

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, March 6, 2016 • Fourth Sunday of Lent



Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow. Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "Hymn of Faith"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - 1 Jos 5:9a, 10-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you."

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

READING 2 - 2 Cor 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL: Luke 15:18

I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

GOSPEL - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'" So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'" This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Amazing Grace"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Taste and See"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS -

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "I Come to the Garden Alone"

St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

ST. PERPETUA and ST. FELICITY (d.203), Martyrs

Their feast day is March 7. The martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity is one of the most moving stories that followed the early persecution of the Church in Africa by the Emperor Severus. Perpetua was a noble young woman of twenty-two, the mother of a young child. Felicity was her servant, expecting a child to whom she gave birth in her imprisonment. Both were preparing for their baptism when they were arrested and confined to prison. Also arrested with them were three companions: Revocatus, Saturninus, and Secundulus. Perpetua's father, a pagan, urged his daughter to turn away from her faith and go free. Pointing to one of the household utensils, she said to him, "Do you see this vase, father? Can it be anything else? Neither can I ever be anything but a Christian." Perpetua describes in her diary her first day in prison: "I never knew such darkness. What a day of horror. Terrible heat. Rough treatment from the soldiers. And I was so anxious for my baby! Finally, we were able to get a place in the better part of the prison and I was able to nurse my baby who was hungry." In a dream she saw a great golden ladder reaching up to heaven, and after being assured she could climb to the top, she saw a tall shepherd surrounded by thousands in white robes. The shepherd said to her, "Welcome, child!" Strengthened by her vision, Perpetua refused to renounce her faith when she was brought before her Roman judge. Perpetua and Felicity were condemned to die in the arena, consumed by wild beasts before a cheering crowd. During their imprisonment, they so impressed the officer in charge of the prison that he became a Christian, too. Their infants were taken care of by some Christian families, and the two young women walked calmly into the noisy amphitheater. Leopards, wild boars, and bears attacked, but they seemed to escape them unharmed. Calling out to some Christians who were looking on, Perpetua said, "Stand up for your faith and love one another. Don't let our sufferings frighten you." Finally they were killed by the swords of gladiators. It was March 7, 203. Their prayer, Father, Your love gave Perpetua and Felicity the courage to suffer martyrdom. Amen.



2016 Upcoming Events

Sundays After Mass During Lent
February 14 - March 13

Stations of the Cross

Sunday, March 20 - 9:00 am

Palm Sunday Mass & Procession

Thursday, March 24 - 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday Mass

Friday, March 25 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, March 26 - 1:00 pm

Blessing of Easter Baskets

Sunday, March 27 - 9:00 am

Easter Sunday Mass

Sunday, April 10 - 10:30 am

Annual Parish Council Meeting

All Are Invited to Be Heard

THE DATE OF EASTER

In ancient Egypt, the Hebrews were kept as slaves, so God sent Moses to free them. When the ruler, Pharaoh, would not let the Hebrews go, God punished Egypt in many ways. He finally sent the Angel of Death to destroy the firstborn in each family, but first told the Hebrews to make a special lamb offering, and the angel would pass over their homes. This first Passover is commemorated each year by members of the Jewish faith, about March 21. For many years, Easter was celebrated at this same time because Jesus was crucified during Passover. In A.D. 325, a group of men meeting in Nicaea, a city in what is now Turkey, decided that Easter should be on a different day. They chose the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Vernal means "spring," and equinox means, "equal night." Thus, this is the one 24-hour period in the spring when both day and night lasts exactly twelve hours, usually March 21 or 22. Full moons, however, do not always come on the same date, so Easter may fall on any Sunday between March 21 and April 25. Sometimes it comes before Passover, and many Orthodox or Eastern Christians wait until Passover to celebrate Easter.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen

A reflection of faith & wisdom...CREATING SPACE FOR GOD

Discipline is the other side of discipleship. Discipline without discipline is like waiting to run in the marathon without ever practicing. Discipline without discipleship is like always practicing for the marathon out never participating. It is important, however, to realize that discipline in the spiritual life is not the same as discipline in sports. Discipline in sports is the concentrated effort to master the body so that it can obey the mind better. Discipline in the spiritual life is the concentrated effort to create the space and time where God can become our master and where we can respond freely to God's guidance. Thus, discipline is the creation of boundaries that keep time and space open for God. Solitude requires discipline, worship requires discipline, caring for others requires discipline. They all ask us to set apart a time and a place where God's gracious presence can be acknowledged and responded to.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a time when we take time and effort to develop our personal spiritual journey. There are so many paths...continue to take one petition from the Peace Prayer of St. Francis and focus on it and work it in your life for one week, make a point of praying one Station of the Cross a day, focus on its meaning, read the Passion in the Bible, pray from your heart in thought and in deed, help another, give a smile. Our journey continues as we grow in the spirit...there are many paths!

PRAYER - YOUR WAY OF THE CROSS

God, our heavenly Father, we raise our minds and hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving. Though weak and sinful, we wish to follow your only Son, our Lord Jesus, on the way of the cross. May your Holy Spirit help us use our Savior's strength effectively in our place in life. We ask the special aid of our Blessed Lady, ever Virgin and Mother, in following Christ and in making His way of the cross our way of life. Amen.