

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



Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds

Sunday, December 26, 2010

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 - "Silent Night"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

READING I - Jeremiah 31:10-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together, He guards them as a shepherd his flock. The Lord shall ransom Jacob, He shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion, they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings: The grain, the wine, and the oil, the sheep and the oxen; They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish. Then the virgins shall make merry and dance, and young men and old as well, I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console and gladden them after their sorrows. I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and My people shall be filled with My blessings, says the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 97:1,6,11,12

**R. A light will shine on us this day:
the lord is born.**

The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; let the many isles be glad The heavens proclaim His justice and all peoples see His glory.

**R. A light will shine on us this day:
the Lord is born for us.**

Light dawns for the just; and gladness for the uprig: of heart. Be glad in the Lord, you just, and give thanks to His holy name.

**R. A light will shine on us this day:
the Lord is born for us.**



READING II - Titus 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus: When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He lavished on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs, in hope, of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. The Lord is King, in splendor robed: robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL - Luke 2:15-20

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Luke.

R./ Glory be to you, O Lord.

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them. This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS - RESPONSE -
Lord Hear Our Prayer!

OFFERTORY HYMN - "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - "O Come All Ye Faithful"
and "Angels We Have Heard On High"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Joy to the World"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR...2011!

The New Year, like a new born, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift, they carry God's blessings. As a blessing, we welcome them. Our hope for the year end is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind. Bless us, O Lord and bless the time and seasons yet to come. Teach us to number our days aright, and that we may gain wisdom of heart, And fill this new year with your kindness, that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of life. Amen.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen GOD'S IMAGINATION

So much of our energy, time, and money goes into maintaining distance from one another. Many if not most of the resources of the world are used to defend ourselves against one another, to maintain or increase our power, and to safeguard our own privileged position.

Imagine all that effort being put in the service of peace and reconciliation! Would there be any poverty? Would there be crimes and war? Just imagine that there was no longer fear among people, no longer rivalry, hostility, bitterness, or revenge. Just imagine all the people on this planet holding hands and forming one large circle of love. We say, "I can't imagine." But God says, "That's what I imagine, a whole world not only created but also living in my image."

PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

January 1st is a day for praying for PEACE, the Prayer of St. Francis remains as one of the best for our thoughts and action...

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Good Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life! Amen.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTION - Helen Steiner Rice THE VOICE OF GOD

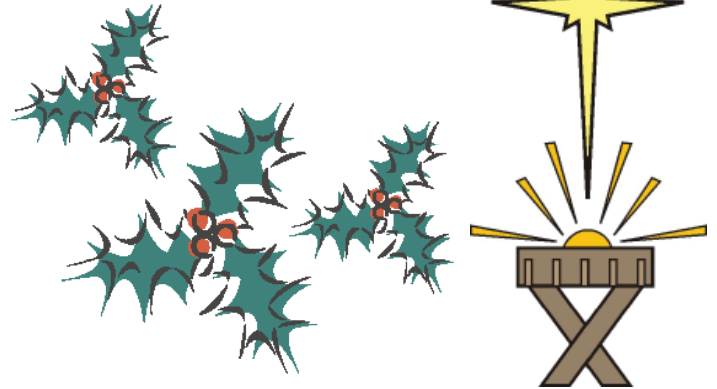
Above the noise and laughter that is empty, cruel, and loud,
do you listen for the voice of God in the restless, surging crowd?

"Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." —Psalm 36:5

Today observe the relationship of happiness and helpfulness: the extent of your happiness is commensurate with the degree of your helpfulness to others!

ST. FRANCIS NOTES ..

Did you receive any gifts you're not thrilled over? Ever think about re-gifting? Why not donate them to St. Francis for use as raffle gifts at our next fund-raiser? Then you can use it or them as a tax deduction. It's a win-win situation.



footprints in the Snow

One white and wintry Christmas Eve
in a village, long ago,
A young child took a journey,
leaving footprints in the snow.
Clutched within her tiny hand
she carried a small heart,
Fashioned from some scraps of cloth,
wrapped in charm of childlike art.

A manger scene of wood and straw
was the child's destination.
Her only Christmas wish,
to join Christ's birthday celebration.
She placed her precious handmade gift
upon the straw with care,
And before she turned to leave,
whispered a simple prayer.

The villagers who stood nearby
recall that night with awe,
Retelling every detail
of the miracle they saw...
A second set of footprints
appeared next to the girl's own.
They seemed to walk right by her side,
to see her safely home.
But there's no mystery in the presence
of this unseen Friend—
For once God's touched your heart,
you'll never walk alone again.

