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*Hľa, služobnica Pána,
nech sa mi stane podľa
tvojho slova.*

• • •

*Here am I, the servant
of the Lord: let it be
done to me according
to your word.*



Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

4. Adventná Nedel'a 4th Sunday of Advent

***Tvoje milosrdenstvo, Pane, ospevovať budem naveky.
Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.***

Ludia asi nikdy tak netužili po vlastnom dome, ako dnes. Sú schopní zaplatiť veľké peniaze za hocijaký dom alebo byt, len nech im patrí. Ved' časom ho upravia, prestavajú... Dôležité je mať vlastnú strechu nad hlavou a byť tam šťastný. Iste aj tu, medzi nami, nájdú sa ľudia, ktorí čakajú na vlastný byt a túžia po ňom.

Aj v evanjeliu dnešnej nedele je reč o dome a príbytku. Nie je to stavba budovaná z tehál a kameňa, ale je to telo Panny Márie. Udalosť z evanjelia by sa mohla smelo nazvať riskantnou, revolučnou, originálnou a jedinečnou, lebo odpoved' Márie nie je len jej osobným súhlasom, ale bola daná v mene celého ľudského pokolenia. Správa evanjelistu Lukáša obsahuje tri vynikajúce myšlienky, ktoré by sme si aj my mohli osvojiť. Prvou je ZVESTOVANIE. Boh nie priamo, ale prostredníctvom posla oznamuje Márii neslychané veci. Je zvestovanie aj v mojom živote? Víeme zo Svätého písma, ale aj zo skúseností, že Boh sa obracia na každého človeka, teda aj na mňa. Lebo Boží hlas naznieva odvášadial', ale nie je hlasný a hromový, ale podobný jemnému vánku. Boh nechce prehliosiť ľudské hľasy a nevnučuje sa. Svoje posolstvo nám zvestuje cez bolest', rozlúčku, žiaľ... čnosť', svätosť', dary Ducha... cez hrdinstvo trpiacich, cez veriaceho človeka... pri modlitbe, pri svätej omši, pri počúvaní Božieho slova... Kol'kokrát však tieto posolstvá neprijímame, nechceme si pripustiť, že sa to prihovára sám Boh a kráčame nemo okolo nich? Zvestovanie je v našom živote a musíme byť veľmi pozorní, aby sme ho zachytili, osvojili si, a tak dali Bohu svoj súhlas.

Druhou myšlienkom je, že Mária povedala Bohu ÁNO a stala sa Božím PRÍBYTKOM. To je odkaz aj pre nás. Ak zachytíme Božie zvestovanie a stotožníme sa s ním, stávame sa Božím príbytkom. Nesmieme ho

poškvŕniť a zašpinit', ale udržiavať v čistote a poriadku cez modlitbu, sviatostný život, Eucharistiu, Božie slovo, úctu a lásku k blížnym. Tretou myšlienkom je, že Mária sa SLOBODNE ROZHODLA byť Božím príbytkom. Boh jej dal ponuku a čakal, či ju prijme. Máriina odpoved' bola jasná: Hľa, služobnica Pána, nech sa mi stane podľa tvojho slova. Dala najkrajšiu odpoved', akú vôbec možno dať Bohu. Aj my sa podobáme Márii v tom, že Boh nám dáva svoje ponuky a čaká na naše, na moje, slobodné rozhodnutie. Dokážem však odpovedať vždy tak, ako Mária? Dávam sa vždy Bohu k dispozícii?

V tejto chvíli si uvedomujeme, kol'kokrát Boh miesto ÁNO, počúl z našich úst NIE! Nebudem slúžiť, odmietam chorobu, nechce sa mi chodievať do kostola, som pohodlný vychovávať svoje deti vo viere, nechcem prijať ďalšie dieťa, odmietam pristupovať k spovedi, neuznávam morálny zákon, nechcem prestať s alkoholom... Kol'ko NECHCEM sme už v živote vyslovili? Ale ako potom môžeme byť Božím príbytkom, ked' nechceme?!

One of the meanings of the word *abide* is the idea of "lasting presence," a concept presented to us in today's readings. Often we think of it in terms of the question: "Where do we find God?"

But that is not the proper question. The real question is: "Where does God find us?" It is God who offers, we respond. God never works according to human plans; He always works according to His own plans. It is He who comes to us.

In the fullness of time God came to us in a way that was far beyond anything that humans could imagine. God took up living among us in human flesh, in a way that would be impossible for humans to imagine could happen. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to Mary. How could this possibly happen, she wondered?

However, human pride had no hold on her whatsoever and so she replied: "May it be done to me according to your word."

