

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, December 5, 2010

## 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.

BLESSING THE WREATH: (usually done the first week of Advent) Celebrant: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from you abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. 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 - Is 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 - Rom 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. Verse. R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### GOSPEL - Mt 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."

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"

## ST. NICHOLAS (4<sup>th</sup> century), December 6

"The anonymous gift giver."

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!"



### A PRAYER TO ST. NICHOLAS ...

'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

### A SPECIAL 'THANK YOU' TO YOU

'Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Parish, who through their good and kind stewardship, of their giving of time, talent and treasure, keep St. Francis Church going...spreading the 'Good News' of Christ. In so many ways, thank you!

### BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen GIVING PERMISSION TO DIE



One of the greatest gifts we can offer our family and friends is helping them to die well. Sometimes they are ready to go to God but we have a hard time letting them go. But there is a moment in which we need to give those we love the permission to return to God, from whom they came. We have to sit quietly with them and say, "Do not be afraid...I love you, God loves

you...it's time for you to go in peace...I won't cling to you any longer...I set you free to go home...go gently, go with my love." Saying this from the heart is true gift. It is the greatest gift love can give.

When Jesus died he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit" (Luke 23:46). It is good to repeat these words often with our dying friends and family. With these words on their lips or in their hearts, they can make the passage as Jesus did.

### ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Stein Rice SWEET FORBEARANCE

Teach me sweet forbearance when things do not go right, so I remain unruffled when others grow uptight.

'If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!' -Proverbs 24:10

Today demonstrate forbearance in your language, your actions, and your reactions. A calm, well thought out response has a soothing effect on others!

### LIVING LIFE...AN INSPIRATION JOURNEY

Life is not a race—but indeed a journey. Be honest, Work hard, Be choosy. Say 'thank you', 'I

love you', and 'great job' to someone each day. Go to church, take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental—search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself—plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know. Love for today, enjoy the moment.

### ST. FRANCIS NOTES...

**OUR ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION** - We welcome all today! At 3:00 p.m., we will hold our St. Nicholas Fund-raiser Dinner - a smorgasbord with raffles and a visit from St. Nick! Our welcome and cordial invitation to all to join us today! We hope to see you at 3!

**CHRISTMAS EVE** - (Shepherd's Mass) will be held on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. Come Rejoice!

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** - on December 8th. Her feast day prayer asks God to "trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith." On this day the PNCC also celebrates the Feast of Divine Love.

**PEARL HARBOR DAY** - December 7, 1941. Remember our fallen heroes, in thought and prayer. Pray for our nation. God Bless America!

**PIEROGIES ARE HERE** - Potato and Sauerkraut and mushroom...\$5 a dozen. See Monika for your order.



**TODAY**  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, 3 pm  
**CHRISTMAS  
FUNDRAISER  
DINNER**