

January 1, 2023

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



Mary The God-bearer

Today, the Church celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. She is called in Greek *Theotokos* – God-bearer. Because Mary found favor with God, his Son took the flesh of Mary. It is with thanks to her that Jesus is fully human, with flesh like ours, except for sin and also

fully divine. As mother of Jesus, she is the model of strength, grace and courage for all believers. She is the one who hears the Word of God and keeps it. When we listen carefully for God's voice and direction in our lives, we too have a choice to follow it. Even though the journey may be difficult, we are all asked to say yes and follow Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS



- Thursday, January 5
4:30 p.m. Pope Benedict XVI
- Saturday, January 7
4:30 p.m. Nancy Petru
- Sunday, January 8
8:00 a.m. Lillie & Alois Kalina

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

- First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72**
- Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**
- Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

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

2022 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2022 Assessment	\$ 9,725.00
Contributions So Far	\$10,300.00

We thank for following for their recent contributions:

- Pat Masek
- Leona Herzik
- Deloris Smolik
- Bernice LaSeur
- Delia & Michael Moeller
- Anna & Michael Fishbeck
- Josie & Alphonse Kubenka

We thank all those who have contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far.

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

We thank the following for their recent donation to the parish:

Bridget & Lawrence Tacquard, Alvin, TX - \$25

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>

Additional Christmas Flower Donations

Lori & David Janecka
In memory of Bob Emanuelson

NO PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY TODAY



The first Praha Pancake Sunday of the new year will be February 5. We invite Altar Society members to sign up to help serve and prepare breakfast. We need 8 volunteers each month and the time commitment is 7:15-10:30 a.m. All supplies are provided – we need your helping hands and smiling face!

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

- Mass** – Jan. 2, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 & 29
- Sanctuary Light (\$20)** – Jan. 15 & 22
- Bulletin Sponsorship (\$35)** – Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29
- Altar Flowers** – Jan. 15, 22 & 29

To book a Mass, Sanctuary Light or sponsor the Bulletin, Altar Flowers contact the Parish Office.



**The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Nancy Petru.**

REFLECTION



**Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 67 Galatian 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21**

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season, we reflect on Mary. It is New Year's Day and our reflection on Mary as the Mother of God a model of holiness and Christian life is particularly appropriate for us as we begin a new year.

We recall that her cousin Elizabeth called her blessed among women. Mary, not the child, is the focus in today's gospel. It is Mary who is described as holding all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these events. By her willingness to hold all these things in her heart, Mary becomes to Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events rather than to go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to constant reflection on the truths of the faith that continues to be made real in life's experiences. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of souls that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 2 – Cliff Haikenwaelder
January 3 – Denise Greive
January 7 – Betty Patalik

2023 Church Support Envelopes

As in the past offertory envelopes have been mailed to parishioners who use them or have expressed the wish to have them. If you have been overlooked and want to support the Church through the Sundays offertory envelope system, do please call the Church office. Many thanks for your continued support. Keep up the good work.

You will notice we once again had to print the envelopes in house. We received the following email from the offertory envelope company: As a follow-up ... we continue to produce your boxed-set orders as expeditiously as possible. Our customer service and production teams work 6 – 7 days weekly to support those efforts. We apologize for any delays and thank you for your patience...

TODAY'S LITURGICAL READINGS

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

Response: May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

When the time had come, God sent the beloved Son born of a woman, so that we might become adopted children. We are no longer slaves but heirs of God whom we call, "Abba, Father!"

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

On the eighth day, Mary's child was circumcised and was given the name Jesus, that is, "God saves." Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

Happy New Year!

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.

Prayer

Remember us, O God, from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Christmas Season Events / Happy New Year!

What a wonderful celebration of our Lord's birth! Thanks be to God we were able to celebrate all the Masses. This would not have been possible without the help of many people working behind the scenes. I thank Lori Janecka for coordinating the Parish Christmas Breakfast and all the ladies who made casseroles/food for the breakfast; Lori & David Janecka and Robin & Gary Cerny for putting up the outdoor manger scene; the Janeckas and the Altar Society members for decorating the Church for Christmas; Hostyn Hill Greenhouses and all those who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund for the purchase of the poinsettias; the organists, songleaders and Christmas choirs; and all who worked behind the scenes to pull it all together. Thanks also to Marcus Jasek our faithful sacristan, and Juan Vasquez for keeping the church clean throughout the year. Thanks also to the silent majority who help in various ways.

Once again, it was a beautiful Christmas celebration. I very much appreciate what you do for the Church and for me personally. As in the past, I pledge to continue serving you to the best of my ability. Let's pray for each other.

Happy New Year and God bless,