

Lent

is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

(See *The Apostolic Constitutions*, Book V, Section III.)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. This year it begins on February 18 and ends at sundown on April 2, Holy Thursday, with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

CALIFORNIA / MARCH 2015

You are invited



TO OUR CZECH LITURGY!

In SAN Diego our Czech Mass will be held on **Saturday, March 14 at 4:00 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 **Sunday, March 15, at 1:15 pm** in the Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA 92886. After Mass a meal of wiener schnitzel and garlic mashed potatoes 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, March 22, 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: April-Easter 2015 Masses: SD 4, LA 5, SF. 12.

Ash Wednesday Prayer

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Your Son, Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Responsory Psalm

Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of your name, O Lord, set us free.

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP ESTERKA

Dear Friends of our Czech Mission in California



Our participation in the divine life begins at baptism. Baptism unites us to Christ and makes it possible for us to begin to live in communion with him. When having an adult baptism, it is customary that the preparation for this important moment in the catechumen's life culminates in Lent, when the Church prepares for the celebration of the new life of Easter.

Christians doing penance for sins is compared to Christ who sacrificed his life as a ransom for the sins of all people. Following Christ, Christians are united in one community, so that the holiness of one is a boon for the other one, and the sin of anyone is bad for others. Forgiveness and reconciliation with the brothers and sisters is always necessary among you.

In the 5th century the forty-day fasting began on the first Sunday of Lent. However, because Christians never counted Sunday as a day of Lent, they soon added another four days prior to this Sunday. Now Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday before the evening Mass of the Lord's supper.

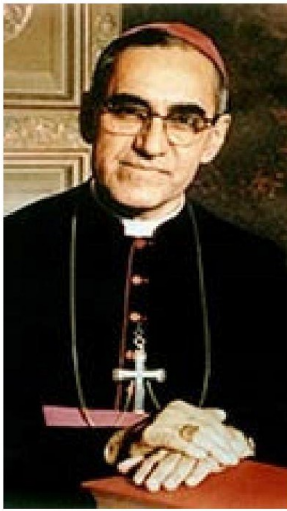
Prayer and self-denial are wondrous weapons; Let us hold them firmly and call for the Savior: 'We have sinned, Lord, but this is our time of repentance, so have mercy upon us.

"Sever all the ties that bind us to sin, and help us to forgive our fellow human beings, that we may be forgiven our own guilt.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, lead us safely on the road to repentance. The first step of repentance is to avoid sin, set aside all passions, and wash our tarnished souls with the tears of regret.

/ From the Eastern liturgy /

Pope Francis Confirms Romero's Martyrdom



On February 3, 2015, Pope Francis set Archbishop Oscar Romero on a course to canonization by confirming his death as a martyrdom. According to the Vatican release, "Promulgation of Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints":

Today... the Holy Father Francis received in private audience the Em.mo Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. At the hearing, the Holy Father authorized the Congregation to promulgate the decrees regarding :

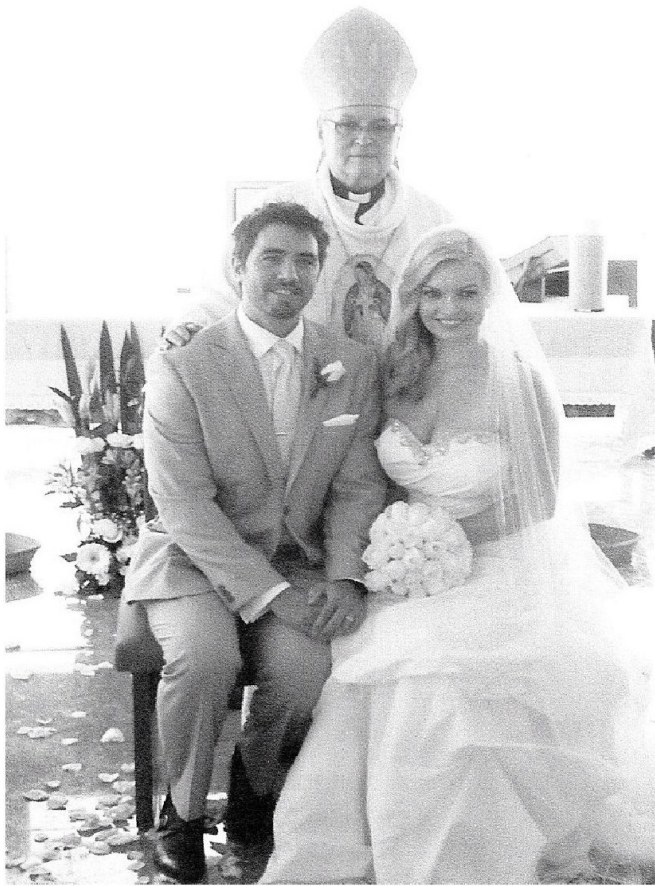
- The martyrdom of the Servant of God Oscar Arnolfo Galdámez Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador; born August 15, 1917 in Ciudad Barrios (El Salvador) and killed in hatred of the Faith, March 24, 1980, in San Salvador (El Salvador).

