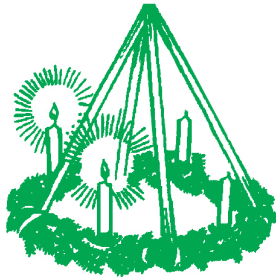


# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Let there be peace on earth." —St. Francis

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554 • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org • Pastor Andrew Koterba



## Advent

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "Prepare Ye"

**PRAYER:** (please say with

*Celebrant*) O God, as we look upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and as we light a second candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our hearts. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE:** (*Lector*):

O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may indeed prepare for Your only begotten Son, that through his coming, we may be made worthy to observe you with pure minds. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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READING I - Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly

and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

READING II - Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.. R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Patience People"

COMMUNION HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"

# St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

## **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.

## **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 (three left) 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.

*Take a moment out and pray...*

† † † † † † † PRAYER † † † † † † † † †

**Health Needs:** Jesus, we ask you to bring peace and your healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen.

**Requiem Intentions:** Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

† †



### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 18 - 9 a.m.**  
**Mass - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 24 - 9 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve -**  
**Shepherd's Mass**  
*(instead of Midnight Mass)*

**Sunday, December 25 - 9 a.m.**  
**Christmas Day Mass**

### **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.

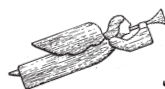


ST. FRANCIS POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
presents its CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER DINNER

# TODAY

## **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 p.m.**

*With loads of great raffles, prizes & carolling*



\$18 Adults • \$9 Children

St. Francis Church Hall

1752 Harton Avenue, East Meadow NY

