

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

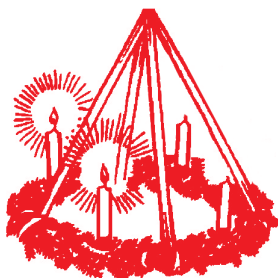
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Sunday, December 4, 2011

## SECOND 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 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.

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

(please note: No "Gloria" during Advent)

READING I - Reading 1 Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, & all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD--for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

READING II - 2 Pt 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he

is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

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

GOSPEL - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." This is the Gospel of the Lord. **R. Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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: A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Begin with Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of preparation, waiting and hope. The Advent liturgy resounds with the longing cries of the Hebrew prophets, the voice of Jesus, and John the Baptist's preaching that the Lord is near. Hear their message still ringing through today's dark winters.

Among the customs of Advent, the Advent wreath is probably the most important. Lighting the Advent candles each day with a prayer can prepare your household for Christmas. For children, an Advent calendar marking off the days before Christmas can be an aid for living the season.

And since Santa Claus suddenly appears everywhere at this time, why not remember the saint who is likely his original? St. Nicholas, whose feast day is December 6th. His example of quiet, generous giving is worth recalling especially for children.



Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white or four violet candles can be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal — one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25<sup>th</sup>. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

## JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE!

Be joyful and share the goodness! Please join us, be a friend and bring a friend, each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Celebration of the Eucharist. Join us after Mass in the Parish Hall for coffee and a roll — our time as a Parish and Community, to share, listen and care with one another! Joyful, Joyful! we adore Him!

## ST. NICHOLAS (fourth century) December 6 "The anonymous giftgiver."

Nicholas takes the place alongside the other "solstice fathers" of Santa Claus, Old Nick and Father Christmas because of one story: A rich man in Myra went bankrupt during Nicholas' tenure as bishop, and having three daughters and no dowries, despaired of their ever marrying. Incredibly, he decided they should become prostitutes. When Nicholas heard of this, he devised a way to save the girls. He secretly, tossed a bag of gold through their window one night. In the morning, the father was amazed by the miracle and used the money as a dowry for his eldest daughter. A second time, Nicholas left a bag of gold so that the next daughter could marry. On the third occasion, when Nicholas sneaked up to the house at night to leave his anonymous gift, the father caught him so that he could thank him for changing their lives. And thus Nicholas becomes the patron of the anonymous gift givers!

His prayer: Nicholas, give me the spirit of giving. Teach me that it really is more blessed to give than receive, and that to whom much has been given, much will be expected. Help me to overcome my fears that if I give generously I will suffer want. Amen.

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY — December 8

The solemn feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, celebrated nine months before the feast of her birth (September 8), recalls the Christian belief that Mary was preserved free from all stain of original sin from the moment of her conception by her mother, Ann. Because of her unique role as the mother of Jesus Christ, God endowed her with special graces and gifts. Like a new Eve, she brought new life to the world through her Divine Son. The feast is also a reminder that the whole Church shares in Mary's privileges in some way. For this reason the feast day prayer asks God to "trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith."

Mary immaculate, star of the morning, chosen before the creation began, chosen to bring, for thy bridal adorning, woe to the serpent and rescue to man. Bend from thy throne at the voice of our crying, Bend to this earth which thy footsteps have trod; Stretch out thine arms to us, living and dying, Mary immaculate, Mother of God.  
—F. W. Weatherell

## THE ADVENT WREATH

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Church,

Last Christmas season we had a St. Francis Wish-List, noting items needed for our sanctuary, which are now in use in our worship and Holy Mass. We remain ever thankful for your kindness and generosity shown us for those gifts.

This year, our Wish-List is directed to our 'St. Francis Parish Hall.' Our hall rentals remain a great support financially to our Parish. So our need is for improvements and renovation of this space.

Our hope is to replace drafty windows, replace lighting, raise the ceiling height and insulate and replace walls. Yes, this is a big project. But we are blessed with a skilled carpenter (Fr. Andrew) and other helpful hands. Work would begin during the summer months, as our hall rentals are at a minimum at that time. We will start small and with our continued prayers and God's will - we will move forward.

Please note your donation for a specific item or combine with others on one item or state for a general use. Note your donation for a requiem intention, a joyous occasion or for a health need.

We will note your gift and gift intentions in our St. Francis bulletin. A future date will be made to hold a 'Special Mass' of thanksgiving and note of your intentions. All are invited to join us in this celebration.

Again, 'thank you' for your continued faithfulness and support for St. Francis Parish. With such good efforts and direction we continue...

Always, remaining in thought and prayer.  
Fr. Andrew and Parish Committee