Progress on Romero's sainthood has been "blocked" for decades. Part of the hold up had been the issue of the nature of his death—was it a political assassination or an act of hatred for the faith? Since he became pope, Francis has made it clear that he was keen on "unblocking" Romero's cause.

No date for Romero's beatification has been set, but a Vatican press conference on the decree has been scheduled tomorrow. The decree of martyrdom is significant for Romero's cause since the beatification of martyrs can be approved without a miracle attributed to their intercession. At least one miracle is needed for canonization, however.

Beyond the technical needs of canonization, Pope Francis' decision today removes much of the politics which had obscured Romero's cause for years. The stall of his canonization has been attributed to concerns that it would be an indirect endorsement of Liberation Theology, enjoying its own restoration under Francis, and to arguments that his assassination emerged from the political tensions of his time and could not be attributed to hatred of the faith. The decision today suggests that scripturally based civic promotion of social concerns and church teaching related to the same is an integral aspect of living the faith in contemporary society, not somehow an ancillary prudential





Alexandra Rajec and Matthew Johnston Wedding

Bishop Esterka officiated at the wedding of Alexandra Rajec and Matthew Johnston in Cancun, Mexico, on February 7, 2015. The bride's parents are Olga and Jaro Rajec, members of our San Diego community.

The ceremony was held at the Capilla de Neustra Senora de Guadalupe in Cancun, Mexico.

TRIBUTES

Farewell and Best Wishes to
H.E. Michal and Veronika Sedláček and family
as they move on from the post of Consulate General of
the Czech Republic. Our Mission community really
appreciated the many times he came to our Masses and
parties. May God bless you, Michal, in your new
adventures.

A loving good-bye to **Jiřina Fuchsová** as she plans her
return to live and work in the Czech Republic. As our
poet laureate and influential friend she will represent us
well back in our home country.

Bon Voyage

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

Pope Francis, who has made alleviating poverty a central pillar of his papacy, criticized the “idolatry of money” in the global economy and denounced the unfettered free market as the “new tyranny.”

“How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses 2 points?” Pope Francis asked in an anticipated 84-page report airing the views of the Vatican, known as the apostolic exhortation and released Tuesday.

The report aligns with — and in some cases goes further than — the Pope’s progressive and reformist positions since he was elected in March. The pontiff criticizes the unequal distribution of wealth and calls for greater action to help the poor.

“I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor,” he writes.

Following are selections from the document [Evangelii Gaudium](http://www.vatican.va/evangelii-gaudium) (“Joy of the Gospel”) www.vatican.va

I. A joy ever new, a joy which is shared

2. The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God’s will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.

3. I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (*Mt* 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!

6. There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: I never tire of repeating those words of [Benedict XVI](#) which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction".

9. Goodness always tends to spread. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good.

10. The Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: "Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore

and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others". When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For "here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means". Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ".

Countless issues involving evangelization today might be discussed here, but I have chosen not to explore these many questions which call for further reflection and study. Nor do I believe that the papal magisterium should be expected to offer a definitive or complete word on every question which affects the Church and the world. It is not advisable for the Pope to take the place of local Bishops in the discernment of every issue which arises in their territory. In this sense, I am conscious of the need to promote a sound "decentralization".

