

Dec 6, 2015

Slovak Catholic Parish



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*Pripravte cestu Pánovi,  
vyrovnejte mu  
chodníky! A každé telo  
uvidí jeho spásu.*

*Prepare the way of the  
Lord, make straight his  
paths: all flesh shall see  
the salvation of God.*



# Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

## Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

2. Adventná Nedeľa.  
2nd Sunday of Advent.

*Veľké veci urobil s nami Pán a máme z toho radosť.*

*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

**Dnešné evanjelium** nám opisuje vystúpenie a pôsobenie predchodcu Pána, sv. Jána Krstiteľa. Ján kázal krst pokánia na odpustenie hriechov. V hebrejských textoch SZ býva pokánie označované slovom tešuva, odvodené od slova Suva = návrat. Toto slovo vyjadruje požiadavku na zmenu orientácie celého života, obrátenie. V gréčtine sa pre pokánie užíva termín metanoia. To slovo je výzvou: „zmeňte zmýšľanie!“ a vyjadruje duchovnú podmienku návratu k Bohu a spoločenstva s Ním. My sme sa vzdialili Bohu aj spôsobom nášho myslenia. Akoby nám Boh hovoril: „Keď sa chcete tešiť z môjho spoločenstva, musíte myslieť ako myslím Ja.“ Božie Slovo nám zjavuje ako myslí Boh. Preto skutočne pokánie začína tam, kde sa staneme učeníkmi Ježiša, kde človek začne brať Božie Slovo vážne.

Po prvotnom hriechu, keď si človek miesto Boha vybral seba, sa všetci rodíme poznamenaní tým, že na tróne nášho srdca namiesto Božieho Slova vládne naše Ego. Preto náš najväčší hriech a podstata každého hriechu je „bezbožnosť“, akási hriešna sebestačnosť voči Bohu. Človek sa po dedičnom hriechu rodí ako sebastvlastniaci, sebec plný seba lásky a sústredený na seba. Vo svojej hriešnosti odmieta uznať Boha ako Boha, nechce Mu byť vďačný a ani ho oslavovať ako Boha. Preto potrebujeme obrátenie od egoizmu k láske k Bohu, od sebastvlastnenie k vydanosti a odovzdanosti, od bezbožnosti k vďačnosti a oslave Boha. Do stavu odmietnutia Boha zaznieva výzva k pokánia. Táto výzva nezdržuje predovšetkým vonkajšie skutky, ale vnútorné pokánia, ktoré je radikálne novým zameraním celého života, návrat, obrátenie k Bohu celým srdcom, odvrátenie od zla, spolu s odporom voči zlým činom, ktoré sme spáchali. Zároveň so sebou prináša túžbu a predsavzatie zmeniť život s nádejou na Božie

milosrdenstvo a dôverou v pomoc jeho milosti.

Obrátenie a každodenné pokánie nachádzajú svoj prameň a svoj pokrm v Eucharistii, lebo v nej je sprítomnená obeť Krista, ktorý nás zmieril s Bohom: ňou sú živí a posilňovaní tí, ktorí žijú z Kristovho života: Eucharistia je liekom, ktorým sme zbavovaní každodenných vín a chránení pred smrteľnými hriechmi. Práve sv. prijímanie rieši problém nášho najväčšieho hriechu, našej bezbožnosti a hriešnej sebestačnosti. V ňom sa učíme aj eucharistickému životnému štýlu, vďačnosti voči Bohu a oslave Boha. Snaha o časté sv. prijímanie nás vedie k duchovnému zápasu s hriechom, ktorý prebýva v našom srdci. Keď sa učast' na Eucharistii zakladá na hlboké viere, že sa ňou prehlbuje spoločenstvo s Kristom, ale aj s ostatnými prijímajúcimi, spôsobuje obnovenie života a odpustenie hriechov.

Je isté, že odvrátiť sa od hriechu, roztrhať nerestné zväzky a priznať si zlyhanie a slabosť, nie je príjemná záležitosť, ale pohľad na obnovu života v Bohu skrze vieru, nádej a lásku, vnáša do pokánia radosť.

**There is** a hidden theme in today's Liturgy, the vision that in a world filled with chaotic and terrible things there still exists the possibility of a good life, a life filled with justice, peace, goodness, wholesomeness, beauty and the things of God. Godliness is possible in a world where it seems to be almost impossible.

Today's first reading tells us of the things that shall be and must be done in order that mankind can, with God's good graces, make its way back to God.

Much of our religious life depends primarily upon our willingness, not on the willingness of God. God's willingness is already available to us. What is needed is willingness on our

parts, a belief in the possible rather than our surrender to the seemingly impossible. Repentance and conversion is a process of attitudinal change so that what is seen through the eyes of men to be impossible is now seen through the eyes of God as possible.

