



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor Andrew Koterba

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow. Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Jeremiah 31:10-14

"Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the Lord.

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

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

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 upright 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 2 - Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: 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

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 CONCESSIONS:

"God Hear Us!"

OFFERTORY HYMN - "O Holy Night"

COMMUNION HYMNS- "Shepherd Me, O God"

RECESSIONAL - "Joy to the World"



St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS...

"Put on, then garments that suit God's chosen and beloved people: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgiving, if any of you has cause for complaint: you must forgive as the Lord forgave you. Finally, to bind everything together and complete the whole, there must be love. Let Christ's peace be arbiter in your decisions, the peace to which you were called as members of a single body. Always be thankful. Let the gospel of Christ dwell among you in all its richness; teach and instruct one another with all the wisdom it gives you."

— Colossians 3:12-16

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2015! A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

The new year, like a new born child, 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 blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.



LET THERE BE 'PEACE'!

Since January 1st is a day for praying for peace, the Prayer of St. Francis suits this day; 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 in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen A NON JUDGMENTAL PRESENCE

To the degree that we accept that through Christ we ourselves have been reconciled with God we can be messengers of reconciliation for others. Essential to the work of reconciliation is a non judgmental presence. We are not sent to the world to judge, to condemn, to evaluate, to classify, or to label. When we walk around as if we have to make up our minds about people and tell them what is wrong with them and how they should change, we only create more division. Jesus says it clearly, "Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge...do not condemn...forgive." (Luke 6:36-37).

In a world that constantly asks us to make up our minds about other people, a non judgmental presence seems nearly impossible. But it is one of the most beautiful fruits of a deep spiritual life and will be easily recognized by those who long for reconciliation.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...A BABY

Helen Steiner Rice

A baby is a gift of life born of the wonder of love a little bit of eternity, sent from the Father above.

"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him." —Psalm 127:3

Today consider the glory, the wonder, and the beauty involved in the gift of life!

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE (d. 100) December 27

St. John was born in Galilee, the son of Zebedee the fisherman. Along with his brother, St. James the Great, he was called by Jesus to be one of his closest disciples.

He witnessed the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor and Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemani. As the "disciple whom Jesus loved," John rested his head on the Lord's breast at the Last Supper and was the only one to stand with Mary beneath the Cross on Calvary. Jesus committed John to his mother's care, "Woman, behold your son," and in turn gave Mary to him as his mother, "Son, behold your mother."

On Easter Sunday, John ran with Peter to see the empty tomb and believed that Christ was risen from the dead. After Pentecost, at the temple gate with Peter, he healed the cripple who sat begging alms. John was a founder of the Church at Jerusalem and after some years went to Ephesus in Asia Minor. Here, according to tradition, he lived with Mary till her death and authored the great Gospel and Epistles that bear his name.

Early sources say that because of his teachings he was banished to the island of Patmos for a time and there wrote down revelations from heaven in a book called The Apocalypse or Revelations. He opposed heretics who denied that Jesus was God and taught his followers the great commandment of love. St. Jerome writes that as an old man too weak to engage in any activity, he would repeat to those he met, "My little children, love one another." When someone asked him why he repeated these same words over and over, he replied, "Because it is the Lord's teaching, and if you keep it you do enough." He died at Ephesus when he was about 94 years old.

UPCOMING DATE

**Sunday, January 3rd
Blessing of the NEW St. Francis Sign
9:00 a.m. Mass**