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CALIFORNIA / JANUARY 2013

You are invited to attend



**OUR
CZECH
LITURGY**

In SAN DIEGO our Mass will be on Saturday, January 19 at 4:00 in the afternoon at St. John's Church on the corner of Normal and Lincoln. Refreshments follow.

In LOS ANGELES our Mass will be on Sunday, January 20 at 1:30 in the afternoon at the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Immediately after Mass a meal will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested, \$5.00 for parky.

In SAN FRANCISCO there will not be another Mass in January. Our next Mass will be on Sunday FEBRUARY 17. A beseda with refreshments will follow.

Mark your Calendars for February: , SD 9, LA 10, SF 17.

THANKS!

Now that Christmas is over, I want to thank all of you who were present at our Holy Masses in all three Missions, for your financial support and other gifts, your work and service in the kitchens. All of it contributed to the joy of the celebration of the birth of the Lord. Thank you for your willingness to celebrate Christ's birthday with us. I would also like to thank our Consul General of LA, H.E. Michal Sedláček, for taking part in our Christmas Mass with his wife and mother.



Thank you very much! +PE

December 2012

Total collections for operation of the California missions: \$7,429.00

SD collection \$489.00, for *Velehrad* \$150.00 LA collection \$4,555.00, meal \$403.00, raffle 1,162.00, for *Velehrad* \$300.00; SF collection: \$820.00; for *Velehrad* \$.210.00 .

Mission Expenses: \$2,565.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; 375.00 (rent for Polish Center 200; SF 125 and the hall in San Diego 50; 360.00 (travel to SF, gas, car maintenance); *Věstník* publication : \$110.00 +270.00 (postage); raffle 450.00.

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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ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

LEDEN • JANUARY

1. +Marii a Elišku Kyntlovy - Josef Kyntl
2. +rodinu Ulrichovu - Marie, Jan a Veronika
3. + J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jana
4. +Bohouše a Marušku Korbářovy - přátelé
5. +Františka a Ludmilu Němcovy - Josef Kyntl
6. + Mirka Janáka - Gita a Jan Dedek
7. +Zdenka Zemánka (+3.1.) - manželka Anna s rodinou
8. +Miloslava Maříka - manželka Edith
9. +Bohumila Hrušku - manželka Paulette
10. +George Martinku - Jean Hoard
11. +Vlastu Masaříkovou - Růžena Kristoff
12. +Dra Wiliama Jonce - manželka Marta
13. +Laddie Lizáka - manželka Martha
14. +Ing. Ctibora (Borka) Jelínka - manželka s rodinou
15. +Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
16. +Marii a Aloise Onderkovy - Frank, syn
17. +Yvonne Liška Nováček - manžel Alfred
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. +Bohumíla Bradíka - Elizabeth Khodabakhshi
20. +Veronica Sujak - Jean Hoard
21. +Jiřínu Jordánovou - manžel Pavel
22. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
23. +Marii Jordánovou - syn Pavel
24. +Přemysla Tůmu - Elizabeth Khodabakhshi
25. +Irenu Kovalčíkovou (+25. 11.) - Lili Škubalová, sestra
26. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
27. +Vilema a Eduarda Onderkovy - bratr Frank
28. +rodiny Zrzavou a Frolíkovou - Lad'a a Aška
29. +Frank a Anne Simon - Frank C. Simon
30. +členy rodiny Hrobařovi - Josef a Anna Hrobařovi
31. +Dášu Kovaříkovou - Dagmar Civin a Věra Borkovec

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1. cenu- \$200.00 vyhráli **Evelyn M Holicky-Puhala**
2. cenu- \$100.00 vyhráli **donation to Mission**
3. cenu- \$ 75.00 vyhráli **Peter & Ruzena Maryska**

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



First I would like to wish all of you *all the best*, especially good health and God's blessings in the new year 2013. During the Christmas holidays I have been reflecting on the different festivals and their meaning for our daily lives. Perhaps the feast that most spoke to me this season has been the feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Why? Because even though in the past the church gave the Holy Family as a model for all Christian families to contemplate and imitate, it was not, from a human point of view, the ideal family. The Virgin Mary appears to be a very young girl when she conceived Jesus. On the other hand, St. Joseph was an older, mature man. Not for nothing is it said that St Joseph was a foster parent, not Jesus' father. So, we can say that the relations between the members of the Holy Family were not quite ideal. But they were good, even sacred, because they were full of Christian love and not just some blind infatuation. True Christian love is based on self-sacrifice for the one I love. And this sacrifice is based in the holiness, the inner relationship between members of the Holy Family.

