

COMING EVENTS

Novena December 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, December 24th.

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 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

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

December 2023

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December is the most joyful month of the year as we await the coming of the Messiah. On December 3rd we will begin Advent and journey together in prayer and meditation to prepare ourselves for Christmas.

The theme of Advent is that we have to wait for him to come. Waiting ... but not falling asleep; "Stay awake," Jesus often said (Mt 24:42; 26:40; Mk 13:33; etc.). "Awake," means paying special attention to what is happening to the present, not dreaming about the past or the future. Let this Advent be a time of decision. Go to confession regularly, spending time with God in prayer each day during Advent. Nothing in this world will fill the longing in our hearts for the grace of God. Only Jesus will fill our emptiness. There is only one gift at Christmas, that gift is Jesus. Advent is a time to wake up. Jesus told us to remain awake and watchful so that whenever He comes to us, He would find us not sleeping but watching in faith, ready to welcome Him.

Advent is the season of hope. The promise of the prophets will be fulfilled. Our thirst for the Messiah will be quenched not just on December 25th, but every day of our lives. Christmas is a feast of joy, love and peace. On this day we share with each other this happy moment. It is a joy of love when God showed His love for us by sending His own beloved son who will continue to live with us forever. This is the day of peace. Jesus the God of peace will give His peace for us, and this peace will last forever. God has emptied himself to fill us with hope. This message of peace was proclaimed by the angels at the birth of Jesus, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

We speak a lot about peace at Christmas time. We sing about a child sleeping in heavenly peace. We wish each other Christmas Peace. Jesus came as one of us to lead us towards a completely different world view. He points us towards a mindset of self-giving, sacrificial love. He calls us to embrace the spiritual as a greater reality than the material. He calls us away from sin to the peace of the Kingdom of God.

"Christmas is a gift that we cannot keep until we give it to someone else. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts and the hearts of others." (Dorothy Day). It is easy to imagine Christmas, it is easy to believe Christmas, but it is hard to act Christmas. Christmas is an act of gentle love and to be at peace with humankind. But remember peace is much more than a season. It is a state of mind and a way of life.

God so loves the world. We must feel His love for us through the mystery of Incarnation. The purpose of this mystery is to wipe out human sins and to bring salvation to humankind; without this mystery, people shall die in their sins. The most precious gift that God could give us is Jesus. Through His Son, we are lacking nothing in our earthly life. We must respond to God's love by having Jesus and keeping him with us all the days of our life. God is the Lord of heaven and earth. He chose to be born in poor conditions was to teach us a lesson: By living a simple life, we can easily rely on God and to recognize others' needs. We wish the Christmas Good New shall liberate our family from the darkness of death and lead us to the area of light, peace and joy.

We learn from the first Beatitude which said: "Blessed are the poor because the kingdom of God is theirs." God chose for His Son to be born in a poor manger, not in a royal palace. He wanted His Son to experience the lowliest situation of human life. Because Jesus was born in such poor conditions, only the poor shepherds could recognize and sympathize because the child was in their same situation. Moreover, the poor are those who put their trust in God, not in themselves or in any power; therefore, they were more ready to welcome the Christmas Good New. The song of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." also confirms this explanation. God has compassion and cares for the poor.

The message of Christmas is this: God has become man to save us from our sins. The joy of Christmas is not for a day or a season. It is an eternal joy, a joy that no one can take from us because it is the joy of Jesus Christ himself made present in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us (Romans 5 :2-5).

May the joy and peace of the Lord always be with you and your family. May you and your families live in the Peace of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas! May Jesus be with you today and always.

I would like to thank everyone for your generosity, contributions, and outstanding support with our Shrine activities in the month of November. We have received donations from our parishioners, members, friends and benefactors of the Shrine from Oklahoma and other states to purchase and plant 33 trees (red maple, Japanese maple, sycamore, oaks, magnolia, and pine trees). The trees are in memory of the souls of the faithfully departed from our families. I would also like to thank the volunteers from our parish and from Oklahoma City who devoted their time and skills to help with the planting activities.

We will continue accepting donations for additional trees to plant around the church as well as for the paver bricks in Mary's Garden. The Shrine looks green and beautiful, and we give praise to the Lord for His blessings and graces He has been granting us. Please kindly consider volunteering and offering your time and skills, so that we can continue with new revival and renewal projects at the Shrine in the months to come.

We continue our tradition of the Christmas Bell Tree at the Shrine. Please call the office (405-567-3080), stop by in person or email (infantofpragueshrine@gmail.com) to submit the names of your loved ones (living and/or deceased). Each of them will be represented with a bell at our parish Christmas tree, and they will also be remembered at our daily Mass throughout Advent and Christmas season and during our novena prayers to the Infant Jesus of Prague.

Please remember to come to confession during Advent to receive the Lord at Christmas with a pure soul and in the state of grace.

We wish the Christmas Good New shall liberate our family from the darkness of death and lead us to the area of light, peace and joy. There is only one gift at Christmas, and that gift is Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

O Holy Night

Christmas a special day to remember You
and your family.

In the joy of celebrating Christmas
Wishing You and your family

CHRISTMAS 2023
AND NEW YEAR 2024
HAPPY - HEALTHY - HOLY

Father Christopher Hai Tran



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ Zip _____

SHRINE _____

PROMOTION _____

FLOWERS _____

TREES _____

Pavers _____

ALTAR CANDLES _____

SANCTUARY LAMP _____

6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00 _____

MASS STIPEND @ \$10 _____

MASS INTENTION FOR _____

____LIVING ____DECEASED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

PLEASE CALL FOR A PAVER FORM AND WE
WILL MAIL YOU ONE. THANK YOU

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

PO Box 488

Prague, OK 74864

Phone: 405-567-3080

Fax: 405-567-0364

E-mail: infantofpragueshrine@gmail.com