



St. Augustine writes (Sermon 295):

Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith.

JUNE

- 6.- st. Norbert
- 13. - st. Antonín z Padovy
- 15.- st. Vít
- 19. - st. Jan Nepomucký Neumann
- 21. - st. Alois Gonzaga
- 22. - st. Jan Fisher a Tomáš More
- 24. - Birth of St. John the Baptist
- 29. - st. Peter and Paul

- JULY

- 4. - st. Prokop
- 5. - st. Cyril and Methodius**
- 11. - st. Benedict
- 16. - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22. - st. Maria Magdaléna
- 23. - st. Brigita
- 26. - st. Joachim and Anna
- 30. - st. Peter Chryzologus
- 31. - st. Ignáius of Loyola



Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome under Emperor Nero in the year 87. Peter was crucified, head down at his own request [so that he would not die in the same way as Christ], and because Paul was a Roman Citizen, he was beheaded. The Church unites them in a common celebration and gives them identical honor.

Peter, a brother of Andrew the First-Called, was from Bethsaida. They were the sons of Jonas, of the tribe of Simeon. They lived by the work of their hands. At the time when John the Baptist was in prison, Jesus came to the Lake of Genesarett, and finding Peter and Andrew mending their nets, He called them and they followed Him without hesitation. Peter preached the Gospel in Judea, founded the Church of Antioch and finally came to Rome.

Paul, a Pharisee, belonged to the tribe of Benjamin. He was born in Tarsus of Asia Minor. At first, he persecuted the Church with great zeal and violence, imprisoning and killing Christians. But Christ appeared to him on the way to Damascus and changed his heart. He was baptized in Damascus by Ananias. He was to become one of the

2 greatest exponents of Christ's teachings, which he explained in letters or epistles.

FROM THE PEN OF BISHOP ESTERKA



Dear Members and Friends in California!

This time, I begin with some important information for our mission. Our first Mass this month is on the 10th of June, in San Francisco. This change in date is due to the departure of the former pastor, Father Brian Costello, from Star of the Sea parish and the arrival of his successor. I would especially like to thank Father Brian for his hospitality and wish him every success in his new ministry and new location. At the same time we welcome a new pastor in the parish of Star of the Sea and we look forward to working closely with him.

Our traditional picnic/steak fry is a very important event in the life of our Mission. It is in many ways a unifying element for our community. Our Mass brings us closer together. During this liturgical action we eat from one bread and drink from one chalice in the way it was done in the time of the apostles, the time of Jesus' life on earth. It is an expression that we share in one bread and that we belong to one community. In the Eucharist we express our relationship to each other as belonging to one body. We become brothers and sisters in Christ. Although we come from different backgrounds, the Eucharist makes it possible for us to feel like members of a large family. Christian love is the unifying force in this community. This love brings us closer to each other and motivates us to forgive and strengthens us to reject our selfishness. It helps us to open ourselves to self-sacrifice for the good of others. I want to thank all of you who come but also who actively contribute to the success of this endeavor. A special thanks belongs to the family of Kuba Oberreiter who buys and prepares the meat for us in his unique way. So, to all who help in one way or another with this Fathers Day celebration, I would like to thank you in advance!

My trip to Europe: As in previous years, I will be going to the Moravian Velehrad, where I participate in the conference of bishops, in the St. Cyril and Methodius pilgrimages in Velehrad and Mikulčice, and in meetings with classmates from the Bishop's grammar school in Brno and Hodonin. Immediately after arriving in late June, I will also participate in the ceremony of ordination at the cathedral in Brno where three priests will be ordained for the diocese. I especially like to meet with classmates who are very interested in the life of the Church in the world. Unfortunately, all of us have gotten older; and some of us have been called from this life by the Lord May they rest in peace, after the long fight!

JUNE IS BUSTING OUT
ALL OVER!..



ANNUAL CZECH MASS! PICNIC! STEAKS! SWIMMING!

