



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-5189

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor

The Epiphany of the Lord *January 8, 2012*

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"

**A special blessing by Fr. Andrew
of your baby Jesus from your Creche**

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 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: 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 - Ephesians 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.

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.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS -

RESPONSE - Lord Hear Our Prayer!

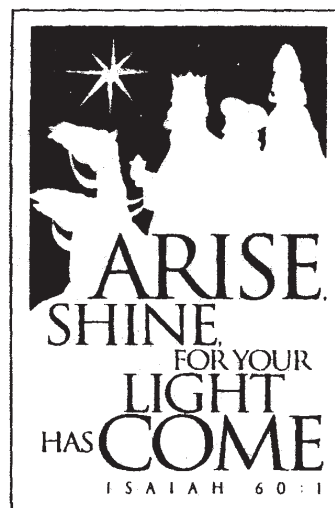
OFFERTORY HYMN - "The First Noel"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS -

"We Three Kings" & "Christ Is Born"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Joy to the World"



St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

On this feast day, celebrated on January 6th, 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.

THE MAGI 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE 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.

BLESSING OF HOMES

Fr. Andrew opens this tradition to all those interested in having their homes blessed for the New Year 2012, 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+12, 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, Fr. Andrew if you are interested in such a visit. God's Blessings!



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, January 9

"When Jesus submitted himself for Baptism, John the Baptist balked, saying that it was Christ who should baptize him, but Jesus answered, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

—Matthew 3:15

It is telling that Jesus began his public ministry with such a humble act. Time and again Jesus goes the will of the Father, culminating in the garden of Gethsemane, when he prays, "...not my will, but thine, be done." —Luke 22:42 John the Baptist is an instrument of God and Jesus submits, not to John but to God. So it is today. We will not always like or "get along" with other people in our parish, family, or neighborhood, but that is of no matter. We are always fulfilling the will of our Father, no matter the circumstances. We are called to Stewardship, we are called to sharing and giving. We are not called to judging or deciding the worthiness of the people we encounter.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012...

A SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Fr. Andrew will offer next week's Mass for John F. Blenn who donated money for new St. Francis Hall windows.

JUST A THOUGHT...

MY CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book,
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and take a look.
That is when I realize these names are all a part,
Not of the book they're written in but of my heart.
For each name stands for someone
 who has crossed my path sometime,
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme.
While it may sound fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name.
And while you may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you has changed my life much more than you think.
For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase,
The memory of a pleasant word or friendly face.
So, never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on the list of folks I'm endeared to.
For I am a total of the many folks I've met,
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
Whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.
And every year when Christmas comes I realize anew.
The best gift life can offer is meeting folks like you.
So, may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures,
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours!