

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace! — St. Francis

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Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2, 2011

9:00 AM - Celebration of the Eucharist

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

READING I - Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule
from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

READING II - Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Priest or Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Verse.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL - Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. This is the gospel of the Lord.

R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS - RESPONSE - God Hear Us!

OFFERTORY HYMN - "We Three Kings of Orient Are.."

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Tidings of Greatest Joy" or "Christ Is Born"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Joy to the World"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 6 MAGI BRING GIFTS - THE MESSAGE

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship. In structured by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child." —Matthew 2:7-9

THE MAGI AND THEIR GIFTS...

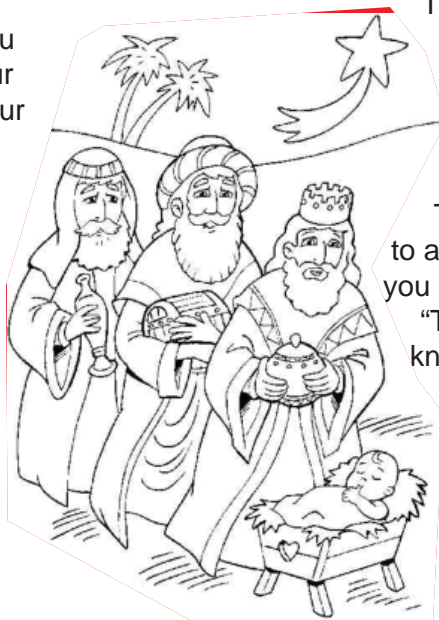
On this feast, also known as "Little Christmas", celebrated on January 6th, we remember the Magi, the Three Kings, who guided by a shining star in the heavens, came to the house where Jesus rested in the arms of Mary, his mother. They were blessed as they brought their gifts to that holy place.

The gifts of the Magi were symbolic of their three-fold faith; the gold signified that He was King; the incense that He was God; and the myrrh, that He was man doomed to death. According to legend, Casper, the king of Tarsus, the land of the merchants, made the offering of gold; Melchoir, the king of Arabia and Nubia, offered frankincense; and Balthasar, the king of Saba, the land of spices, offered myrrh.

PRAYERS FOR A HOME

During the Christmas season, the feast of the Epiphany is an appropriate day for praying for a home.

O God, by your heavenly star, you guided those who were wise to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May your blessing come to rest on our home and all of us. Make our lives wise with your wisdom, true to your teaching, and enlivened by your love. May your Word made flesh make his home among us. Amen.



ST. FRANCIS NOTES... PRAYERS FOR A HOME

Fr. Andrew, opens this tradition to all those interested in having their homes blessed for the New Year 2011, during the month of January.

On Epiphany, the Feast of the Magi, chalk, incense and myrrh are blessed in church. The chalk is used in the blessing of each home and used over the main entrance of the doorway to write the initials of the three Kings, separated by crosses, thus 20+K+M+B+11, with each advancing by one over the previous year. The priest writes the letters on the doors as he visits the homes and pronounces the Christmas blessing of your home.

If you are interested in this brief social call and blessing, please, call Fr. Andrew for a visit. God's Blessings!

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouven SPIRITUAL CHOICES

Choices. Choices make the difference. Two people are in the same accident and severely wounded. They did not choose to be in the accident. It happened to them. But one of them chose to live the experience in bitterness, the other in gratitude. These choices radically influence their lives the lives of their families and friends. We have very little control over what happens in our lives, but we have a lot of control over how we integrate and remember what happens. It is precisely these spiritual choices that determine whether we live our lives with dignity.

JUST A THOUGHT...

The three wise men saw the light and followed it. They are rightly called wise!

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS Helen Steiner Rice FAITH TO BELIEVE

Trouble is only a challenge to spur you on to achieve the best that God has to offer if you have the faith to believe!

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." —Psalm 1:7

Today, with faith in your heart, you can face any trouble that you encounter!