Gather for outdoor Mass: 1:30 PM
Steak or Chicken dinner from the
grill 2:30- 4:00 BEER AND BEV-
ERAGES FOR SALE. SWIMMING
FOR THOSE WHO WISH.

Bring suits and towels.

**Reservations required. Send
coupon (below) by June 12.**

DIRECTIONS TO OUR VELEHRAD FOR PICNIC

Sunday, June 17

From the Polish Center, (3999 Rose Drive, just before Imperial HWY) turn LEFT onto Golden Avenue. Continue through the intersection at Valencia Avenue, and turn at the first possible LEFT, into the development marked STONEGATE. Take an immediate LEFT and find 344 Koch Ave on the right side of the street just before the curve. Feel free to park all around the curve as well as on the left side of the street, but leave the driveway open for the elderly or disabled. Thank you.

I(We) will attend the June 17 Annual Mass (1:30PM) and picnic (2:30-4PM) at Velehrad:

Send with check, made out to **RC Czech Mission**, to: Bishop Peter Esterka, 344 Koch Ave, Placentia, CA 92870 by **June 12**.

Name: _____

Preferred entree @ \$15.00 per person: _____Steak —Chicken

Tel.number: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

I/We can help with Bring gifts for tombola, Sell tickets for meal and games, Come early to decorate and set up serving areas, Assist with setting up and taking down chairs and tables
 Bring side dishes and desserts, help serve, Entertain.

Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Helenka ČAPKOVÁ was baptized by Bishop Esterka on May 19 in San Diego. Parents are Petr and Katerina ČAPEK, godparents Petr and Maria Peterka, big brother Matys.



Daniel Sputa celebrated his graduation May 13 with a Masters degree from Marywood University in Scranton PA. From left: Klara Sputova, Jana Ponec, Daniel, Fr. Van Fossen, George Ponec. Congratulations!

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY AND PICNIC**

IN SAN FRANCISCO our Mass will be on Sunday, June 10 at 11:30 in the morning at Star of the Sea Church, 4420 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA. Refreshments will follow.

There will be no Mass in San Diego in June since we are hoping to see each other at the picnic at our Velehrad.

IN LOS ANGELES our Mass and picnic will be held on Sunday, June 17 at 1:30 in the afternoon at 344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870. Immediately after Mass steaks from the grill and chicken will be available. A donation of \$15.00 is requested with advance reservation, \$18.00 at the door.

No Czech Masses in July. For AUGUST: SD 18, LA 19; SF 26.

Thanksgiving
is a day when we pause
to give thanks for
the things we have.



Memorial Day
is a day when we pause
to give thanks to the
people who fought for
the things we have.

Children of God

[Elizabeth Kirkland Cahill](#) |

America Magazine, FEBRUARY 27, 2012



There is a well-known (and probably apocryphal) saying attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Proclaim the Gospel always. If necessary, use words.” It is an apt summation of how my husband and I have approached the transmission of faith to our four children, who now range in age from 11 to 19. Although I would like to say we had a master plan, it is not so. We never sat down and mapped out a strategy. We have just tried to live lives of faith as well as we could, which means often imperfectly, and hope that our witness rubs off.

As I look back over the past two decades, I can identify four practices we have engaged in to proclaim the Gospel within our own little domestic church.

Constancy. Meal after meal, we begin with grace. Night after night, we sit on the side of the bed and say prayers (until the inevitable moment, usually somewhere around the dawn of the teenage years, when we are gently told: “Mom, Dad, I think I’ll say prayers by myself”). Perhaps most important, Sunday after Sunday we go to Mass. It is not optional; we go always and everywhere, whether the roads are icy or it is 99 degrees outside or people are tired.

