



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554 • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org

Pastor Andrew Koterba

Third Sunday in Advent - December 15, 2013

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus

Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "Prepare Ye"

OPENING PRAYER: (*please say with Celebrant*) O Father, our hearts respond with joy as we approach the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. As we sense within ourselves His coming, may there be restored within us the image and likeness of our Creator, who gave us the Christ of Christmas. Amen

PRAYER: (*celebrant*) O God, as we look upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and as we light a third candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE: (*Lector*): O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may indeed prepare for Your only begotten Son, that through his coming, we may be made worthy to observe you with pure minds. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R. Lord, come and save us.

READING II - James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

GOSPEL - Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out"

COMMUNION HYMNS - "Patience, People"

& if time permits: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

"PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD"

CHRISTMAS IS A "MARY" TIME

Mary was born in the city of Nazareth. Her father Joachim, hailed from Nazareth in Galilee, while Anna, her mother, came from Bethlehem. They made a vow that if the Lord blessed them with offspring, they would yield the child to the service of the Lord and thus Mary was brought upon the temple. God sent the angel Gabriel to announce to Mary her role in the Incarnation of Christ. Then having been instructed and assured by the Angel of the Lord, Joseph took Mary as his wife and knew her not until she had brought forth JESUS, her firstborn son.

"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" —Luke 1:28

ST. PETER CANISIUS - December 21

St. Peter was born at Nijmegen, Holland, in 1521 into a prominent political family. He studied Canon Law at Louvain and received his master of arts degree at Cologne University in 1540. In 1543, while attending a retreat given by Blessed Peter Faber at Mainz, he decided to enter the Jesuits.

After some years of prayer and study in Cologne, Peter was ordained in 1546. He began a career of writing and preaching and went to the Council of Trent for two sessions as a delegate. He returned to Rome and was commissioned by St. Ignatius Loyola to teach in the first Jesuit school at Messina. In 1549, he went to Ingolstadt, Germany, at the request of Duke William IV of Bavaria. In 1552, King Ferdinand asked Peter to go to Vienna. Peter's mission in Germany was to labor for the Church in its struggle with the Reformation. He taught at universities in Ingolstadt and Vienna and his preaching caused a religious revival among the Catholic people. He founded a new college at Prague in 1556 and won the respect of both Catholics and Protestants. He lived in Augsburg from 1559 to 1565 as the Jesuit superior and directed the ministry of his community for the revival of Catholicism in southern Germany.

Peter was a prolific writer and his famous catechism, or Summary of Christian Doctrine, was published in 1555. He produced a number of well known catechisms, theological writings, editions of the writings of early Church theologians, as well as controversial essays. He went to Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1580 to establish a university. Today, the University of Fribourg is the result of his efforts. Peter died at Fribourg on December 21, 1597, leaving behind a vast legacy of apostolic works for the Church he loved so dearly.

St. Peter Canisius has been called the "Second Apostle of Germany" - the first being St. Boniface. In his diary he recalled the first commission he received in Rome to go labor among the German people: "You know, Lord, how strongly and how often you committed Germany to my care on that very day. I was to continue to be solicitous for it thereafter; I was to desire to live and die for it." St. Peter Canisius is a Doctor of the Church.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen A SECOND DEATH

Hell is a second death. This is what the Book of Revelation says (see Revelation 21:8). Just as there is an eternal life, there is an eternal death. Eternal life is a second life; eternal death is a second death. Our first death can be a passage not only to eternal life but also to eternal death.

Looking at hell as a second death takes away the images of eternal suffering and torture that are so prevalent in medieval art and literature. It defines hell more as the refusal to choose life than as a punishment for wrongdoing. In fact, the sins that the Book of Revelation mentions as leading to eternal death are choices for death: murdering, worshipping obscenities, sexual immorality, lying, and so on (see Revelation 21:8). When we sow death we will reap death. But when we sow life we will reap life. It is we who do the sowing!

LIVING LIFE...AN INSPIRATION JOURNEY

Life is not a race—but indeed a journey. Be honest, Work hard, Be choosy. Say 'thank you', 'I love you', and 'great job' to someone each day. Go to church, take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental—search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself—plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Love for today, enjoy the moment.

THANK YOU ALL!

First, we thank John & Joni Blenn and the actors (especially Richie C, Tracy F, Mike R, Donna M & Sue G) of MCAP for "The Table" fundraiser which raised \$1,264 for new chairs. Then we sincerely thank all of you at St. Francis Parish who contributed in any way to the Christmas Fundraiser Dinner last Sunday, and especially Bob (& Bonnie) Dackow for extraordinary volunteerism every year as Santa and his personal photographer.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 23 - 9 a.m.
Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24 - 9 p.m.
**Christmas Eve -
Shepherd's Mass**
(instead of Midnight Mass)

Wednesday, December 25 - 9 a.m.
Christmas Day Mass