

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor Andrew Koterba



*Sunday, January 3, 2016*

*Epiphany of the Lord*

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow. Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

8:00 AM - *"Come All Ye Faithful"*

Mass Book page 63

## **READING I - Isaiah 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 -**

**Psalm 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 2 - 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/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**R:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage..

**R:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## **GOSPEL - Matthew 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.*

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"We Three Kings"*

COMMUNION HYMNS- *"Joy to the World"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

# St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

On this feast day, celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, we remember the Magi, the Three Kings, who guided by a star shining 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.

### "WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM"

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?" On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His Mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and myrrh."

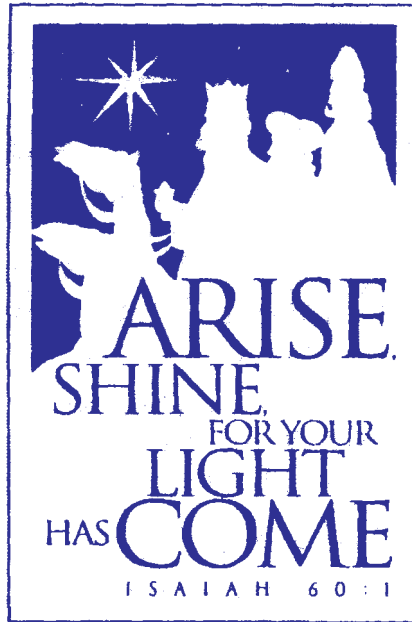
—Matthew 2:1,2, 11

## MAGI BRING GIFTS

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 myrrh, that He was man doomed to death. According to legend, Casper, the king of Tarsus, the land of 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.

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In Puerto Rico, the children put boxes on the rooftops for Santa instead of hanging stockings inside. A most picturesque and beautiful celebration known as "Bethlehem Day" is observed by the children on January 12, in memory of the coming Magi. It consists of a procession through the streets led by three children, dressed as the Wise Men of the East. The children wear colorful costumes and ride on ponies or horses, holding the gifts for the



Infant King in their hands. Behind the children dressed as Wise Men come those dressed as angels and shepherds. Flute players bring up the rear.

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen A refecton of faith and wisdom...

### OUR SPIRITUAL PARENTS

Joy and sorrow are never separated. When our hearts rejoice at a spectacular view, we may miss our friends who cannot see it, and when we are overwhelmed with grief, we may discover what true friendship is all about. Joy is hidden in sorrow and sorrow in joy. If we try to avoid sorrow at all costs, we may never taste joy, and if we are suspicious of ecstasy, agony can never reach us either. Joy and sorrow are the parents of our spiritual growth.

## THANKFULNESS

We sincerely thank all parishioners and friends of St. Francis Parish, for your sincere, kind and generous stewardship. May God Bless your hands, hearts and lives forever. Thank you! Bog Zaploc! meaning simply - God's Thanks!

## BLESSING OF HOMES & OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN

Fr. Andrew opens this tradition to all those interested in having their homes blessed for the New Year 2016 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 doorways to write the initials of the Three Kings, separated by crosses, thus 20+K+M+B+13 with each advancing by one over the previous year. The sign remains until the end of the year. The priest writes the letters on the doors as he visits the homes and pronounces the Christmas blessing of your home. Please contact Father Andrew for a visit. Also, today Fr. Andrew will bless our new outdoor sign. It has been years since St. Francis even had a sign. Compared to the old one, this one is larger, colorful and hopefully so much more visible and inviting to new Parishioners. With sincere thanks to Bill & Rea Piro, we "welcome" our new sign. God's Blessings!



## PRAYER 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.