Another point of my Christmas meditation was the giving of gifts. It's a cherished Christmas practice and I think that both as young and older people, we are happy when we have a gift "from the baby Jesus." The giving of gifts at Christmas reveals a big secret of the Christian life ... The basic and greatest commandment is to love God, the Lord thy God with all thy heart ... and thy neighbor as thyself. Who is my neighbor? Is it only the members of my family, or could it even be someone who is outside of my family? It often happens that we give to those who have enough and forget those around us who need our help the most. They are those who hunger and thirst, who need us to be fed and dressed, to have a place to stay "because whatever you did for those in need, you have done it for me," says Jesus, and for this you will go to my kingdom. While those who cared only for themselves and their loved ones, in other words, who were selfish, they will be forever damned. Thinking about the needy is an important part of Christmas!

DIG DEEPER

Why do you go to Sunday Mass? What keeps you from going? How faithfully do you attend Mass?

How fully do you participate in the Mass?

Whom do you miss seeing at Mass? How might you encourage their return?

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, many of us endure traffic and crowded airports to get home for the holiday. Why? We do this because our presence matters to our family and friends. We witness to our love when we're present at the table for Thanksgiving and other family gatherings.

As a Church family, we celebrate a Thanksgiving meal every Sunday. The word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek for "thanksgivings" Jesus instituted this family tradition at the Last Supper.

Jesus washed the feet of the apostles, teaching them the importance of humble service. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and transformed it into his body, blood, soul, and divinity. He said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (Jn 6:54) and instructed, "Do *this* in memory of me" (Lk 22:19, emphasis added). The Church carries out Jesus' command.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

The Eucharist is Jesus' gift to us and the fulfillment of his promise to be with us always. It's central to God's saving plan of love. Many Catholics seem to take the gift of Sunday Mass for granted and choose to be absent from Mass. In the early Church, Christians didn't enjoy the freedom of religion that we in the United States do today. They faced persecution by Roman authorities for attending Mass.

The convenience and legality of Mass today shouldn't cause us to lose sight of how precious it is. Catholics around the world brave great inconvenience and persecution to receive what we may take for granted. Pope John Paul II recalled living under religious oppression and situations of faith triumphing over persecution. Mother Teresa of Calcutta instructed new priests to "celebrate each Mass as if it is your first, your last, and your only Mass."

WHY CATHOLICS COME TO MASS

The reasons Catholics give for skip-ping Sunday Mass are important, and the Church needs to hear these concerns and respond. Equally important, however, are the reasons Catholics come to Mass.



In Memoriam Bohouš Korbář

was called from this life on
December 23, 2012 in Fort Worth TX

Bruce, as he called himself, was born on February 21 in 1929 in Southern Bohemia. In a refugee camp in Germany he married Maruška. Together they emigrated to Canada and from there they came to California. Bohouš achieved success as a manager during his work life in California. He became the secretary for the Czech Catholic mission and greatly influenced its development in the LA area. He went to live with his son, John, in Fort Worth after his retirement.

*May he rest in peace,
and may eternal light
shine upon him.*

In Memoriam

Mirek Janák

departed from this life to eternity
on the 28th of November, 2012 at
age 74 after a long illness.

Mirek was born in Kutna Hora and grew up in Vrchlabí. Later he studied electrical engineering in Prague. In 1968 he left with his family for Germany, and later, in 1977, immigrated to Sunnyvale in Northern California



Please join us in prayers and memories.

John's wife, son, and daughter, Susan Milos, with her family.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live." John 11:25.



Dasha Kovářiková

was born on 14 April 1923 in Rajhrad in Moravia, but during her childhood she lived in Prague. She had one sister and two brothers. She was only in her twelfth year when she lost her beloved father.

Another tragedy experienced during the Second World War was the tragic death of her mother after Hitler's occupation of Prague. Dasha was only 16 years old. Suddenly she found herself in a situation where she bore the huge responsibility of taking care of her three siblings. War was everywhere, food was not. She told me how difficult it was to get food for her family. Repeatedly she took the train to the village and smuggled food in her piano accordion. It was very risky, because the Germans were doing checks at train stations and

if she were found out, she could have been shot. Dasha graduated from drama college, and the love of theater remained with her through whole life. After graduation she joined the Village Theatre as a young actress. There she met the love of her life, the young and handsome actor Oton Kovářik. It was love at first sight and lasted until the last moment of their lives.

Immediately after her marriage in 1951 she and her younger brother were arrested and sent to prison for over a year. Apparently they were accused of knowing but not telling the police about the escape of two older brothers. The experience had consequences for the whole of her life. Separated from her siblings for years, she suffered a great deal. In 1966 she and Oton managed to emigrate to the U.S. Her oldest brother was in Los Angeles running a well-known restaurant, *Heart of Europe*, where Dasha with Oton worked for their daily employment. Dasha was an extremely loving and devoted wife to Oton and lived for his talent.

The last two years of her life, after Oton's death in 2010, were very hard for her, but with all the strength he still had, she worked to preserve the legacy of his art and his personality.

Dasha went to be with her Oton on November 27, 2012. She died as she always wanted, in my house, and I held her hand until the last breath, I, her loving niece.

