

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Memorial Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - October 2, 2016



Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:30 AM - "Hymn of Faith"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Reading 1

Gal 1:13-24

Brothers and sisters: You heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it, and progressed in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions. But when he, who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the Apostles, only James the brother of the Lord. (As to what I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown personally to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only kept hearing that "the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." So they glorified God because of me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM -

Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

R. Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

O LORD, you have probed me and you know me; you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar.

My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar.

R. Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.

I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.

R. Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

My soul also you knew full well;

nor was my frame unknown to you

When I was made in secret,

when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.

R. Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Lk 10:38-42

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Blessed Assurance"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Sanctuary"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Prayer of St. Francis"



St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"



OUR PATRON SAINT!

St. Francis
Lover of
all Creation

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (1182-1226)

St. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. His feast day is October 4th and he is the founder of all Franciscan orders and the patron saint of animals, merchants and ecology. His father, Pietro, a wealthy clothing merchant, was away in France when Francis was born and upon returning, was furious to learn he had been baptized Giovanni after John the Baptist so Pietro had him renamed Francis in honor of his infatuation with France. Francis grew up enjoying a very easy lifestyle because of his father's wealth and was easygoing, charming and loved by all. However, he hung with a wild crowd accustomed to vice and evil and even said "I lived in sin" during that time. But Francis wanted more - more than wealth - he wanted to be a noble, a knight and win glory in battle and got his chance when Assisi declared war on Perugia. He was taken prisoner and jailed in a dark dungeon for a year and still never lost his happy manner. He tried again in the Fourth Crusade in a full suit of golden armor riding on his horse and got only one day's ride when God told him in a dream to return. He did so in humiliation and was called a coward by the village and raged at by his father for the wasted money on his armor. Francis' conversion didn't happen overnight and he began to pray more over time and weep for his sins. God knew Francis' love of beauty and tested him with a smelly leper of whose hand Francis kissed and then the leper miraculously disappeared. Francis then went to the ancient church of San Damiano and heard Christ say "Francis repair my church". He took it literally and sold his dad's fabric to do so incensing his father. His dad dragged him in front of the bishop who told Francis to give the money back and God would provide. Francis gave up the clothes off his back, disowned his father and realized God meant him to repair the church spiritually. His companions came from all walks of life and Francis's simple rule was for them to live the Gospel - sell what they had - give to the poor - take nothing on their journey and especially take up the cross daily. Francis loved animals and vice-versa because they were God's creation. One story had him talk to a wolf who was eating humans and not only did the wolf stop - he became the townspeople's pet. Francis found true freedom in possessing nothing but God's love and wanting to share that love with the world. In 10 years his brotherhood grew to 5,000 men. Years of poverty and wandering made Francis ill and his final years were filled with intense suffering (including blindness) and humiliation. In praying to share in Christ's passion he received the stigmata. He died welcoming his Sister Death, while the Passion of Jesus was read aloud from the Gospel on October 3, 1226. How thankful we should all be for this remarkable saint and for God's goodness!

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

O God who through the merits of blessed Francis, magnifies your Church, enriching it anew with spiritual offering: make us, like him, to disdain the goods of earth, nor at any time to lack the comforting gifts of heaven.

St. Francis of Assisi, help us. By your example may we learn that life does not consist in the pursuit of wealth nor in the abundance of our possessions.

St. Francis of Assisi, come to our aid. Because we live at a time when people glorify ease and seek after luxuries, and when many wish only the gratification of fleshly desires, we stand in special need of your single minded dedication to Christ in the narrow way that leads to life.

St. Francis of Assisi, assist us now. May we appreciate as you did the beauties of God's wonderful creation, and the glory of the world he made for us. Help us to enjoy and appreciate God's bounty without spoiling or defacing his gifts by our heedlessness and greed.

Teach us, seraphic Father Francis, to value all things as Christ did and to be imitators of him as you were. May we thus enjoy the good things of life, but always prefer the blessings of the endless life to come. Amen.

St. Francis, the little poor man of Assisi, we invoke you as the admirable mirror you were of our divine Master.

You imitated Christ the Lord in your humility and obedience. You faithfully followed him in poverty and weakness. With Joy you accepted suffering, contempt, and trials for the sake of his name.

In your goodness help us, then, to imitate your example. By your power with God obtain for us the special favor we now seek through your intercession. Please pray for us, gentle and happy saint of the poor, that we may always be loyal followers of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and filled always with divine riches. Amen.

GUARDIAN ANGELS, October 2

"He has given his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91).

Both the Old and New Testament recognize that God gives each person born into this world an angel guardian. Jesus, calling a little child to him, said that the angels in heaven watch over children such as this one. By a loving providence God reaches into human life to guard, protect and lead us on our way to salvation.

GUARDIAN ANGELS PRAYER

The Lord will send his angel to accompany you and to guide you safely on your way.

Blessed by God who sent his angels to rescue his faithful servants.

"See I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice."

God our Father, in your loving providence you send your holy angels to watch over us. Hear our prayers, defend us always by their protection and let us share your life with them forever. Amen

A big thank you to everyone who helped make yesterday's "Blessing of the Animals" successful.