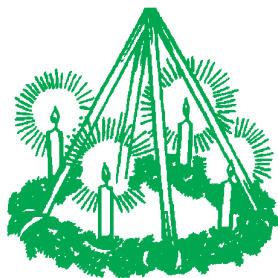


ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, New York 11554

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org



Sunday, November 27, 2011

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus. R/. Na wieki, wiekow.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ. R/. Now and forever.

9:00 AM - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant) O Father, we remember with awe and joy that the world is yours, and that life is your gift. Lift up our thoughts from the littleness of our own minds to the greatness that is yours, so that our lives might more adequately reveal the truth that Christ brought to the world. Amen.

BLESSING THE WREATH: Celebrant: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from you abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE: (Lector): O Lord, stir up your might, we beg of You, and come, that by your protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Your deliverance. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63 (please note: No "Gloria" during Advent)

READING I - Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

READING II - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Verse. R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL - Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

INTERCESSIONS - RESPONSE - GOD, HEAR US!

OFFERTORY HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out" -

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION & POST COMMUNION HYMNS -
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

ADVENT ...

The four weeks of Advent prepare us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation; God became human to bring us out of the darkness into His eternal light. During Advent, liturgy stresses not only penance, but hope, light, joy and surrender.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

Jesus is our hope. Hope believes that the best is yet to come. "Christ (is) in you, the hope of glory. It is He whom we proclaim." —Colossians 1:27-28)

As St. Clement of Alexandria wrote, "If you do hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes."

The hope Jesus brings means not only His promise to redeem us from sin, but also to come again: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars...Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21: 25, 27-28)

Our hope in Jesus helps us face our fears. The words "Be not afraid" are repeated 365 times in the Bible. Indeed, the Gospels are primarily faith proclamations, not biographies of Jesus. Jesus, our hope, teaches us to place our trust in Him.

ADVENT ... PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD! THE CHRISTMAS CRIB IN YOUR HEART

"Keep Christ in Christmas." A good mantra, even a necessary one in a commercial age when the celebration of Christ's birth is marketed to the point of distortion. That slogan, calling for recollection of Christmas as holy day, versus "holiday," has been with us for over 40 years.

We could always count on the Christmas crib being set up in the parish church. Always in time for Christmas Eve. That wonderful tableau, Popularized by St. Francis of Assisi, employed a regular cast of "characters" cited in Scripture - the stable with statues of the Holy Family, the Angels, the manger animals, the Shepherds, and eventually the Wise Men (Magi).

Gradually, even the most modest homes built or made a Crib. And it has always been more popular with the children than the snowy "Christmas villages" that so many adults preferred to display under their Christmas tree. Credit the upswing, in display of the Creche in private homes to the children. For children quickly relate. Instinctively, the welcoming of the Holy Child in their own home speaks to the welcome of any child at the heart of the family.

The challenge for Christians today is to revive an even earlier custom; to build and set up the Christmas Crib in one's own heart. The perfect spiritual preparation and welcome for the Christ Child for every individual - adults as well as children. The best foundation for the Spiritual Crib is the recognition of Advent, the wonderful season of waiting and watching and preparing the way of the Lord.

Here are four weeks to sweep out the spiritual cobwebs and prepare a home for Christ in one's soul. Basic for everyone - the young, the older, the healthy, the incapacitated - carving out even a few minutes every day for Jesus, the Lord.

Often the parish may provide a leaflet or booklet for family prayer, perhaps with the Advent Wreath. Many people will want to take part in Morning Prayer before Mass or attend at least one weekday Mass during Advent. And many people, at work as well as at home or school, elect a personal Advent project. Usually it is private commitment. Perhaps to spend time with an elderly family member - helping with Christmas preparations, sharing fond memories, unlocking the family history of the Holy Season. For someone else, the Christmas Crib "furniture" may well be kindness to a shy or troubled person at the office or at school. Taking time to be civil or friendly with a person who feels or experiences being shut out or set apart from others.

Just as a welcome is best when it is personal, so too should the choice of Christmas preparation in the heart be found in the experience of your own life. Remember to make time for Jesus in this busy season!



SUNDAY December 4th, 3 pm CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER DINNER

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Church,

Last Christmas season we had a St. Francis Wish-List, noting items needed for our sanctuary, which are now in use in our worship and Holy Mass. We remain ever thankful for your kindness and generosity shown us for those gifts.

This year, our Wish-List is directed to our 'St. Francis Parish Hall.' Our hall rentals remain a great support financially to our Parish. So our need is for improvements and renovation of this space.

Our hope is to replace drafty windows, replace lighting, raise the ceiling height and insulate and replace walls. Yes, this is a big project. But we are blessed with a skilled carpenter (Fr. Andrew) and other helpful hands. Work would begin during the summer months, as our hall rentals are at a minimum at that time. We will start small and with our continued prayers and God's will - we will move forward.

Please note your donation for a specific item or combine with others on one item or state for a general use. Note your donation for a requiem intention, a joyous occasion or for a health need.

We will note your gift and gift intentions in our St. Francis bulletin. A future date will be made to hold a 'Special Mass' of thanksgiving and note of your intentions. All are invited to join us in this celebration.

Again, 'thank you' for your continued faithfulness and support for St. Francis Parish. With such good efforts and direction we continue...

Always, remaining in thought and prayer.
Fr. Andrew and Parish Committee