

## ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-5189

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor



### Fourth Sunday in Lent March 18, 2012



Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN - "Hymn of Faith"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

READING I - 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

READING II - Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ -by grace you have been saved-, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

GOSPEL - John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS -

RESPONSE - as per Lector

OFFERTORY HYMN - "We Gather Together"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS -

"Lord Forgive" & "Lord I Am Not Worthy"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Cross of Compassion"



# St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

## VIRTUE: PRAISE GOD!

We all know the answer to this question; What's the difference between the Optimist and the Pessimist? The Optimist sees half a glass of water as "half-full." The Pessimist calls the same glass "half-empty." As people baptized into the very life of the Risen Christ, Christians are optimists by calling and experience. We live praising God, whether we are at Mass, or drawing breath with each new day. We praise God for His goodness: life, health, pleasure, pain, joy, sorrow. We recognize that all, from our loving Creator - even when we can not yet "see" how God turns sorrow to joy, pain to growth and new life. Be a Christian optimist this Lent. **Praise God each day!**



them. Christ knew he was leaving the disciples to start his church, and he was also showing them that in order to be good leaders, they must both show respect to their followers and also be willing to serve them. In Medieval times, kings and lords followed Christ's example by washing the feet of twelve of the poorest men in their kingdoms on the Thursday before Easter. Later, in England, it became the custom of the kings and queens to wash the feet of as many poor people as they were years old. Queen Elizabeth still carries on this custom today.

## ST. MAXIMILIAN (d. 295)

"I cannot do evil." His feast day is March 12<sup>th</sup>. Because Maximilian was the son of a veteran, he was expected to serve in the Roman army. He refused on the grounds he was a Christian. He was ordered to appear before a tribunal to present his case. Maximilian had basically two reasons for refusing military service as a Christian; pacifism and opposition to idolatry. He was executed not for his pacifism but for "impiety" - he would not worship the emperor, Mars (the god of war), or the Roman state. He could have escaped and saved his life, he chose to appear at his hearing and witness to his faith. He stated boldly, "I cannot serve, I cannot do evil. I am a Christian." Before he died, he told his fellow Christians who had come to be with him not to worry. "I will welcome you into heaven," he promised.

His prayer: Maximilian, help me view the activities of the government under which I live with the eyes of faith. I pray that what I know as God's truth will always motivate my actions, even if it contradicts what politicians currently expect from citizens. Amen.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come join the journey...During Lent, we have Stations of the Cross immediately following 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass... grow in faith and spirit!

## EASTER CUSTOMS: FOOT WASHING

Foot washing is one of the lesser known customs of the Easter season, but perhaps is one of the most important. At the time of Christ, people wore sandals and walked many miles on dusty roads. It was a sign of courtesy and respect for a servant to gently wash the feet of guests when they arrived. The night before he was crucified, Jesus took a basin of water and a towel and washed the feet of each of his disciples. Christ was showing his followers that he was their servant, and that he respected

## UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS for 2012

- Mar. 25 In memory of Louis Bonaventura offered by St. Francis Parish
- April 1 In memory of John and Winnie Kompa offered by Lorraine & Thomas Kompa
- April 5 In memory of parents, Vicki & Ralph Capuano & Betty Blenn offered by Joni & John Blenn
- April 8 In memory of Clara and Concetto Ribis offered by Lorraine & Thomas Kompa
- April 15 In memory of Mary C. Lozowski offered by Lorraine & Thomas Kompa
- April 22 For health and God's blessing for Bill & Rea Piro offered by St. Francis Parish
- April 29 In memory of James F. Kompa offered by Lorraine & Thomas Kompa
- May 20 For health of Gunter and April Kodila offered by St. Francis Parish

## Thank You!!

*St. Francis Parish sincerely thanks those individuals listed above who donated needed items for our humble church.*

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m.** Holy Thursday service.

**Friday, April 6, 7 p.m.** Good Friday service.

**Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m.** Blessing of the Easter Baskets

**Sunday, April 8, 9 a.m.** Easter Mass, breakfast following.

**Sunday, May 6, 11 a.m.**

Natalie MacDonald's First Holy Communion

**Saturday & Sunday, August 25 & 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Garage / Yard Sale

**Saturday, October 6, 1 p.m.**

Blessing of the Animals. Bring your pets.

**Sunday, October 14, 3 p.m.**

St. Francis Fall Fund-raiser Dinner  
All are welcome. Ask how you can help.

**Sunday, October 21, 9 a.m.**

Thomas & Lorraine Kompa's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Renewal of Marriage Vows

**Sunday, December 2, 3 p.m.**

St. Nicholas Fund-raiser Dinner  
All are welcome. Ask how you can help.