God wanted to abide in human flesh. God wanted to abide within us... and so from Mary's flesh God the Son took on human flesh... and then died to give it to us.

It is God who comes to us, who has decided to build a temple built of living stones; it is God who has decided to abide within us. For us it is incomprehensible that God would abide with us in our ordinariness, in our littleness. "How is it," we ask, "that God can want to be with us in such ordinariness?" "How," asks Mary, "can this be? I am just an insignificant young girl living in an obscure town called Nazareth. Today we are reminded once again that what we consider to be insignificant God considers to be significant. All human lives are significant in God's eyes. Every human person has a destiny to be a living temple in whom God abides.

It is our own human pride that declares what God can and cannot do and decides what is possible and what is impossible. This is why Mary plays such an important role in our spiritual lives. It is her humility that allows God to do what He wants to do. It is Mary's humility that we desperately need, her willingness to trust in the incomprehensible things God wants, particularly in this world so filled with human pride and arrogance.

Can we give God our own "Yes" as Mary did? Can we set aside our own plans and let the unexpected and incomprehensible happen within us. Can God have a place in your ordinary days? Can we abide with God's plan to abide within us?

Bulletin Announcements

***December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent** Mary said “yes” to God’s call. In doing so she gave the world an incredible gift! All of the baptized are called to share the gift of her son with the world. How are you responding to that call? How are you sharing the gift of Jesus? We can best share the gift of Christ by the example of our lives as disciples and stewards.

***Turning and Returning - Drawing Closer to Jesus this Lent facilitated by Fr. Elton Fernandes, SJ**

Amidst the busyness of life, how can we draw closer to Christ? Conversion involves letting go of what is unhealthy in our lives. Thursday, Feb. 19, from 6–8:30pm at Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre, Surrey. Costs \$25, including a light snack (\$35 including light dinner served at 5:15pm). For more information, visit www.rosemaryheights.com/events/ or contact 604-576-8802.

* Budúcu nedel'u, na sviatok Sv.Rodiny, vás pozývame po druhej sv.omši na **Jasličkovú pobožnosť** do haly.

* Pozývame vás na spev **vianočných kolied** 24.decembra 30 minút pred polnočnou sv.omšou.

* Thank you very much to all the parishioners who contributed in any way to this year's **Food Bank Project**. We collected \$1,392 in total which was split between six families along with the food that was collected. We also donated some canned food to the local Share society. God bless your giving hearts!

*** Dear Parishioners**

Once again our **Bake and Craft Sale** was a success because of the many people that participated in baking, sewing or knitting in preparing for this year's sale. Thanks to all of the volunteers that came to help set up the tables, packaged all the baking and cooked in the kitchen for the whole weekend and then stayed to help clean up. Our grand total for this year \$5570.30.

* **New Year's Eve Party** December 31, 2014 7pm. \$25 Contact for tickets: mariamikusova@yahoo.com, 778 859-5373

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week				
Our Weekly Goal	\$1,500	Sun 21 9:00am	4th Sunday of Advent; 2Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38	+Calros Paras Christy Paras
Sunday's Collection	\$1,722	Sun 21 11:00am	4. Adventná Nedel'a; 2Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38	Pod'akovanie za dobrodincov Marta s rodinou
Weekly (Excess) Shortfall	+\$222	Mon 22 8:00am	1Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56	Božie požehnanie pre Pavla a Janku Rod. Vargová
		Tue 23 8:00am	St.John of Kanty; Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66	Lilliane Rances Freida
		Wed 24 8:00am	2Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79	+ Enrique Javier Family Javier
		Wed 24 12:00am	Polnočná sv.omša; Is 9:1-6; Tit 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14	Za Božie požehnanie za rodičov a sestru s rodinou Mária
		Thu 25 9:00am	The Nativity of the Lord; Is 62:11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20	For parishioners Father Juraj
		Thu 25 11:00am	Narodenie Pána; Iz 52:7-10; Hebr 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18	Za dobrodincou Father Juraj
		Fri 26 9:00am	St.Stephen; Act 6:8-10,7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	For intention Joanne
		Sat 27 9:00am	St.John; 1Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8	Za Božie požehnanie a sprevádzanie pre Claudiu Rod. Demčáková
		Sun 28 9:00am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40	For parishioners and families Father Juraj
		Sun 28 11:00am	Sv.rodiny Ježiša, Márie a Jozefa; Sir 3:3-7,14-17a; Kol 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40	Za zdravie a B.požehnanie pre rodinu Fam. Cassty

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v našom kostole každú nedel'u od 12:30pm do 1:30pm.

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