Dasha Jelinkova and husband Milan

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life” (Jn 3:16). Jesus offered himself on the cross for our salvation. He continues to give himself through the Eucharist.

The word *love* in English has been stripped of much of its beauty and meaning. It's often reduced to a feeling. The word for God's love in Greek, *agape*, connotes action, a self-gift. Our love for God is a self-gift in return—of our time, energy, worries, hopes, and joy. The Mass is the best place to thank God for our gifts—especially life, family, friends, faith, and love.

TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST

At Mass, eternity and time intersect. It's part of God's plan of salvation that we meet him directly and receive his grace through the sacraments. We believe that God is really present with us in the Mass.

Christ is present in four ways during the Mass:

1) the community celebrating, 2) the word proclaimed, 3) the priest presiding, and 4) the Eucharist (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 7). Because of these encounters with Christ at Mass, we seek to be active participants—not passive spectators—listening to his word, sharing in the offertory, singing, and proclaiming a reverent Amen (“truly, I believe”) when we receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

TO GATHER AND PRAY WITH OUR MISSION FAMILY

Christian life is a pilgrimage with our brothers and sisters in Jesus. Discipleship is lived in friendship and fraternity with those for whom and with whom we pray at Sunday Mass. Our presence symbolizes solidarity and unity with God and others. It's the fullest expression of our Christian identity.

TO STRENGTHEN OUR PARTICULAR FAMILY

During the Sacrament of Baptism, parents are reminded that they're called to be the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Knowing that the Mass is Catholicism's central prayer and the source and summit of Christian life, we teach our children one of the most important lessons when we attend Mass with them.

Recently I attended a dinner honoring the principal of a Catholic high school. In his remarks, he said, “I grew up in a family where going to Mass on Sunday was about as optional as breathing~”

Many of us can identify with his experience—this sense of how important Sunday Eucharist is for our family identity and survival. To miss Mass is to stop breathing.

TO WITNESS AND PROVIDE A LEGACY TO OUR CHILDREN

Children watch their parents and grandparents. We form our young people by the way we participate in the Mass. Children who see that their parents get to church early to pray before Mass will want to imitate them.

Children who observe parents and other adults reverently receiving the Eucharist will more readily realize that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ. The example of parents is an essential part of preparation for first holy Communion. Children whose parents tell them how much and why they love Mass will be less inclined to compare Mass to television and consider it “boring”

The way we celebrate Sunday will affect the way we live the remainder of the week and is a mark of Christian identity from generation to generation.

TO BE TRANSFORMED BY SACRAMENTAL GRACE

The Eucharist gives us strength to face life’s challenges and to keep mindful of God’s love for us. Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. . . . Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and. . . remains in me and I in him” (Jn 6:51, 54, 56).

The graces and transformative insights God provides in each celebration of Mass help us move toward happier, holier lives. As we prepare for Mass, we can pray confidently that Christ will give us sanctifying grace. When we arrive, we can ask God to speak to us through the readings, music, homily, and prayers, and show us how to become the persons we’re created to be. We can then pray about how to put our new insights into practice in the upcoming week.

TO PARTICIPATE IN JESUS’ VICTORY OVER DEATH

Each Sunday Mass is a “little Easter” because it marks the resurrection—Jesus’ victory over death. This is the most significant victory in history because it opens up the possibility of everlasting life.

God loves each of us so much that he became incarnate—a human being—and died for our sins. He did this because he wants us to live eternally with him in heaven. His victory becomes our victory.

“This pledge of the future resurrection comes from the fact that the flesh of the Son of Man, given as food, is his body in its glorious state after the resurrection. With the Eucharist we digest, as it were, the ‘secret’ of the resurrection. For this reason Saint Ignatius of Antioch rightly defined the eucharistic bread as ‘a medicine of immortality, an antidote to death’ (no. 18).

TO RECEIVE A FORETASTE OF HEAVEN

“Every time we celebrate the Eucharist,” Pope John Paul II preached, “we participate in the Lord’s Supper which gives us a foretaste of the heavenly glory.” In his encyclical *On the Eucharist, Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, he wrote, “Those who feed on Christ in the Eucharist need not wait until the hereafter to receive eternal life: *they already possess it on earth*, as the first-fruits of a future fullness which will embrace man in his totality. For in the Eucharist we also receive the pledge of our bodily resurrection at the end of the world: ‘He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day’ (Jn 6:54).

TO FOLLOW GOD’S GUIDANCE AND GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God’s Third Commandment instructs us to keep the Sabbath holy. By keeping Sunday for God, keeping first things first, and putting God above other things, we will experience greater order and peace in our lives.

The Church calls us to make a commitment to attend Sunday Mass. In doing so, we promise to keep up our relationship with Christ and our Church family—the body of Christ.

We come to Mass in response to a commitment of love, not just to fulfill an obligation. Christ eagerly desires to meet us in the Mass and be present to us at all times. He hopes that we reciprocate his desire and make it a personal commitment of love and gratitude each week.