka know as soon as possible - you will be responsible for getting people, props, etc. for your scene. A meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks to discuss the plans for putting it all together. Please contact Lori Janecka 361-772-4307 or lorijanecka@gmail.com for more information and to sign up to part of this very beautiful and powerful evening for St. Mary's, Praha and the surrounding community.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Freely Chosen Obligation

"When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles." Presenting the other cheek, handing over your cloak, going the extra mile are all free actions, performed in the midst of a situation in which someone has taken away our freedom.

The late Anthony de Mello tells the story of the Hindi holy man who one day was accosted by a robber who put a knife against his chest and demanded, "Give me all your valuables."

The holy man immediately handed over his pouch containing a few coins. The robber grabbed the pouch, pulled the knife back and started to run away. But the holy man yelled, "Wait! There's more. I have a ruby hidden in my sandal. Here it is. Take it too."

The next day the man was again stopped by the same robber. "What do you want?" the holy man asked. "I gave you everything yesterday. I don't have anything else."

"Yes you do," the robber said. "I want what you have that made you give me the ruby yesterday."

REFLECTION

Jesus Takes The Law To The Next Level

Today's Gospel, a continuation of Jesus' instruction of his disciples, begins with a statement of intent and a general principle. Jesus' words and position, as recorded by Matthew, answer the twofold question: What attitude should we take concerning the traditional commandments and what is the relationship between "righteousness" taught to us by the Old Testament and that preached by Jesus?

Jesus states with utmost clarity that he has come not to abolish the law of the prophets: "I have not come to abolish but to fulfill". Jesus has come so that all its potential may unfold, that it may be understood and observed in the Spirit that enlivens it more and more, and in order to "fulfill" it, to take it to its completion. From now on, whoever rejects one of the least commandments of the Law and teaches others to do so will be last in the Kingdom of Heaven. To give a bad example by contemptuously disobeying a commandment, even a "little" one is a scandal. Worse still is to teach others to do the same. The warning addressed to the scribes and Pharisees is directed also to all the disciples of Christ. The practice of justice specified by the Law, down to its least commandments, is the condition of entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

On the contrary, whoever observes the least commandments and teaches them to others will be declared great in the Kingdom of Heaven. This judgment must be understood in connection with the Beatitudes and in the general context of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus says to those he addresses as blessed, "Your reward in heaven is great."

DIOCESAN EVENT – MARCH 21

Get In The Game! Men's Gathering with Bishop Cahill and Damon West. Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m. – noon, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria. Tickets \$10 each, includes breakfast. To Register: Text name & email to 321-217-1117 or email name & number to jreyes@victoriadiocese.org or go to www.victoriadiocese.org/get-in-the-game.

Walk ins welcome.



St. Joseph's Church Altar Society
Noodle Soup Dinner Today - Feb. 23
St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Moulton

Dine In or Soup, Sandwiches and Desserts To-Go

St. Rose Spring Festival – March 1, Schulenburg KC Hall. Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. Live Auction, Cake Walk, Music, Sweepstakes and more. Proceeds benefit St. Rose of Lima Church & School.

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:

St. Joseph's, Moulton: 8:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary's, Praha: 4:30 p.m.

"Come and admit you are a sinner in need of redemption" is hardly an invitation the typical American would find favorable. The power of Ash Wednesday however, calls believers to their place of worship in droves to confess their sin, and even to wear a public sign of their repentance.



The blessing and administration of ashes opens this season of sorrow and mercy. Ash Wednesday has been observed throughout the universal church for over nine hundred years. It invites the baptized faithful into a spirit of repentance. Even those who do not frequent the Mass come to express their sorrow and to receive the symbol of repentance. This is a day of fast and abstinence. The faithful are asked to abstain from meat today. That includes poultry but not fish and seafood. Still, the idea is to eat simply, not lavishly as a sign of self-denial and repentance.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays of Lent, 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Fasting and Almsgiving: As Jesus' disciples we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters at home and in all nations. The Season of Lent provides us the opportunity to help those in need.

***Lenten Food Drive:** We will once again be collecting canned good for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

***Lenten Second Collection (Rice Bowl):**

All Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday.

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY

ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



Come out and join us next Sunday, March 1 for pancakes scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, juice, coffee and milk. It brings our community together for fellowship. All are welcome. A free will donation will be appreciated.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Michael Fishbeck.

LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton



Ash Wednesday & Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$10.00 Per Plate
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

Dine in the Social Center
Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go

*All proceeds go to charities.