

## COMING EVENTS

Novena March 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, March 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](http://www.shrineofinfantjesus.com)

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

# THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

March 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The pyramids in Egypt are one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. But it's really just giant tombs containing the mummies of Egyptian Pharaohs. Westminster Abbey, England is also famous, thousands of people visit it every year, because there the corpses of famous writers, philosophers and politicians are buried. There is a Temple of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, also very famous. However, pilgrims from all over the world come to pay their respects to that tomb, only to encounter an inscription at the entrance that reads: **"He is not here, He is risen."** It is famous because Jesus, who had been buried there, rose from the dead, leaving the tomb empty as he had foretold to his disciples. Jesus performed the most important miracle in His life, so that we would know that He is God. We rejoice at this great and unique event with the celebration of Easter.

Easter is the greatest celebration of the Church. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that there is life beyond the death. Even though our body will return to dust, our soul will live forever with God. Jesus rose from the dead! Death is not the end. It is only the door to beyond. Today we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus - Jesus said, **"I am the Resurrection and the Life."** **"No one comes to the Father except through me."** The early Christians called this day **"the Day of the Sun"**. For Christians this was the day on which the rising of the **"Sun"** ever reminded them of the Glorious Risen of the **"Son"** of God. If Christ is not risen, then our faith has no meaning. Jesus leads the way by going through death to a life that can never be taken away from Him again. The message of Easter is first communicated by the empty tomb. No one saw the Resurrection. The first witnesses that something had happened were women. And what they saw was not Jesus but His empty tomb. The Beloved Disciple sees the empty tomb and believes. He sees what cannot be exactly seen. He suddenly understands the teaching of Scripture and the Words of Jesus that He must **"rise from the dead"**. It is clear from the Gospel accounts that the Risen Jesus is the same person who died on the Cross. Jesus now has the face of everyone. He is known and recognized only by faith.

**Do you know if we lack the light of the sun, what will happen? die?** not dead yet. Slowly and then die.

When we lack of sunlight, scientists say that the risk of heart disease will increase. Because we lack Vitamin D. The second bad thing is that our body's immunity will be reduced. And the lack of sunlight means that our bodies lack of white blood cells, and white blood cells are a key factor that helps us have a good immunity.

**What would happen if the sun disappears?** Of course the answer is that there will be no life, because the photosynthesis (fōtō'sinTHēsis) process will stop immediately. Without photosynthesis, all plants will not accumulate carbon. so that it does not produce oxygen to feed people.

And if there is no sunlight, the earth's temperature will drop very quickly people figured that if one week alone without sunlight across the earth, it would be 0 degrees, and after one year will be minus 73 degrees **Celsius**. From 1 to 3 years without the sun, all the oceans will freeze.

**Easter Vigil Night** is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin. Through the ritual of the blessing of the fire through receiving fire from the Easter candle and holding a fire of the Risen Lord in our hand. We are reminded that the light of Christ is very important. His Light gives us so much grace. **Without the light of Christ, our life will be extremely miserable and unhappy like the lack of light of the sun.**

**Easter Vigil Holy Night.** I just want you to focus on one image. I mean the image of an Easter candle. At the beginning of the rituals everything was in darkness, then in the darkness the Easter candle was lit, and on that Easter Candle the Priest drawing the Cross and read: **Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha find the Omega. All time belongs to Him and for ever.** These words are very simple to help us understand that the Easter candle is the image of the risen Christ.

**Easter - Resurrection - Resurrection is a mystery. The mystery cannot understand.** -We see death everywhere. So, people cannot accept it. We cannot believe it or could not understand.

Some Unknown said: “The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection. The Resurrection explains the Gospels. Belief in the Resurrection is not a footnote in the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith. Faith in His Resurrection teaches that the best is yet to come.” (Unknown)

We are believers because we do not know, but we grow more deeply as humans the more we keep reaching towards, looking for, and always in a spirit of gratitude. Everything ends, and where it ends, Jesus is waiting to find us and be found. **He has risen, but not disappeared.** He has risen from the dead to bring life to the seekers. Hope you can watch a group of little children at an Easter Egg Hunt and notice their joy is in the looking for. And if they find one, they will want to find one more. So again, it is by little children that we learn basic human truths.

On occasion of the upcoming Easter season, I would also like to ask for your kind support and contributions to purchase new priest vestments, altar cloths and the pall (coffin cover) for funerals.

We are in urgent need to acquire these items. The parish vestments are nearly 50 years old and oversized. The altar clothes we own as the parish are old, faded, molded, and not fitting the size of the altar as prescribed by the church’s guidelines. We need to purchase a nice set of altar clothes for different occasions (feast days and solemnities). The pall for the funeral the Shrine owns is also old, wrinkled and it is impossible to restore it to its original form.

The vestments that I wear during Masses are my private vestments I received from parishioners, family, and friends on occasion of my priestly ordination. They are not enough though for all the liturgical seasons of the Catholic church. Each priest and each parish need a set of nice and new vestments. Saint John Vianney, who performed great acts of penance and fasting, living on only two potatoes per day, was always sure to acquire the most beautiful vestments for Mass celebrations to give honor and glory to God. We want to follow his example in our parish and the Shrine.

We want to represent the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus worthily before the many pilgrims and visitors and be witnesses of our true devotion and love for God by manifesting it with our commitment to maintaining the beauty of our church inside and outside, as well as with the newness and beauty of the priest vestments and altar equipment we use every day.

During this Easter season, we want to make everything new, fresh, and beautiful for God. Let’s renew our hearts and spirits for the resurrected Christ, while also renewing the image of our Shrine with new items that are crucial for our church ministry and the service to God. May God bless and reward you for your open hearts and generosity. **Alleluia! Christ is risen! And Happy Easter.**

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

*Alleluia! He is Risen*

May the Resurrection of  
Jesus Christ fill your  
heart with hope and love.



**Happy Easter 2024**

**Father Christopher Hai Tran, Rector**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_LIVING \_\_\_DECEASED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

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

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