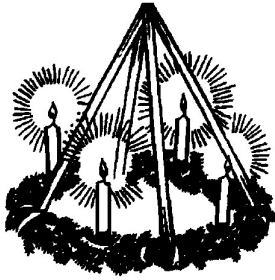


ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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



Sunday, December 2, 2012

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 - Jer 33:14-16

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

READING II - 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how

you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

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

GOSPEL - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." 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!

ANGELS WALK AMONG US...

A BIG, BIG, BIG THANK YOU to BILL & REA PIRO

Remember a few years ago, when Bill & Rea Piro donated a beautiful, almost life-size nativity to St. Francis Parish? Well, they have done it again...this time they've donated a top-of-the line SOUND SYSTEM, replete with microphone, stand, jacks for i-pods, etc. This system will greatly enhance the rental appeal for our Hall. And, now we won't have to scream when announcing raffles at our fund-raiser dinners. What can we say, but "God Bless you, Bill & Rea, with health, happiness and love." We at St. Francis sincerely thank you for your continued generosity.



TODAY
December 2nd, 3 pm
CHRISTMAS
FUNDRAISER
DINNER

