

COMING EVENTS

Novena September 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday September 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 10:30AM

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 September 2023

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Hello September, Heavenly Father thank you Lord for keeping me through the month of August. Lord, I am grateful to see the new month of September. Get your hope and expectation up. Hit the ground and run, don't expect anything to be handed to you. Go after what belongs to you! Are you ready to receive everything that God has for you in this month of September? Lord, make this month a September to remember.

It has been beautiful eight weeks as your pastor at St. Wenceslaus and St. Michael's Catholic Churches. I have now settled down in Prague and I feel at home here. I really enjoy this lovely community, cheerful people and lovely nature.

I give thanks to God for the many graces He has already granted to our parishes in Prague and Meeker and the Shrine. During this short time, I have witnessed many wonderful blessings and experienced joyful encounters with you— dear parishioners, and with a multitude of pilgrims from Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and other states visiting with us every day. It brings a great joy, peace, and happiness to my heart to see so many people faithfully coming here from around the

country and expressing their trust in the Infant Jesus and His healing power. Serving both as the pastor and the rector for the Shrine is a great responsibility but also a unique privilege and mission. St. Wenceslaus is not only the parish for I local Catholics, but it is also a special place of pilgrimage and prayers which people cherish and deeply appreciate.

This special role our church plays in the lives of many Catholics is also a call for us to make the Shrine a spiritual home for all visitors, especially through the devotions we practice. From the very beginning of my pastoral appointment in Prague I have responded to this need by instituting the Holy Hour following the daily Mass, with the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet prayers, consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Benediction. I have also started the devotion to the first Fridays and first Saturdays of each month with anointing for healing, and we have observed great numbers of parishioners and pilgrims joining us to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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I thank God for opening people's hearts and leading them to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which we need to renew and foster especially during the years of the Eucharistic Revival 2022-2025. My priestly mission is to bring Jesus to people so they can know and personally experience His living presence among us. Fall is approaching quickly... the time of harvest, back-to-school for children, and a time to set apart more time for Christ and visit with Him more frequently. In September we will celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Christ, the Victim for our sins, calls us every day to meet Him on Calvary during the Holy Eucharist.

“Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ Proclaim/ Till all the world adore His Sacred name.” This popular hymn beautifully expressed our sentiments as we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, also known as the Triumph of the Cross or simply the feast of the Holy Cross.

When we **“make the sign of the Cross,”** we physically announce our faith. The Cross symbolizes the Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection. This is our faith: that Christ is Risen (Exalted!) after death— not an illusion or fantasy.

The cross expresses God's love for human

being: Another image of the Old Testament has a power to motivate man in the image of Abraham was ready to kill Isaac, his only son, on the mount of Moriah. Is there any man in the human history can do something like that? Abraham did not have to kill his son when God had seen his faith: but God would like to use this image in order to prepare man to understand the meaning of the cross. **The author of the Fourth Gospel writes:** **“ For God so Loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life”** (Jn 3:16). Human beings never see God: but they can feel His love and Christ's love for them every time they look up on the cross and contemplate the Abraham's event.

Christ died so that man can live: Both the cross and the last Judgment Day are needed for men to adjust their life to the eternal life. There are some people who are easily moved by God's love for them through the cross; but there are some who can only be moved by fearing of God's judgment. Love is the first and the ultimate cause of God's creation, redemption, and sanctification of human beings, as the author continues to say: **“ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the World, but that the world might be saved**

through him.” If after one looks upon the cross and does not feel God's love for them to repent, he condemns himself and is not worth of God's forgiveness.

The mother Church has prepared for us this day to look up on the cross and to contemplate its meanings. Let us look upon the cross to see that our sins are the reason why the Son of God must be nailed to the cross. Let us look upon the cross to feel the unlimited love of God for human beings. Let us look upon the cross to learn the lesson of kenosis of Jesus Christ, and then we also empty ourselves to save us and all people.

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_____

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