

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, December 6, 2015

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 - Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

READING II - Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL - Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." 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 HYMN - "Patience People"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

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."

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - 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.

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

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!

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

QUOTABLES

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."
—Dr. Seuss

"Our American values are not luxuries, but necessities — not the salt in our bread, but the bread itself."
—Jimmy Carter

"a dream doesn't become reality through magic, it takes sweat, determination and hard work." —Colin Powell

"An excuse is worse and more terrible than a lie, for an excuse is a lie guarded."
—Pope John Paul II

TODAY

'ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION'

Sunday, December 6th

9 a.m.

Mass honoring St. Nicholas.

3 p.m.

'St. Nicholas Fundraiser Dinner'

...our Christmas dinner.

