

## COMING EVENTS

Novena February 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday February 25th

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](http://www.shrineofinfantjesus.com)

[www.facebook.com/iopshrine](http://www.facebook.com/iopshrine)

## THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

### February 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



In his 2023 message for the annual **“World Day of the Sick,”** our Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us the **“illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.”**

He explains, **“On the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.”**

Established in 1992 by Pope St. John Paul II, who had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, the **“World Day of the Sick”** is a day for the Church to acknowledge that **“the sickness of a family member, a friend or a neighbor is a call to Christians to demonstrate true compassion, that gentle and persevering sharing in another’s pain.”**

February 11 is also the Feast Day of Our Lady Of Lourdes, who performed many miracles of healing the sick, and the Church takes the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes– Mother of Mercy, as the World Day of healing the sick. The Sacrament of Anointing of the sick is not only for those who are about to die, but for all those who are suffering mentally and physically from illness. This is a way for the Church to comfort, support and give the necessary faith to remind the sick of God’s love and presence in their lives.

The sick share in the human suffering of the Lord Jesus, made so visible on the Cross. If he saw his suffering as a means to embrace and redeem our humanity, the Lord Jesus then invites us to view our sickness as a means to embrace and redeem our humanity, the Lord Jesus then invites us to view our sickness as a means of even closer union with him. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes **“the sufferings of the present are nothing compared to the glory to be revealed in us”** (Romans 8:18).

Those who care for the sick—doctors and nurses, staff and volunteers, priest and pastoral caregivers, families, and friends—have such an important and compassionate role to play. Whether believers or not, they are the Lord Jesus’ touch, his hands, his voice, his encouragement to hope. Thank God for them as they make every day, a **“World Day of the Sick.”**

The Church celebrates the Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, marking the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: **“I am the Immaculate Conception.”** Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place.

**Continued on Back**

The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity.

If we live to be 75 years old, which is the average age; We have 27,375 days to live. But in a moment's time we cannot add or subtract by ourselves. Each of us has the same amount of time in a day— 1,440 minutes A day, 168 hours a week. At any rate, take those 1,440 minutes in a day: Can you give at least 10 of them each day for God? How about the week 168 hours: Can you give at least two of those to God? I know a lot of you give more. Thanks be to God for you.

Everything that we are, everything we have are gifts from God. It is in praise, and in glory and in thanksgiving to God that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure to serve others. **“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”** Everything, it all belongs to God So, what do we do? How do we give it back to God? Stewardship is the name given to what a disciple of Christ does to respond to that question. We receive God's gifts gratefully share them justly and generously and return them abundantly.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 and we begin Lent which is our preparation for the Easter celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a season of forty days, in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the desert. Jesus fasted in the desert, and overcame the temptations of the devil. Forty days of Lent we remember Jesus in the desert as we try to overcome temptation in our lives and to overcome sinfulness.

A successful Lent requires us to develop a serious plan of action. Repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, works of charity, these are the cornerstones of Lent. They are the ways that we join Jesus in the desert as we also prepare ourselves to celebrate new life of Easter in union with God. Lent is the season of deepening intimacy with Jesus. Jesus came because of the great love for all of us. Jesus lived and died for His beloved. What did we ever do to deserve this love? Jesus kept His fast. His goal was to open Himself to God the Father. We fast for the same reason, to get closer to God. Lent is a time, when we face the temptations. Temptation that come to every life, we can fail like Adam and Eve or know victory in Christ.

**The Lenten season reminds us of many things:** the easily broken of human life by the antiphon: **“Remember you are dust and shall return to dust;”** or our human weakness and sins: **“Repent and believe in the Gospel.”** However, God's love is much greater than sins which we committed against Him; He is always ready to forgive all sins if we sincerely repent. In C.S. Lewis's book, **“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,”** the evil queen lures young boy Edmund into using an enchanted box of cakes, called Turkish Delight. Every package of cakes that Edmund eats feels sweet and delicious. He had never smelled anything better. The only problem is that the more he eats this tantalizing Türkiye Delight, the more he wants to eat. Little did he know that this was the evil queen's plan. The more he ate, the more he wanted, and so he would eat and eat until it

*killed him. It could never satisfy his hunger: it will never fill your stomach...it will simply kill you. Lewis wants to give us an example of temptations to sin. Sin never satisfies us, it only binds us into slavery. Have a blessed Lent.*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*Father Christopher Hai Tran, Rector*



**EASTER REMEMBRANCE  
MASS MARCH 31, 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DONATED BY** \_\_\_\_\_

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