

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-5189

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2011

9:00 AM - Celebration of the Eucharist

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN - "O Come All Ye Faithful"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

GLORIA - "Angels We Have Heard On High"

READING I - Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing  
peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying  
to Zion, "Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy,  
for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring  
Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For  
the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The  
LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations;  
all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous  
deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the  
sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has re-  
membered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house  
of Israel.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song;  
sing praise.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and  
melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

READING II - Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and  
various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these  
last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he  
made heir of all things and through whom he created the  
universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint  
of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.  
When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took  
his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

as far superior to the an-  
gels as the name he has  
inherited is more excel-  
lent than theirs. For to  
which of the angels did  
God ever say: You are  
my son; this day I have  
begotten you? Or again:  
I will be a father to him,  
and he shall be a son to  
me? And again, when  
he leads the firstborn  
into the world, he says:  
Let all the angels of God  
worship him.

GOSPEL - John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him, and without him noth-  
ing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and  
this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in  
the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man  
named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might  
believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify  
to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was  
coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world  
came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He  
came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept  
him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to be-  
come children of God, to those who believe in his name, who  
were born not by natural generation nor by human choice  
nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became  
flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.  
John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of  
whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead  
of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we  
have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the  
law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through  
Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God,  
who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. This is the gos-  
pel of the Lord. R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS -

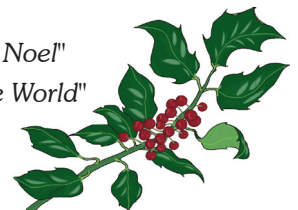
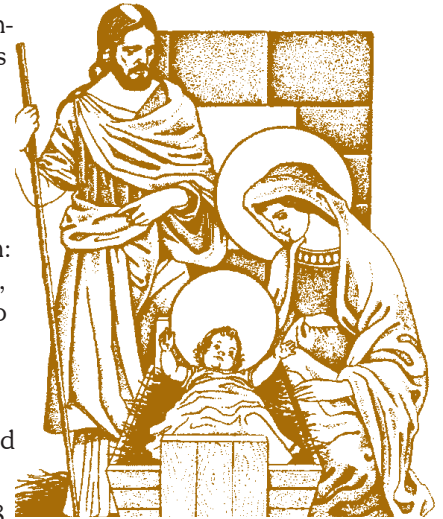
RESPONSE - Lord Hear Our Prayer!

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Silent Night"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - "The First Noel"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Joy to the World"



## St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

### REJOICE! REJOICE! THE LORD IS BORN TODAY! CHRISTMAS...2011

#### **LUKE 2:8-14**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

#### **BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen HOLDING ON TO THE CHRIST**

Life is unpredictable. We can be happy one day and sad the next, healthy one day and sick the next, rich one day and poor the next, alive one day and dead the next. So who is there to hold on to? Who is there to feel secure with? Who is there to trust at all times?

Only Jesus, the Christ. He is our Lord, our shepherd, our rock, our stronghold, our refuge, our brother, our guide, and our friend. He came from God to be with us. He died for us, he was raised from the dead to open for us the way to God, and he is seated at God's right hand to welcome us home. with Paul, we must be certain that "neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

#### **WHAT DOES THE "CRECHE" SYMBOLIZE?**

Francis called it a "creche," the French word for cradle. Francis created the first creche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass and real shepherds.

The Incarnation - Christmas - was a key component in the spirituality of Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how He lay in a manger with an ox and ass standing by - how He lay upon the hay where He had been placed.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223, at the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the new Bethlehem. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit the night to come to adore Him. All were filled with great joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition was begun.

As you look upon your Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the creche symbolizes!

-From the Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano

#### **AND SPEAKING OF TRADITIONS...**

We are starting a NEW tradition at St. Francis Parish. On Sunday, January 1, 2012, as we celebrate the Epiphany, bring in your baby Jesus from your Creche, and Fr. Andrew will have a special blessing of your Jesus.

#### **THE BEAUTY OF CHRISTMAS, "KEEP THE MESSAGE!"**

In a world where nature and our environment are threatened, let us make our Christmas tree and manger scene reminders of the beauty and sacredness of nature. How closely at his coming did Jesus bind himself to the animals of the field, as well as to the earth and the open sky!

Remembering the poor shepherds and the circumstances of Christ's birth, so marked by poverty, let us make them reminders of the forgotten poor of our world.

Let the Child and Joseph and Mary teach us the dignity and importance of children and families in a society so neglectful of them.

The Christmas season's rich traditions come from people throughout the world, from Spain, South America, Eastern Europe, and so many others. Let them remind us of the unity of all people as children of God.

Let us... "Keep the Message!"

#### **ST. FRANCIS NOTES ..**

"May your Christmas be a joyous celebration of praise for our glorious Savior and King."

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to All! Please join us after Mass in the Parish Hall, for our traditional Christmas celebration meal. Share with us in the breaking of the Christmas wafer (Oplatek), sometimes referred to as the "angel bread." This traditional Polish and seemingly ever popular growing tradition, is shared with all, friends and family in an exchange of good wishes with all present as a sign of love, forgiveness and reconciliation!

A hearty, sincere 'Thank You' to Thomas Kompa for writing our factual and interesting bulletin every week and for setting up his beautiful Polish Nativity for all to see!

