

VĚSTNÍK

IN ENGLISH

Czech Mission

www.czechchurch.org

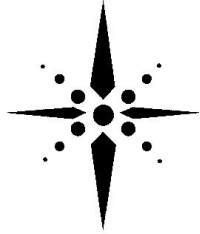
sv. Jakuba v San Diegu – sv. Františka v San Francisku - sv. Cyrila a Metoděje v Los Angeles



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CALIFORNIA / DECEMBER 2014

You are invited



**TO OUR CZECH
CHRISTMAS
LITURGY!**

In SAN Diego our Czech Mass will be held on **WEDNESDAY, December 24 at 3:00 pm** in the hall of the Church of St John the Evangelist (corner of Normal and Lincoln). Refreshments will follow.

In LOS ANGELES our Czech Mass will be held on **THURSDAY, December 25, at 1:15 pm** in the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA 92886. After Mass a meal will be served. A donation of \$10.00 is requested, \$5.00 for parky.

In SAN FRANCISCO our Czech Mass will be held on **Sunday, December 28, at 11:00 am** in the auditorium of STAR OF THE SEA Church, 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA, 94118. Refreshments will follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: January 2012 Masses: SD 17, LA 18, SF. 25.

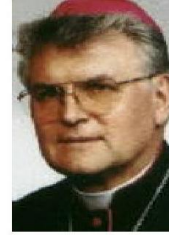


CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

With this Vestnik, as every year in December, we send raffle tickets for our annual Christmas raffle (*tombola*). We hope you will buy them all or sell them to your friends and relatives as a way of making our Mission better off and better known. Return only the stubs with your name and phone number. Please also wrap some small gifts and bring them for our tombola. The more the merrier. We depend on things like this for our financial existence, and they can also be fun and make for a more united community. After our LA Mass on Christmas Day, more tickets will be sold and then the winning tickets will be drawn and the prizes awarded. If you cannot attend and you are a winner, you will be informed by a check in the mail. Please bring other gifts to share. Like last year we are sure it will be a fun time for everybody!

Christmas bakers are asked to bring cookies and sweets to share.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA
Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



This column was prepared for radio by Aleš Opatrný.

Do not worry!

After weeks of preparation we look forward to Christmas time. Many people crave peace and tranquility especially for the holidays. Christmas cards and greetings are exchanged in enormous quantities, and most of them wish for peace. And we are certainly sincere. But on Christmas Eve during which for two millenia we have celebrated the birth of Christ, was there peace everywhere on earth? Not really. Even the most powerful rulers are powerless to guarantee world peace. Technological progress? This makes it increasingly easier to kill the innocent. Must we therefore surrender our skepticism during several feast days to maintain the illusion and dream for a moment and forget everything bad? I think that none of this would help us. Let us rather look inward. This may not be an escape from the world, but rather the way to the center of our lives.

Christmas time binds one's life story. In the fifties of the twentieth century in our country many outstanding people experienced Christmas in a communist prison. Among them was Redemptorist Father Dominic Metod Trčka. And he was probably in prison with joy and peace in his heart, when at Christmas he quietly sang a Christmas song. The superintendent, who heard him, considered it a crime, like all religious activities, and he punished this old man by placing him in a cold cell. So it was a condemnation to death because he was subsequently refused medical treatment. Death actually came a few months later. Helpless monk was at heart filled with peace and joy; the superintendent and his superiors had the power, but were obviously far from love and peace. The martyred friar was canonized. Those who caused his death, were not condemned, as often it is in this world.

Christmas encourages us to be kind, generous, and do good to others in joy. This is certainly a great thing. And the Christmas spirit can thus be well on the way to our soul. What do we worry about? Some sadness or remorse? Or just memories of what was and is not? That's all there also may be. But perhaps there we find the joy of that one life. That we are able to overcome the bad things that ever happened to us. Without the desire for revenge and without malice. And most importantly we should find a trace of love of others that we permanently enrich. Many have traces of

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ADVENT MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS



Vatican City, last year

“For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is the horizon that makes a good journey,” Pope Francis said on Dec. 1 to the crowds in St. Peter’s Square.

“The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!” the Pope emphasized.

The time of Advent that the Church celebrates in preparation for Christmas, explained the Pontiff, is “a new journey of the People of God with Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who guides us in history towards the completion of the Kingdom of God.”

“Let us rediscover the beauty of being together along the way: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and the whole of humanity, the people, the civilizations, the cultures, all together on the paths of time.”

“But on the way to where?” queried Pope Francis.

In the Old Testament, the People of God journeyed toward Jerusalem where the temple of the Lord was, “because from there, from Jerusalem, came the revelation of the face of God and His law.”