Of course there are the usual sartorial arguments (the definition of a nanosecond is the amount of time it takes my oldest son’s shirt to be untucked when Mass is over) and grouching about the length of the homily, but somehow, complaints notwithstanding, we persevere. We have had to juggle Mass times to accommodate travel schedules, sports events, even sleepovers, but somehow we have managed to keep everyone going. Even when we are traveling during a vacation, we find a church; this summer my children heard Masses on successive Sundays in French and German. It was a wonderful embodiment of the church’s universality.

Such regular churchgoing does not feel glamorous or heroic. It does not qualify us for sainthood or even a parenting award. Rather, it demonstrates in concrete terms that commitment is important even, or perhaps especially, when practicing the faith seems boring. Some things you just keep doing, even when you would rather be doing something else, because that is part of the deal.

Involvement. This entails deepening the commitment and investing time and energy. In our current parish, I have given a series of talks on Scripture and with my husband have lent support to both the music program and various

building projects.

In our last parish, I was both a eucharistic minister and a lector (and got regular critiques on the latter: “Mom, you were too quiet” or “Mom, good job”). I established a Christmas pageant and founded a Bible study group, both of which are going strong nearly 15 years on. Perhaps most important, for several years (until we moved away) I took Communion each Sunday to a group of older Catholics in a nearby assisted-living facility. My children almost always accompanied me. They prayed with us, stood by quietly while I distributed Communion, then handed out bulletins and chatted with the small, predominantly female congregation. We visited the rooms of those who could not make it downstairs for the group Communion service. The kids said hello to Camilla, who wept easily and often; happily visited Frances, who was liberal with the candy; and enjoyed seeing kind Mildred, who loved to read. They saw tired, old eyes light up when they entered the room on a Sunday morning. And they witnessed the profound gratitude of these older Catholics both for the human connection with us and for the gift of Christ in Communion.

Intellectual engagement. Although embarrassing to admit, as a one-time Episcopalian who converted to Catholicism in her mid-30s, I was once something of an intellectual-religious snob, assuming that Catholics did not think for themselves but just mindlessly obeyed whatever Rome said. Then I became friends with a few Jesuits and quickly learned otherwise.

Since that time, and throughout my continuing spiritual journey, I have been irresistibly drawn toward engagement with ecclesiological, theological and spiritual questions. My kids watched me pursue deeper understanding of these during the four years I recently spent earning a master’s degree at the Yale Divinity School. They know that I think hard about issues of church and faith. They expect that I will query them over Sunday lunch about the Gospel reading or mention a prayer that especially struck me. And while they may roll their eyes when I launch another screed about the role of the laity, I hope they are getting the subliminal message that such questions matter.

Honesty. As a corollary to intellectual engagement, I share my views on matters ranging from liturgy to the role of women. I have been known to explain, expand upon or take issue with statements made in a homily. Although I try to offer a balanced view, I will also be forthright about how important I think it is for priests and bishops, as well as the rest of us, to follow the Gospel.

I love the Catholic faith. When I was confirmed as a Catholic, I felt I was joining in on a great starry conversation that started in the early church and has been carried on by the likes of Augustine, Teresa of Avila and Thomas Merton. But I do not always love the actions of the institutional church. I do not pretend to my kids that I agree with the church’s continued opposition to women’s ordination or that I am not angry about the continued obfuscation surrounding the sexual abuse scandal. I want them to engage with these issues, not just shrug their shoulders and drift away.

My Children's Church

So far, my children have not only toed the line but appear to be Christ's own. My two older children have kept up regular Mass attendance even while going to an Episcopal boarding school. The younger two have faithfully gone to Mass with us, received the age-appropriate sacraments and tucked in their shirts.

But my oldest child is off to college this fall, and I am newly aware of the contingency built into the raising of children. Like all parents, I do not know which of my efforts will actually pay off, how many of my lessons will stick, whether my kids will resent me for the tucked-in shirts or thank me for instilling habits of faithfulness. How can we predict which aspects of their upbringing our children will remember, which they will jettison?