17. Here I have chosen to present some guidelines which can encourage and guide the whole Church in a new phase of evangelization, one marked by enthusiasm and vitality. In this context, and on the basis of the teaching of the Dogmatic Constitution [*Lumen Gentium*](#), I have decided, among other themes, to discuss at length the following questions:

- a) the reform of the Church in her missionary outreach;
- b) the temptations faced by pastoral workers;
- c) the Church, understood as the entire People of God which evangelizes;
- d) the homily and its preparation;
- e) the inclusion of the poor in society;
- f) peace and dialogue within society;
- g) the spiritual motivations for mission.

www.vatican.va



FRANK MIKSA

+January 10, 2015

Je ticho po bolesti, je celkom blízko ku hviezdám. . .

Frank was born Austrian Czech in a small business family. He attended a Czech gymnasium in Vienna. During WWII he could not study and had to work in the public labor service. After the war his family repatriated from Russian-army-occupied Vienna to former Czechoslovakia and he started his study at Charles University in Prague. After the Communist takeover in 1948 he was expelled from the University as foreign-born and escaped to Germany where he spent tough times in the refugee camps. Finally with few choices he emigrated to Australia where he met an interesting and attractive Moravian woman, Mirka. The couple got married and, after 1950, emigrated to California.

Frank got a job at the Bechtel Construction Company in San Francisco and Mirka spent her very successful career with a food production company in Dublin. The couple did not have any children, but enjoyed their life, with social gatherings, dancing and travel all around the world. They were Catholic believers and devoted members of American Sokol.

Mirka died after a short illness, and Frank's health started to deteriorate. He could not endure the vacuum of loneliness and isolation. He was very devoted to his wife, friend, and commander, Mirka. Friends tried to help in many ways but could not slow the deterioration. He became an ill man; many people could not understand what was happening to this socially smiling, polite, and always-elegant gentleman.

Near the end, he communicated privately with only a few devoted friends. His illness continued and he felt that life no longer made sense for him. Feeling useless in this world he loved, enjoying his memories and his library books and magazine readings, being thrifty, cautious, surprisingly trustful on occasion. Finally, he died and was cremated with only one friend present in tears. Perhaps the burden of the difficult life of an immigrant left scars on his spirit. Frank left us with deep sadness and with personal guilt that we could not reach inside his lonely mind and soul. God bless his soul. We will always remember this fine man as he was in full strength.

Karel Snajberk and Pavel Burda, friends

ÚMYSLY NA MŠE SVATÉ:

BŘEZEN • MARCH

1. +Franka Miksu - přátelé
2. +Jiřinu Jordanovou - manžel Pavel
3. +Marii Nachtigalovou - přátelé
4. +Tomika Šachy - matka Dagmar Rus
5. +Marii Mikutovou (+ v lednu, 2015 in Anchorage) - Marta Jonec
6. +Roberta Mařika - manželka Anna
7. +Alberta Misika - Helena Misiková
8. +Marii Jordanovou - syn Pavel
9. +Josefa Hrobaře- manželka Anna
10. +Ing. Karla a Marii Škrobovy - Eva a Ivo Plachy
11. +Vlastu Grosslovou - dcera Vlasta Simpson
12. +Dr. Luďka Kozlíka - manželka Brigitte
13. +syna Jaromíra a dceru Marii Hrobařovy - maminka Anna
14. +Jozefa Marušáka (+21.2.13) - sestra Gabi Trhac
15. +Jaroslava Gajdoše (10. výr.+) - manželka Charline
16. +J. V. Reicherta - manželka Jane
17. +Miloslava Mařika - manželka Edith
18. +Raymunda Dvorského - manželka Marie
19. +rodiče Annu a Jana Vadúrovy - dcera Anna Hrobařová
20. + Marii a Jana Hrobařovy - Anna Hrobařová
21. +sestru Marii a Antonína Šoklovy - sestra Anna
22. +Ellen Macháčkovou - manžel Victor
23. +bratra Josefa a Martu Vadúrovy – sestra Anna
24. +Karla Nováka - manželka Inka a dcera Irenka
25. +Annu Nečasovou - přátelé
26. za živé a zemřelé členy české síně Karlín - Joe Kocáb
27. za uzdravení Tino Hammida - manželka Petra
28. +Petra Vranu - manželka Jarka
29. +
30. +
- 31.

