

COMING EVENTS

Novena August 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday August 20th

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00AM Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10am to 3pm

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the National Shrine in Oklahoma USA.

www.shrineofinfantjesus.com

www.facebook.com/iopshrine

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE August 2023

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

My name is Father Christopher Hai Tran and I thank you for your warm welcome as your new pastor at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Home to the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, and at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Meeker. I am grateful to God for this new priestly assignment and the special mission I have been entrusted by Archbishop Coakley to serve you and all the pilgrims visiting with us at the Shrine daily. I was deeply influenced by the solid faith of my parents and my family. We were very devoted to the Rosary and frequently attended morning Mass. At night we prayed the Rosary together. My desire to be a priest has always been in my heart since I was a ten-year-old altar boy in Vietnam. I wanted to be a priest when I was young but "life" got in the way for a time. During those times, my life had many twists and turns, but always filled with God's grace and protection. In 1975, after the fall of Saigon, the communists took over the South. They took my father away because he had worked for United States government. He was a commander in the army of the Republic of Vietnam. During that time, it was tough for my family and me I was so afraid of everything. I worried a lot. I was surrounded by lots of friends and family, but I never felt so alone in my life. I began praying. I prayed for my father, and I prayed for my country. I remember exactly the night my mother came to me and told me: "you have to leave the country". From that night my childhood changed. We lost our freedom, and my family lost my father who, because of his 23-year-

long service for the US government was taken away and imprisoned in the so-called "re-education camp". All seminaries and convents were closed, while religious practices were forbidden or highly restricted. In Saigon on April 30, 1975, my family began a new and special stage of our long adventure. On the day my father was arrested, he left the house with a rosary in his pocket and nothing else. I realized that my family was losing everything. The only thing we could do was to entrust ourselves to the Providence of God. My mother said to my brothers and sister, "we have I lost everything, but don't lose our faith." At the time of the Old and New Testaments, one who chooses God must accept possible disadvantages in the economic area, in power, or in other interests as Jesus said; "because of me..." (Mt 10:22). Because of this choice, many Vietnamese people cannot enter a university, obtain employment, or find housing. Generations of Christians in Vietnam or in many countries have courageously made These sacrifices. I remember exactly the night I left. The sky was a full moon and my family lost me and it broke my heart. The first day I was lost in love , I was in the sad refugee camp. What would become of my two hands? I could die and be unknown. A total of 76 people were forced to endure indescribable conditions. A tempest was raging in my mind. And I had no idea where I was going. I spent that night in terrible anguish I was a sad refugee. Continue on Back

Every long night on the island I couldn't sleep. I was sad remembering our native village. The moonlight made me uneasy. I had a great devotion to Saint Joseph. He has become my trusted friend and spiritual guide. From that moment on I have felt a gentle calming presence around me. Let us make progress every day: in spite of trials and risks, because we have one goal, we have one hope. God's protective Hand led me to the US in 1980. I felt God is calling me to serve the Lord and His people. "How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me" (Psalm 116:12) I attended Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts and in Seton Hall. After arriving in Oklahoma City, I spoke to Archbishop Beltran and expressed my deep desire to be a missionary priest to Taiwan and China, to which the archbishop responded: "You will be a missionary here". I was ordained to priesthood on May 30th 2008, on the day of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every day I pray in thanksgiving to God appreciating the magnificence and the singular honor of my priestly vocation: You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" (psalm 110:4). This year marks the 15th anniversary of my priestly ordination as I also commemorate the most beautiful years of my life. During this time, I served in 11 parishes as a priest and as chaplain for a University, a prison, and a nursing home.

I want to be a happy, healthy, and holy priest. If I had a thousand new opportunities in life, I would still choose to be a priest for Christ, a priest forever, and to lay down my life with Christ on the altar each day at the Holy Eucharist. I am very happy to start my priestly assignment here in Prague at this special time in my priesthood. On July 5th, Archbishop Coakley appointed me to be your new pastor and rector for the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. My main mission and task are to reinvigorate the devotion to the Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, especially during the years of 2022-2025 Eucharist Revival, as well as to grow the numbers of pilgrims visiting the Shrine. You all are a part of this great momentum and I look forward to your active engagement and contribution with your prayers and participation in various church activities and events that will bring us all together in love, joy, and peace as one community of faith in Christ. the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is very dear to my heart. God blessed me in a special way as I was both accepted to the seminary and ordained to priesthood on the Feast Day of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The mission of my priestly vocation has always been to bring the faithful back to the Eucharist. Therefore, after the daily Mass we remain in Eucharist adoration during the Holy Hour we praying together the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a consecration prayer to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and concluding with the Benediction. We will also have Mass and Holy Hour on the First Friday and First

Saturday of each month. On August 6th we will celebrate the 74th anniversary of the National Shrine of The Infant Jesus of Prague. I invite all families and guests to join us for the Holy Eucharist at 11 AM followed by the Holy Hour. As we prayerfully prepare for this event we ask the Infant Jesus of Prague for His special blessing for our families, church community, our town and pilgrims. I look forward to serving you all as your pastor and a good shepherd of souls through the Holy Sacraments (especially the Eucharist, confessions, and anointing), visiting the sick and homebound with the Holy Communion as well as all other faithful who wish to receive me to their homes for a pastoral visit. From my first moment in Prague, I fell in love with this small town, kind people, and the beautiful nature. I feel peace and love in this place. I keep the same peace and love in my heart, and I want to bring the joy of my priesthood to everyone I meet.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Christopher H. Tran, Rector



NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE_____ZIP_____

SHRINE_____

PROMOTION_____

FLOWERS_____

ALTAR CANDLES _____

SANCTUARY LAMP _____

6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00:_____

MASS STIPEND @ \$10_____

MASS INTENTION FOR_____

___LIVING ___DECEASED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please address them to:

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