

December 20, 2020

ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Holy Spaces Waiting for the Lord

Given God's power to be anywhere and everywhere, the Incarnation is all the more wondrous. What a mystery that God would choose to take up residence within the confines of our human condition. Today's Gospel gives words to this mystery as Mary is honored as the living temple of God made flesh. We who await the Coming One often prepare symbols of welcome; the manger, the crèche, the inn. In truth, all these symbols are to be realized in each of us. We are the empty manger awaiting the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS



Thursday, December 24

10:00 p.m. The Benefactors of the Parish

Friday, December 25

8:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners

Saturday, December 26

4:30 p.m. Benedict Pokluda

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. George Cerny

Individual Confessions in Praha and Moulton.

- Available anytime by appointment. Call the office.
- On Thursdays after the 4:30 p.m. Mass in Praha.
- On Fridays in the Family Room after Mass in Moulton.
- During Advent/Christmas season and in Lent.

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Next weekend is *The Feast of the Holy Family*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 105

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Ruth Metzger.

2020 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2020 Assessment	\$8,179.00
Contributions So Far	\$6,855.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,324.00

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 Patricia Ann Michna
Mary & Charlie Bartos*

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY FUND

*In Memory of Lillie Mae Okruhlik Machicek
Earline & Benny Okruhlik*

ORIENTATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we light the fourth candle (violet) on the Advent wreath. The fullness of the lit wreath reminds us of the coming celebration of Christmas and our commemoration of the incarnation.

Advent differs from Lent. It rises in a steady crescendo of light reflected in the liturgical readings, which, beginning with the prophecies of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, find their culmination on this Fourth Sunday of Advent in a series of readings that focus on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the annunciation of Jesus' birth.



The rhythm of Christmas. The Advent is towards the full Christmas. The Advent is the liturgical



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

Pray for the repose of the soul of

Innocence John Motal

and for the comfort of his loved ones.

May he rest in peace.



The Sanctuary Light

will be lit this week
in memory of Henry Migl.



REFLECTION

Rorate Caeli – Open Up Heavens!

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

There is something very future-oriented about this Fourth Sunday of Advent, perhaps expectedly so. David is promised a house as a dynasty that will endure. Paul contemplates for the Romans *the Revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages, but now manifested*. The Angel Gabriel announces that Mary's son *will rule over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end*. Today's liturgy directs us to look to the heavens. We await the Just One. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is not a countdown to Christmas but a journey into the expectation of the Savior.

Christmas only makes sense when we recognize that this nativity is one and the same with the birth of Jesus who will rule forever and free his people from their sins. It is this longing for our redemption that compels us to look forward and ask God to rend the heavens to come and save us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 26 – Dennis Olsovsky

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



December 22 – Virginia & Dennis Olsovsky

Congratulations and God's blessings to
**Rene Elizabeth & Theodore Raymond
Steinhauser**

who were recently united in the Sacrament
of Holy Matrimony here at St. Mary's.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

In the spirit of sharing blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters, a collection will be taken up at the Christmas Masses.

We encourage you to be generous.

MARANATHA!



Advent is the season when we stand on the threshold of fulfillment. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. We remember it, we ritually reenact it so we never take it for granted, so we never forget that it is in and through history that the marvelous deeds of God are accomplished. Each year we pause to celebrate these events, not because they have not yet occurred but because they *have* happened and are happening now before our eyes. The celebration of anticipation is also the celebration of fulfillment, fulfillment of the promises made, fulfillment of our redemption, fulfillment of our transformation. Blessed are we who believe that what was spoken to us by the Lord has been fulfilled!



**Need a last-minute Christmas gift idea?
How about a Praha Cookbook?**

Over 1,000 recipes and beautiful pictures of Praha. Cookbooks will be available before and after the Saturday, 4:30 p.m. Mass and the Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Mass. Price is \$15. Cash or check made payable to Praha Altar Society. For more information, Kathleen Svatek.

Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations: See insert.



Veselé Vánoce

My dear friends,

May you have a blessed Christmas. May Christ's coming among us bring happiness and peace to all families.

God bless,

