

November 29, 2020

ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent



The Coming of the Day of the Lord

During the season of Advent, as during any season of life, our leaning on God brings us closer to the source of our strength. On any given day, our world like the world of Isaiah can be a frightening, horrible place fraught with the terrible effects of human greed, violence and sin. Yet God has become so personally invested in our world through Jesus Christ that no evil can stand against God's goodness. Therefore, we cling to God in trust, in hope and in joy, living in God's competent care.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated in thanksgiving to God by Lori & David Janecka.

MASS INTENTIONS



Thursday, December 3

4:30 p.m. Eleanora Okruhlik

Saturday, December 5

2:00 p.m. Michalec-Mica Wedding

4:30 p.m. Ann Cerny

Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. Richard O'Brien

** Beginning December 3, the First Thursday of Advent the Thursday evening Mass will be moved to 4:30 p.m. because of the time change.*

Individual Confessions in Praha and Moulton.

- Available anytime by appointment. Call the office.
- On Thursdays after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in Praha.
- On Fridays in the Family Room after Mass in Moulton.
- During Advent/Christmas season and in Lent.

2020 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2020 Assessment	\$8,179.00
Contributions So Far	\$6,660.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,519.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Do please consider making a donation.

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY



Praha Pancake Sunday the first Sunday of the month. Come out and join us under the Parish Hall pavilion. It brings our community together for fellowship. Sponsored by the Praha Altar Society. A free will donation is appreciated.

The First Sunday of Advent



Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. We were not present at the coming that we will celebrate on Christmas day, the coming of an infant, God incarnate. We have no idea when all of history will be fulfilled and Jesus "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." Our yearly Advent season is not just to remember one coming and hope for another. Rather, we are to celebrate a present coming. We are like the servants in Jesus' parable. We each have our own work. However, as we go about that work we are to "watch" constantly so that we recognize the many ways in which Christ is coming to us every day of our lives.

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

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 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



Rosary every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Come join a group of church ladies at the Zdravas Maria Plaza to pray.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Henry J. Migl.



REFLECTION



Alert to the Signs of the Times

**Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 Psalm 80
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37**

Advent is probably the church season most vulnerable to corruption and being overshadowed by everything that coincides with it. Whereas the church starts to celebrate Christmas on the night of December 24 and continues through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, society rolls into holiday mode after Halloween and into uncompromising materialism beginning with “Black Friday.” Our cultural Christmas ends abruptly on the night of December 25 – leaving only the tree that nobody wants to take down. Ironically, there is nothing more distracting from the mood of Advent than our culture’s preparations for Christmas.

Our readings remind us that, as of today, we are not simply getting into commercial Christmas season but entering into a season of conversion. Isaiah’s prayer calls on God to be the potter forming the clay of our lives. Jesus calls us to be alert to God’s unexpected appearances in our lives.

Traditionally, we talk about Advent as a time of waiting. But this week’s readings emphasize watching – watching for the signs of God’s presence, watching for the ways in which God desires to act as the potter of the clay of our lives. Jesus told the disciples that the master could show up at any hour. The task of discipleship then is not so much to be busy as it is to stay alert.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



November 30 – Chandler Moeller
December 3 – Deloris Smolik

WEDDING BANNERS



Kimberly Paige Michalec & Marcus Mica

LOOKING AHEAD THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Liturgical Orientation

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered, as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

In all three cycles of the lectionary there is a special focus for each of the four Sundays, beginning with a gospel of the Lord’s return on the first Sunday, John the Baptist on the second and third Sundays and the beginning of the infancy narrative on the fourth Sunday. This new year, Cycle B, St. Mark’s gospel is proclaimed for the first two Sundays, St. John on the third Sunday and St. Luke on the fourth Sunday. The outline looks like this:

The First Readings - Old Testament

1st Sunday: The season begins with a lamentation. The reading inaugurates a sort of dialogue, which will continue in the Old Testament readings of the remaining Sundays.

2nd Sunday: The reading responds to the lamentations of the people, speaking words of comfort and encouragement, assuring them of God’s presence.

3rd Sunday: The reading continues the conversation. A voice responds to God’s comforting word. Lamentation is a thing of the past. The reading is exuberant with hope.

4th Sunday: God seems to have the last word. This Sunday God speaks words of assurance. The nation will be re-established.

The Second Readings – Epistles

1st Sunday: Is an expression of thanks and an exhortation to remain blameless until the coming of the Lord.

2nd Sunday: We are reminded that the Day of the Lord will come and we are exhorted to live holy and devout lives.

3rd Sunday: Bids us to rejoice, to pray and render constant thanks.

4th Sunday: The reading moves into exhortation and ends with praise.

The Gospels

1st Sunday: A call to stay awake.

2nd & 3rd Sundays: Suggest how to live during this time of waiting, John the Baptist call for a change of heart.

4th Sunday: The annunciation shakes the world with an end-time presence.