

December 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The Word:

The True

Light

Come Into The World

This is what Christ's coming means: God's own glory has come to earth, offering us the chance to become children of God. The reading also sets before us the awful possibility of rejection. Those to whom Christ came – "his own" did not receive him. The light of Christ yet shines out and has not been overcome by the darkness. This hope sustains Christians. It is our sure foundation in times of trial. It is the Good News!

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 31

4:30 p.m. The Benefactors of the Parish

Sunday, January 1

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

Individual Confessions in Moulton and Praha

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

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

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

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas to all of you! With Christmas comes the dawning of a New Year! We can only look back with joy to what God is doing among us. We have every reason to be grateful for the gift of life and the many blessings that come with it. In whatever situation we find ourselves in the birth of our Savior gives us hope. Our community of faith cannot be in a better place than it is now. I am impressed by the level of involvement and participation in the life of the parish. Through our various ministries we are carrying on the mandate of Christ. I am grateful to all of you for the part you play to make our church as vibrant as it is. We have a lot to live for as we look forward to what God unfolds in our midst. After the festivities I will be on a spiritual retreat at the Retreat Center and then proceed to Ghana to put the finishing touches to the construction of the Maison Center, a 501(c) (3) tax deductible organization, my pet project. The Center seeks to help reduce poverty through the funding of children's education in Ghana. I thank those who have partnered with me to make this dream a reality. Thanks also to those who remembered me with cards and gifts this Christmas. That was thoughtful and kind of you. My prayer is that we may continue to walk together as we seek to fulfill our life's purpose as we accomplish God's will.

Merry Christmas.

On-line Giving: We thank the Praha parishioners and friends of the parish who have been supporting us with their on-line donations. To make an on-line donation to the church visit us on:

<https://www.victoriadiocese.org/donate-assumption-praha>

Raphael's Refuge - Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents, December 28: Rosary/Christmas carols at 10:10 a.m., Mass celebrated by Bishop Cahill at 11:00 a.m. Potluck luncheon after Mass, drinks provided. Be sure to dress appropriately as there is no central air or heat.



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



Christmas The Meaning Christmas Flowers See insert.

REFLECTION

**Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18**

The New Covenant

Christmas raises us to the heights of heaven, not just to fill our minds with lofty things, rather, it is meant to free us from any narrow perspective we might have of those things that may be too much with us.

The child born in Bethlehem in an obscure stable is the Word of God, the Light of the world. To really understand this paradox and its significance, we must return to “the beginning,” in the presence of the God who is now made man that all might become children of God. A new relationship has been instituted between God and humanity. This new covenant is gained through the person of Jesus. It is available to everyone who seeks such a relationship.

Everything is acted out “in this, the final age.” It is in this world that the Light confronts darkness in a gigantic battle. No one can remain neutral. We must choose sides. The message of the Good News is spread throughout the world, announcing peace and salvation.

The Lord’s nativity and its celebration cannot be dissociated from the rest of the mystery of salvation. The prophets, “in fragmentary and varied ways,” announce the decisive intervention of God. The birth in flesh of his own Son strikes these promises home to us. God’s Son is born to make known to us the unseen God. He is to die on the cross, be gloriously resurrected, and communicate to us the fullness of life. That is the Good News! That is our salvation!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



December 26 – Dennis Olsovsky
December 27 – Diane Decker
December 28 – Leon Kubenka

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



December 29 – Carol & Gene Patalik



TODAY’S LITURGICAL READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

The ends of the earth will see God’s salvation. Break forth together in song, Jerusalem, for the good news of peace has come. God redeems Jerusalem and gives comfort to all people.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

“In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets,” but now we have God’s own heir, the glory of the Lord who sustains all things. Let all the angels worship God’s firstborn, God’s heir, God’s son.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory ... full of grace and truth.” We all have partaken of this fullness: love following love.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

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

We encourage you to be generous.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of the Holy Family is observed on the Sunday after Christmas. Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, Holy Family is observed on Friday, December 30th instead.

PRACTICE OF CHARITY

The most important thing about family is that it gives children their first glimpse of God, who is unconditional Love. Imagine yourself holding Mary’s infant. Look at the tiny hands, his mouth, his sleeping face. Notice the wonder and love he evokes in you and reflect it back to him. That feeling, that pouring out of wonder and joy, is what God feels for us, for our children.



Family Prayer

O God, You have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ’s love for his Church. Shower your blessings on this family gathered here in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.