John the Baptist went about the region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins. Hearing John's cry, people were able to fill the valleys of their dark despair with the light of hope. Their new found converted faith was able to move away mountains of seeming impossibilities. A life that was filled with crookedness was straightened out and a life that appeared to be terribly rough was made smooth.

We too are beset with the valleys and mountains of moods. We let our moods, our feelings, and our emotions block the way of the Lord, and we refuse repentance and conversion toward a new attitude and a new version in life.

We feel as if we are in an impossible situation, that lights are going out in a world they once knew. We feel powerless and weak. Amidst it all there is the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Look to God and what is impossible can be changed into what is possible.

The difference between a Christian and a good secular humanist is not a matter of differing behavior patterns. Being nice and kind and good and behaving well will not distinguish the two. What does distinguish between them is their vision of life, its purposefulness and its finality. The Christian seeks the power and the possibilities of God. The humanist is left with the resources of mankind. Are we willing to acquire that vision? It's all a matter of choosing. It's never just a matter of feeling like it. It's all a matter of conversion and repentance. It's not up to God, it's up to us.

## Bulletin Announcements

**\*December 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent** "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10) Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

**\*Opening Mass for Jubilee Year of Mercy** Pope Francis has announced the celebration of an extraordinary Holy Year dedicated to Mercy, starting Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and concluding Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Year of Mercy begins with the opening of the "holy door of mercy" at St. Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. for the opening of the Holy Door at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver with Mass and official blessing of the door. All Cathedrals in the world will open their doors on this day.

**\*Love & Life Ministry: Christmas Card Fundraiser** This Christmas, spread the message of life by sending pro-life Christmas Cards. A portion of the sale of these cards helps support crisis pregnancy centers and other pro-life organizations including the Love & Life Ministry. The cards will be sold every Sunday in November after the 11AM mass by Mariana (604-584 9292) in the parish hall. For those not attending the Slovak Mass, please contact Joanne(604-522 8917), she will have the cards in the church every day- until sold out. Cards are sold in the packs of 10 cards for \$10.

**\*Svätý Mikuláš** — Aj tento rok zavíta do nášho kostolíka Svätý Mikuláš—v nedeľu 6.decembra po svätej omši. Vstupné \$8.00 na dieťa. Prihlásiť sa môžete u M.Demčák na **778-593-9565**.

**\*15th Annual Christmas Bake and Craft Sale** is approaching on December 12th and 13th, 2015. Please help with your donation (all funds raised go to our church). For more information call Gabriela 778-355-2250 or Bertha 604-936-4669.

**\*Adoration** - spend a blessed hour with Jesus on Thursdays at our church from 7:15pm - 8:15pm.

**Advent Penance Service for 2015 in St. Cyril and Methodius Church - December 11th at 7:00pm.**

### Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	\$1,500
Sunday's Collection	\$1,000
Weekly (Excess) Shortfall	- \$500

### Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v nedeľu v našom kostole od 12:30pm do 1:30pm.

Prayer Ministry every Sunday in our church from 12:30pm to 1:30pm until notified.

Sun 6 9:00am	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent;</b> Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 6 11:00am	<b>2. Adventná Nedeľa;</b> Bar 5:1-9; Flp 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6	Za zdravie a B.požehnanie pre Luboša	Brat s rodinou
Mon 7 8:00am	St. Ambrose; Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26	Jo & Nina Fajfar	Raymond Javier
Tue 8 8:00am	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary;</b> Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38	Pod'akovanie a Božie požehnanie pre maminu	Fr. Juraj
Tue 8 <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Nepoškvrnené počatie Panny Márie;</b> Gn 3:9-15,20; Ef 1:3-6,11 -12; Lk 1:26-38	+ Irena Gaciková	Vnučka s rodinou
Wed 9 8:00am	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin; Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30	Za Božie požehnanie pre Maroša	Fr. Juraj
Thu 10 <b>6:00am</b>	Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15	+ Ján Košlab 2. Jose T. Marcos	Rodina Starostová 2. family Javier
Fri 11 8:00am	St. Damasus I; Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19	+ Kelly Ellerman Zelko 2. Ed Starick	Olga and family 2. Anonymous
Sat 12 9:00am	Our Lady of Guadalupe; Rev 11:19a,12:1,3-6a,10ab; Lk 1:39-47	Za Božie požehnanie a zdravie pre Vilmu	Janka a Mária
Sun 13 9:00am	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent;</b> Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 13 11:00am	<b>3. Adventná Nedeľa;</b> Sof 3:14-18a; Flp 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18	1. na úmysel 2. pod'akovanie dobrodincom	1. Fr. Juraj 2. Mária