

December 6, 2015

Advent
Second Sunday of Advent



The Promise of Transformation

John the Baptist occupies center stage today. The preaching of John opens up a possibility of newness through repentance, the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Today's readings are filled with examples of changes that indicate such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendor of glory from God: every lofty mountain made low, valleys are filled, the way of God is made straight. This is the promise made to us today. As believers who continue to await Jesus' second coming, it is time to open ourselves so that God can accomplish his saving work among us. Prepare the way! Make straight his paths!

Today's Bulletin is sponsored by Gene Schoenvogel in memory of Grace Schoenvogel.

Flowers for the Marian Shrine last weekend were donated by Dianne & Julius Simper in memory of Rhonda Simper Ronan.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Tuesday, December 8**
8:00 a.m. For the Parish Family
- Wednesday, December 9**
8:00 a.m. Edith Schacherl
- Thursday, December 10**
8:00 a.m. Dyrel Holmes
- Friday, December 11**
8:00 a.m. Mary Ann & Leslie Hanzel,
Leroy Nieto Jr, Kermit Vinklarek
- Saturday, December 12**
6:30 p.m. James Kolar
- Sunday, December 13**
6:30 a.m. Lorene & Erwin Spaniel
9:30 a.m. Catholic Life Insurance Branch #16

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Third Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.
First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12
Second Reading: Philippians 14:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment	\$17,015.00
Contributions So Far	\$12,746.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$ 4,269.00
No. of Families Who Have Contributed	46
No. of Families Yet to Contribute	268

We thank the following for their recent contributions:
Karin & Kenneth Filipp Marcel Kleihege
Phyllis & Ken Schoenfeld Timothy Kleihege
Lorene & Dennis Fishbeck Marilyn Strmiska
Margaret & Victor Molnosky Donna & Tommy Perez

DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Vigil (Monday), Dec. 7, 5 p.m. Praha
Mass of the Day, 8 a.m., Moulton

John the Baptist – A Voice Crying Out in the Desert

Today, John the Baptist announces an invitation to a new beginning not only to turn away from personal choices that impede God's coming but also to a collective repentance and a turn towards divine mercy. John the Baptist



announced the advent of Jesus. He himself lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of those who came to hear his message. What he preached was repentance, or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life but of the character of that life. He called for a return to righteousness, to lives of integrity, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He spoke against presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, against complacency and the shirking of responsibility, against disinterest in the welfare of others.

This is a powerful image in a world such as ours, where we are tempted to compromise our principles in favor of enhancing our status, where we are instructed to get what we want with the least amount of effort, where we are encouraged to disregard the needs of others and take care of "number one."

THE WEEK AHEAD

- MONDAY** – Gold Star Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m. YMC
- TUESDAY** – Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation. See Mass schedule.
- WEDNESDAY** – Christian Mothers Prayers After Mass
– Christmas Pageant Practice, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
– Champions Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
- THURSDAY** – KC Bingo, KC Hall
- FRIDAY** – Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency, call the Office at any time.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Hertha & Herbert Dierschke.

REFLECTION

God Speaks Anew

In Advent we focus on two events: we put ourselves in the time of preparation for the first coming of Christ, and we kindle anew our expectation for his second coming. The second coming had been in the forefront of our attention on the last few Sundays of the Church year and especially on the First Sunday of Advent. Then, from the Second Sunday of Advent on, the first coming moves to the front of the stage; yet, the second coming is not ignored altogether, as the second reading shows. The importance of Advent expectation for God to act lies in the fact that human beings cannot produce their own salvation. The resources for salvation do not lie within the possibilities of humans, they can only come from outside. The recognition of God's active presence in our lives presumes that we are at a loss to save ourselves. So the *Prayer over the Offerings* allows for a plea for help when it says, *Come, we pray, to our rescue* with the protection of your mercy. In a way, such a petition at the altar of God positions us precisely within sight of a restored Jerusalem, *rejoicing that we are remembered by God*. God is among us Emmanuel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 6 – Ann Hrcir, Lisa Klmitchek, Betty Kloesel, Mary Pavlicek, Cathy Perez, Jayden Raabe
Dec. 7 – Melanie Mikulencak, Gene Schoenvogel
Dec. 8 – Mitchell Blaschke, Elizabeth Dierschke
Dec. 9 – Marian Darilek, Harvey Kloesel, Ryan Koncaba, Sheridyn Nieto
Dec. 10 – Dale Fojtik, James Freytag
Dec. 11 – Dolores Scott, Murlene Simper
Dec. 12 – John Machacek

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 8 – Dolores & David Raab

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Today - C.C.D.

Dec. 7 – Gold Star Club Meets (K – 2nd Grade)

Dec. 9 – Champions Club Meets (3rd – 6th Grades)
– 9th – 11th C.C.D.

Next Sunday – Youth Mass (6th Grade), Breakfast w/ Santa

Christmas Pageant Practice Schedule

Dec. 9 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Dec. 16 – 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Dec. 23 – Dress Rehearsal 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

The Christmas Pageant will be part of the Vigil Mass. A second collection will be taken up during the Mass for the Poor.

Remember the sick in your prayers,
especially Gene Hrcir.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Retired Fund for Religious

The annual appeal for Retired Religious raises funds for aged nuns who served ministering to the needs of others for many years. The Incarnate Word Sisters taught in St. Joseph's Catholic School here in Moulton for free for many years and after the school closed they continued to serve by teaching C.C.D. They need your help now.

Be generous.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD



Today - K.J.Z.T. #14 members decorate the Christmas Tree

Dec. 8 – CDA to deliver cookies to the homebound

Dec. 9 – Christmas Pageant Practice

Dec. 13 – Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 14 – Altar Society Christmas Luncheon

Dec. 16 – Christmas Pageant Practice

– Parish Penance Service, Praha

– KC/CDA Christmas Party

Dec. 17 – Parish Penance Service, Moulton

Dec. 23 – Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Dec. 24 & 25 – Annual Christmas Collection for the Poor and Needy

Christmas Altar Flowers Needed

You are encouraged to make a donation.

Extra Christmas Flower envelopes are available in church.

Christmas Cookies For The Homebound

CDA members are asked to bring their cookies (marked CDA cookies) to Parish Hall. The cookies will be packaged and delivered December 8.

Youth Choir For Christmas Eve Mass

Come sing at the Pageant and Mass.

Altar Society News

Christmas Luncheon at Kloesel's Steakhouse December 14, noon. \$14 per person includes lunch, dessert, coffee/tea & gratuity. Door prizes to be given away. Have you turned in your RSVP? Extra flyers available in church.

Need a great stocking stuffer? St. Joseph's Altar Society Raffle Tickets for sale after Mass, at the Parish Office and at local businesses.

Praha Cookbooks For Sale After Mass

Dec. 5 & 6, 12 & 13. They make great Christmas Gifts. Proceeds from the sale go to the St. Mary's Praha Restoration Fund.

Advent / Christmas Schedule – See insert.

Year of Mercy – See Insert.