My expectation, based on experience from my own life, is that each one of my kids will journey forward from the same starting point on a unique and different path. One of them may turn out to be more of a mystic, one a skeptic. Maybe one of them will even be a saint. I simply have no idea, and after nearly 20 years of parenting, I have learned enough to know that I have no real control over it. I suspect that more than one of them will end up at some point in a spiritual wilderness as they go through the process of making their faith their own. I pray that they will find their way back. After all, I did my time in the desert in my early 20s, and it ultimately led me to Catholicism. So I can be patient if they wander.

My concern as the century wears on is that the church may be losing its identity as the Promised Land. Its own lack of internal justice (regarding the treatment of women, among other things), its disproportionate focus on what a late friend of mine called "pelvic orthodoxy" and the encroaching clericalism that can strain relationships between pulpit and pew are among the factors that may render the church either irrelevant or repellant to my children's generation. Is the great beacon still going to be shining if my kids need to be led back home from the wilderness? I hope so, I pray so. I will do what I can to help.

I remember talking to an Episcopal priest who was a friend and mentor to me during my desert period, afflicted with true spiritual anomie. I finally mustered up the courage to confess to him that I was not sure God existed. This wise fellow replied with a smile, "That's okay; he doesn't mind." With this gentle reply he conveyed to me that doubt was permissible while also reassuring me that it lacked any actual external destructive power. My struggling faith did not mean that God was dead. I think about that comment now as I watch what is happening in the church and try to imagine what the church of my children's future will look like. I trust that the Holy Spirit, operating at a level far above my own worries, is at work in ways that transcend human thought.

INTENTIONS FOR HOLY MASS:

JUNE •

1. + Frances Kokta - Petr Král s rodinou
2. +Annu Kotrčovou - Paul a Diana Topenčíkovi
3. za uzdravení Mirka Janáka - Gita a Honza Dedek
4. +Boženu Smolíkovu—rodina Dvořákova
5. +Karla Dvořáka - rodina Dvořákova
6. +Bedřicha Hudečku - Milada Vegvary
7. +Marii a Jana Hrobařovy - manželé Hrobařovi
8. + Vojtěcha Mišíka - manželka Helena
9. + Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
10. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
11. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
12. +J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jana
13. +Aloise Dvořáka - rodina Dvořákova
14. +Františka a Helenu Vykydalovy - dcera Helen Mísik
15. +Dr. Ludka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
16. +Laddie Lizáka (+3/17/12) - manželka Martha L.
17. +Miloslav Marik - manželka Edith
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
20. +Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
- 21 za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
24. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
25. +Marii a Josefa Nečasovy - přátelé
26. + Jiřinu Jordánovou - manžel Pavel
27. za uzdravení Jany Janák - manželé Dedkovi

JULY

1. +Miloslav Marik - manželka Edith.
2. +Františka a Helenu Vykydalovy - dcera Helen Mísik
3. +Annu Kotrčovou - Paul a Diana Topenčíkovi
- 10 +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19 + Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
- 20.+Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
- 21.+Dr. Ludka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 24.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka

MAY 2012

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$1,245.00

SD collection \$272.00, for *Velehrad*; LA collection \$717.00, meal \$193.00, for *Velehrad* \$35.00.

Mission Expenses: \$1,608.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$50 rent for the hall in San Diego; \$160.00 (gas, car maintenance); *Věstník* publication: \$134.00 +264.00 (postage).

May God reward you for your generosity.

Please take care to make out your checks so that they will match the names on our accounts: RC Czech Mission, or Czech Center Building Fund, or if you wish it to go to the Bishop or to North American Pastoral Center for Czech Catholics: Bishop Peter Esterka, or NAPCCC

OUR MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST ONLY AS LONG AS WE SUPPORT IT FINANCIALLY.

YOUR TRUST OR WILL: Please remember Czech ministry in your trust or will. Our legal title is: North American Pastoral Center for Czech Catholics, 344 KOCH Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870. For information call Bishop Esterka, 714 524 0092.

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