O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst.

Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY - 2015

Income from Mission collections: \$2,471.00

SD collection: \$365.00, *building fund* \$.00; LA collection: \$839.00, meal \$253.00, *building fund* \$30.00; SF collection: \$804.00, building fund \$319.00, beverage revenue \$250.00.

Regular Expenses: \$1,994.00

\$1,000.00 Bishop's salary; \$375 rent for churches; \$180.00 (gas, car maintenance); Věstník printing: \$194.00 +\$245.00 (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.

ADRESA MISIE / Redakce VĚSTNÍKU

Bishop Peter Esterka

344 Koch Avenue
Placentia, CA 92870

www.Czechchurch.org

Check us out on FACEBOOK: CzechChurch in California
SAN DIEGO

Předseda: Petr Peterka

Tel: (714) 524-0092

Fax: (714) 637-6789

PetaEst@aol.com

(858) 755-1578

E-mail petr@peterkafamily.com

LOS ANGELES

President: Otto Notzl

(714) 785-9929

E-mail ottonotzl@yahoo.com

Vice President: Frank Blazek

(714) 993-6963

E-mail mblazek4121@sbcglobal.net

SAN FRANCISCO

Předseda: Jan Dedek

(650) 321-9298

E-mail jandedek@comcast.net

Tajemník: Daniel Botcha

(415) 883-3974

E-mail daniel2czech@gmail.com

VĚSTNÍK Vychází vždy na začátku měsíce

Printing: Minuteman Press, Anaheim CA. 92807

KRAJANSKÉ OBCHODY A SLUŽBY

Jan A. Zemanek, Attorney

714 617 5515

INTERNATIONAL CARGO

Export Shipping, Packing and Crating

*Autos, Motorcycles, Boats, Trucks,
Heavy Equipment & Commercial Cargo*

FRANK J. ONDERKA
REALTOR

Tel: (310) 768-1836 • Fax: (310) 768-3472

Chateau Properties

International Moving Specialists

Serving Czech Republic, Europe & the World Since 1987!



www.exship.com

1-800-772-2080

California Photo Dreams

Wedding and portrait photography
Vladimir Dostalek

californiaphotodreams@gmail.com

www.CaliforniaPhotoDreams.com

951 256 7771

Dr. Joseph Burian

General Dentistry

12665 Washington Blvd., Ste 107

Los Angeles, CA 90066

Phone: (310) 398-9012

Milan Kyncl, Attorney

12832 Garden Grove Blvd, Ste. 240

GARDEN GROVE, CA 92843

TEL (714) 539-9900

FAX (714) 539-9993

Travel Center

Long Beach—Jana 562.498.1280

e-mail veverka@aol.com

Santa Monica—Eva 310.396.8781

evaslovacek@verizon.net

VLADI BENESOVSKY

REALTOR ASSOCIATE, dre #01750946.

Prudential California Realty

23530 Hawthorne Blvd., Ste 100

Torrance, CA 90505

Direct: 310-791-3516

Cell: 310-920-3105

E-mail: vladi@prusouthbay.com

**4 Simple Steps to Earn Money from
the Czech Republic and Retire with
a Secure Steady Income**

For Information 888-943-9960

Stania Rensberger

San Diego 619-296-3910

srensberger@gmail.com

MILAN'S GRILL

1721 W Katella, Anaheim CA

714 254 1940

Czech and Slovak cuisine served

Closed Mondays

For current hours, see website

www.milansgrill.com

PASADENA BESEDA

Mluvte cesky nebo slovensky ?

Prijďte mezi nás, každou druhou
sobotu v měsíci.

1 ~ 4 PM, 403 S First St.

Arcadia CA 91106

DARINE "DEE" KLEGA, SFR

Short Sale & Foreclosure Resource

Coldwell Banker Residential

(818) 540-4088

www.DeeKlega.com

Now representing in the Czech Republic

POLAM

Polam Federal Credit Union

Your full-service Polish-American Federal
Credit Union Since 1969

Savings • Checking • Loans • Debit/ATM
VISA Credit Card • Online and Mobile Banking

www.polam.org • 800/404/5137

*The RC Czech Mission does not verify or endorse the quality of
services advertised on this page.*