

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, November 28, 2010

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 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Because of my brothers and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I will pray for your god.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

READING II - Rom 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

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

GOSPEL - Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

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!

ST. ANDREW (first century) November 30

St. Andrew came from Bethsaida, a town in Galilee on the Lake of Genesareth. He became a disciple of St. John the Baptist, who sent him to see Jesus. After visiting the Lord, Andrew called his brother, Simon Peter, to come and meet the Messiah. Later, as Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Andrew accompanied Jesus throughout his public ministry, and his name appears in the story of the feeding of five thousand in the desert. After the death of Christ, he labored as a missionary in Scythia, Greece and Turkey and established the Church at Constantinople. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras, Acaia. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Russia and Scotland.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice GOD GUIDE ME TODAY

All I need do is to silently pray - "God, help me and guide me and go with me today."

"Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his ways." —Psalm 25:8-9

Today keep God as your constant companion!



December 5th
Sunday, 3 pm
**CHRISTMAS
FUNDRAISER
DINNER**