

# 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](http://www.StFrancisPNCC.org)

Sunday, December 19, 2010

## FOURTH 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"



OPENING PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant) O Father, as we approach the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, may 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 fourth candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our joyful hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE: (Reader): O Lord, we beg you, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

READING I - Is 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

READING II - Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received

the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL - Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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"

### ST. JOHN OF KANTI (1390-1473) December 23

St. John of Kanti, also known as St. John Cantius, was born at Kanti, Poland on June 23, 1390. A learned, holy man, he studied at the University of Cracow and was ordained to the priesthood. He taught for many years at the University of Cracow, where his colleagues and students admired his scholarly integrity and simple faith.

His success as a preacher and teacher caused his associates to become jealous of him. As a result, he served for a time as a parish priest in the city of Olkusz. Because of problems in the parish, he would soon return to Cracow to teach Sacred Scripture at the university for the remainder of his life.

John endured envy and misunderstanding from some colleagues who resented his holy life and intellectual gifts, but he remained faithful to his teaching and pastoral work. Unconcerned for his own needs, he gave all he had to others, especially the poor. Desiring to become a martyr, John made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to preach amongst the Turks. During his lifetime, he made four pilgrimages to Rome on foot. John died at Cracow on Christmas eve, 1473.

### BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen THE MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

At some moments we experience complete unity within us and around us. This may happen when we stand on a mountaintop and are captivated by the view. It may happen when we witness the birth of a child or the death of a friend. It may happen when we have an intimate conversation or a family meal. It may happen in church during a service or in a quiet room during prayer. But whenever and however it happens we say to ourselves, "This is it...everything fits...all I ever hoped for is here."

This is the experience that Peter, James, and John had on the top of Mount Tabor when they saw the aspect of Jesus' face change and his clothing become sparkling white. They wanted that moment to last forever (see Luke 9:28-36). This is the experience of the fullness of time. These moments are given to us so that we can remember them when God seems far away and everything appears empty and useless. These experiences are true moments of grace.

### ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Steiner Rice HE HOLDS THE WORLD

Humbly, I realize that He who made the sea and skies and holds the whole world in His hand also has my small soul in His command.

'The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul... The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.' -Psalm 19:7-8

Today acknowledge the vastness and also the gentleness of God's power. The depths, breadths, lengths, and widths of the universe are God's creations and the control rests in His hands!



### ST. FRANCIS NOTES ...

CHRISTMAS EVE (Shepherd's Mass) will be held on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. Come Rejoice!

OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION... please join us in the parish Hall after Shepherd's Mass for our special time to share a meal together, listen and care for one another. Let us know what food/dessert item you'd like to contribute (so far we've got: cold cuts, rolls, kielbasa,

sausage bread, borsch soup, babka & chrusciki).

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25<sup>th</sup>...Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>...Mass will be held as usual at 9:00 a.m.

ST. FRANCIS WISH LIST: We need a little help... Our sanctuary is in need of several new items. We are hoping that these items would be donated or given with intention for the living or deceased or combined with others for more costly items. We will note these items on a St. Francis "WISH TREE" or contact F. Andrew if you are interested in such a donation. Thank you and God Bless!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: To St. Francis' own "Good Samaritans," George Knott and his daughter for the donation of a snow blower. From the bottoms of our hearts, we sincerely thank them for their generosity.

OPLATEK (CHRISTMAS WAFER) This thin plain white wafer with nativity scenes stamped thereon, remains one of our important traditions. Sometimes referred to as "chleb anielski (angel bread), it is shared with family and friends at Christmas Eve supper and extended in our greeting cards to those distant from us. In this breaking of bread we extend our greetings and good wishes for all the blessings and happiness of the gift of Christmas. Please ask Fr. Andrew for your 'oplatek'.