

December 27, 2015

**The Sunday Within The Octave Of The
Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**The Holy Family of Jesus
Mary and Joseph**

Feast



Blessed Bonds of Love and Care

Today's feast of the Holy Family, falling this year on the Sunday after Christmas, extends the celebration of the Nativity, putting new emphasis on the humanity of Jesus and on the gift of divine life offered to all of us.

Jesus had a unique relationship of sonship with God his heavenly Father and was a part of the family of Joseph and Mary and a part of the human family.

MASS INTENTIONS



***Note: Mass Schedule Change**

Thursday, December 31

4:30 p.m. Benefactors of the Parish

Friday, January 1, NO MASS

Moulton 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 2

4:30 p.m. Ben Smolik

Sunday, January 3

8:00 a.m. The Parish Family

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Epiphany of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: 72

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

No Bible Study

Wednesday, December 30

No C.C.D.

Wednesday, December 30

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far	\$5,894.40
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,637.60

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

Anonymous

Mary & Charlie Bartos

Our parish quota to the Bishop should be paid by the end of the year. We are behind on our contributions this year. We thank those who have contributed and we ask those who have not done so yet to consider making a donation so that we can meet our quota.

We are almost there! You can help!

Restoring Maticka Praha



Church Restoration Fund Donations

We thank the following for their recent donations:

In Honor of Josef & Terezie Stryk

Gail & Dennis J. Stryk - \$200

Julia M. Stryk - \$250

*Total contributions to date in memory of Josef & Terezie Stryk - \$11,850.

If you have not done so already, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge in honor of your loved ones. You however, are free to make a one-time donation or pay for an item of your choice.

A *Book of Memory* will be displayed at an appropriate place in the Church to honor all donors in these categories:

Category I – \$10,000 and above

Category II – \$7,500 to \$9,999

Category III – \$5,000 to \$7,499

Category IV – \$2,500 to \$4,999

To make a tax deductible donation towards the restoration project: Restoring Maticka Praha contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

REFLECTION

“I Must Be In My Father’s House”

The account of Jesus in the temple mirrors his relationship with his parents. His human formation came from them. To discover his identity, the young adult, Jesus went beyond his human origins. Jesus expressed that in his first recorded words as he asked his parents: “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Being in his Father’s house, being about the Father’s work was the one imperative, the divine “must,” that would frame his entire life. He experienced human limitations in order to lead humanity to its divine destiny of sharing God’s own life.

Joseph and Mary understood this no better than did Jesus’ disciples years later. Jesus will again go to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover and again will be “lost” for three days. Jesus’ parents seemed to have lost him in Jerusalem; his disciples thought that they had lost him on the cross just outside Jerusalem. Jesus asked his parents, “Why were you looking for me?” After the resurrection, the angel asked the disciples, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

One of the key lessons of this feast may be that understanding Jesus for who he is will always be a process of seeking and finding.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 27 – Diane Decker
December 28 – Leon Kubenka

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Dec. 29 – Carolyn & Eugene Patalik, Jr.

Additional Christmas Flower Donations



In memory of Theresia Bures
In memory of Pokluda & Bartos Families
In memory of Albina & Frank Stryk, Rev. Jerome Stryk, Frank Stryk, Bernard Stryk, and the whole family
In memory of Anastasia & Frank Patalik, Annie & Frank Cerny, Jean Finney, Eugene A. Patalik, Sr. (The “Cowboy”)
In memory of Peter Fajkus Family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Drees, Sam Khrovjak, Kenneth Koehler

Mass At Raphael’s Refuge December 28, 10:30 a.m. Feast Day of the Holy Innocents

Bishop Cahill will celebrate Mass. Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by announcements and introductions. The Monument is located at 2715 W. Hwy 90 (two miles west of Flatonia). For more information contact Midge Elam at 361-258-1514.

Happy New Year !

The first of January has many observances: We mark the conclusion to the octave of Christmas; it is New Year’s Day; we celebrate the Day of Prayer for World Peace; and we observe the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.



Mary The God-bearer: The Church today celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. She is called *Theotokos* (God-bearer), for “God sent his Son born of a woman.” Because Mary found favor with God, his Son took the flesh of Mary – it is thanks to her that Jesus is *fully* human with flesh like ours, except for sin, and also fully divine.

Mary is the ultimate symbol of the Christian, for what is a Christian if not one who bears Christ within our world and brings him to people?

New Year’s Day: On New Year’s Day we gather together and realize that our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

Thank You and A Happy New Year



Santa was good to me. I must have been a good boy. What a warm feeling to be remembered with cards and gifts by so many parishioners this Christmas. I was really touched. I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness and the sentiments behind it. As in the past, I pledge to continue serving you to the best of my ability. Remember me in your prayers as I do.

God bless,