At the fullness of time, however, “revelation found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, and the ‘temple of the Lord’ became God himself, the Word made flesh.”

It is the Lord himself who guides our journey, the “pilgrimage of all of the People of God; and by its light even the other peoples can walk towards the Kingdom of justice, towards the Kingdom of peace.”

“What a great day it will be, when the weapons will be dismantled in order to be transformed into instruments of work!” the Pope reflected, noting the scripture passage from the prophet Isaiah which referred to such peace.

“And this is possible! We bet on hope, on the hope of peace, and it will be possible!” he exclaimed.

“The journey is never finished,” advised Pope Francis. “Just as in each of our own lives, there is always a need to restart, to rise again, to recover a sense of the goal of one’s own existence.”

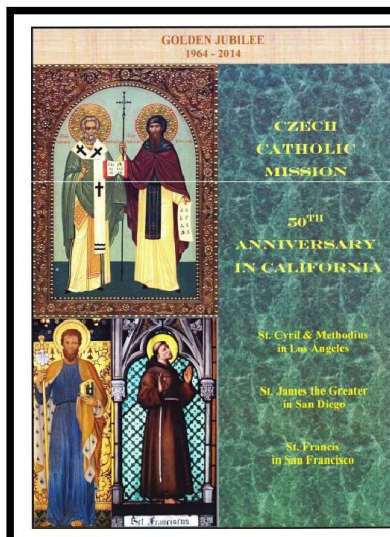
Mary serves as a “model of this spiritual attitude, to this way of being and of journeying in life.”

Although she was just a “simple girl,” she “carried in her heart the hope of God,” explained the Holy Father.

“In her womb, the hope of God took flesh, became man, and made history: Jesus Christ.”

Mary’s song of praise in the Magnificat “is the canticle of the People of God on the journey, and of all men and women who hope in God, in the power of his mercy.”

“Let us be guided by her, she who is mother, she is a ‘mama’ and knows how to lead us. Let us be guided by her in this time of waiting and active vigilance.”



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PROSINEC • DECEMBER

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- 2.+Hrusecky Family - Evelyn Holicky Puhala
- 3.+Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
4. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
- 6.+Roberta Mařika - manželka Anna
- 7.+Alberta Misika - Helena Misiková
- 8.+Holicky Family - Evelyn Holicky Puhala
- 9.+Jirina Jordan - manžel Pavel
- 10.+Štíhoci a Zrzavých - Aška a Láda
- 11.+Frank a Helen Vykydal - Helena Misiková
- 13.+Miroslav Vykydal - Helena Misiková
- 15.+Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
- 16.+Dr. Ludka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
- 17.+Jima Frolika - rodina
- 18.+Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
- 19.+Jaroslava Raineshová - S. Greenberger and G. Stratton
- 21.+Ant. Gavendu - sestra Marie Dvorsky
- 22.+Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
- 23.+Zdenka Safařika - Libuše a dcera Jana
24. San Diego Community
25. LA Community
- 26.+J.V. Reicherta - manželka Jane
28. San Francisco Community
- 31.+Msgr Vincence Obdržalka (100 lete výročí - rod. Chybíkove)

Memorial for Jarka Rainesh from Silvester Greenberger and Gertrude Stratton of Yucca Valley, California.

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compassion in which Christians recognize God's love, which is the real mystery, which is difficult to talk about, but from which we can live. And so we can become closer to the simple and yet in many ways incomprehensible story of Jesus' birth. Not only in the form of remembrances of Bethlehem and in singing Christmas songs, but in our own lives. When we combine the true sense of the amount of evil in the world, which unfortunately we add to ourselves, with the secret depths of our hearts, our lives can become something miraculous that resembles the story of the shepherds in the Gospel. They were surrounded by the divine light and heard the words of the angel: "Fear not!" according to the gospel. Can we discover in ourselves something similar? Perhaps yes. Then we can start to sing. From deep within and freely. Not only that, but we may find that we can be like that monk, with a heart free from evil, revenge and fear. And in this way we celebrate the true Christmas.

NOVEMBER - 2014

Income from Mission collections: \$3,062.00

SD collection: \$391.00, LA collection: \$1,265.00, meal \$348.00, building fund \$50.00; SF collection: \$727, building fund \$146.00.

Regular Expenses: \$1,961.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$375 rent for churches; \$180.00 (gas, car maintenance); Věstník printing: \$210.00 +\$196.00 (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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Bishop Peter Esterka

344 Koch Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

www.Czechchurch.org

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SAN DIEGO

Předseda: Petr Peterka

Tel: (714) 524-0092

Fax: (714) 637-6789

PetaEst@aol.com

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E-mail petr@peterkafamily.com

LOS ANGELES

President: Otto Notzl

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Předseda: Jan Dedek

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