

## COMING EVENTS

Novena June 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, June 23th.

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

# THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

June 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



“Lift up your hearts” – (The Sursum corda)

The chant “The Lord be with you” is used many times during the Mass and together with the community’s response “And with your spirit” forms a part that functions as a greeting. The phrase “The Lord be with you” is often interpreted as a wish: “May the Lord be with you.” This greeting is expanded by some Eastern/Orthodox liturgies by having the priest read from the text of St. Paul (2 Cor 13:13), for example: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.” Particularly at this moment, the central point of the Mass, the time for the Eucharistic Prayer with the transformation of the offerings of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, that greeting affirms that both the priest and the people need God to be with them as they prepare to enter the mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) This is the time when the priest is about to repeat what Jesus did at the Last Supper, so the phrase “The Lord be with you” is also a prayer wishing God to be with the believers participating at this time. He was with the disciples of old in the Upper Room. The phrase “The Lord be with you” is also a reminder to the participating community that they belong to the Mystical Body of Christ. They participate in the priesthood of Christ according to their degree because they are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people, God’s own people.” What is about to take place on the altar is the renewal of the covenant between God and the faithful - His chosen people - a covenant sealed with the blood of Christ. Therefore, through the greeting “The Lord be with you”, the priest acknowledges the communal priesthood of the faithful.

Lift up your hearts (Sursum corda) - We lift them to the Lord.

The phrase “Lift up your hearts” (Sursum corda) is unique to Christianity and is the earliest known liturgical formula and is used in both the West and the East. The phrase “Lift up your hearts” (Sursum corda) together with the response “We lift them to the Lord” forms a part that functions as exhortation or instruction. This is an invitation to the community of believers to raise their minds and hearts to “the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help” (Hebrews 4:16). This throne is where Jesus, for us, offers Himself to the Father forever in the heavenly liturgy. When reciting the words “Lift up your hearts”, the celebrant also raises his hands as if to invite the community to open their hearts appropriately and leave behind all other worries and concerns, about the world and paying full attention to this moment of God like a moment according to St. Augustine, “Our hearts are restless and will not rest until they find rest in You.”

“Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows” Those are the words of a woman who lost her ability to hear and see at the age of sixteen months. Helen Keller, the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Time magazine ranked her among the 100 most iconic people of the 20th century. This writer, socialite, and speaker inspired millions, urging them, “Lift up your hearts”, look forward, push aside all obstacles; Your dreams will no longer be dreams!