

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



Sunday, March 7, 2010  
Third Sunday in 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 - **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**  
Entrance Hymn - "Hymn of Faith"

**CONTEMPORARY RITE** -  
Mass Book page 63

**READING I** - Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15  
Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he

came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you." God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. 'This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations.'"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills, He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed. He has made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

**R./ The Lord is kind and merciful.**

**READING II** - 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert. These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

**GOSPEL** - Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them— do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**R/: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

OFFERTORY HYMN - "O, My Jesus"

OUR FATHER - Mass book page 95

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE -  
"Down in the River to Pray"

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Cross of Compassion"



# St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

+ L E N T - 2010 +

## EASTER LIFE AFTER THE EMPTY TOMB

Much attention is paid to the Cross, and rightfully so. The Cross speaks louder than volumes of "words" ever could about the love of God for His children. And so we are comfortable, in a way, with the Cross, one of the most terrible instruments of torture and death ever devised. We find the cross in the sanctuary, on the outside of our churches, and we are accepting of that. The cross as symbol has taken on a kind of placid security these days, quiet and secure. Adopted by kings and queens in the western world over the centuries, displayed among their royal regalia. Down the centuries, ordinary Christians, too, have adopted the Cross in modest symbols worn not only as jewelry, but as a kind of silent, eloquent invitation to faith in the Christian community.

Yet, there is another symbol that is making its way back to Easter symbolism. The Empty Tomb. Greeting cards for the season display the Empty Tomb symbol in various ways, with appropriate text, often from Scripture. From the very beginning, the Empty Tomb was a frightening symbol. So out of this world, that even the Disciples and Apostles could not open their hearts and minds to the reality of the Empty Tomb.

The clear message of that Empty Tomb; Jesus is Lord, God among us. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow. Jesus is risen. Jesus is Lord. Will you believe? Will you live and act on that belief? It is easy to reflect back on the contemporaries of Jesus. We know that few of the Roman soldiers, or members of the ruling elite - the priests, the Levites, the Temple Guards few of these became Christians. Maybe we need to remember what happened to those who were moved to belief by that Empty Tomb. How many were martyred? How many, named and nameless now, were "disappeared" because of their conversion at that Empty tomb?

And we need to make no mistake as we look about the Empty Tomb this Easter, in the year 2010. Why so few references to the Empty Tomb? For that powerful symbol is as revolutionary now as it was to the powers of the First Century. Christ's Empty Tomb calls to a faith that is a conversion. A change. A commitment to a different way of living - to life as a disciple of Jesus who is God among us, now as He was so long ago.

Take a few moments during Lent to reflect on the Empty Tomb. Its reality. How does it speak to you? What does it ask of you as you live life today? Ask God to help you see, as St. John did, and believe, as he did. And to live your life accordingly with God's grace.

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen THE GREAT GIFT OF PARENTHOOD

Children are their parents' guests. They come into the space that has been created for them, stay for a while - fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years - and leave again to create their own space. Although parents speak about "our son" and "our daughter," their children are not their property. In many ways children are strangers. Parents have to come to know them, discover their strengths and their weaknesses, and guide them to maturity, allowing them to make their own decisions.

The greatest gift parents can give their children is their love for each other. Through that love they create an anxiety-free place for their children to grow, encouraging them to develop confidence in themselves and find the freedom to choose their own ways in life.

## ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice GUIDED BY HIS HAND

There are many things in life that we cannot understand, but we must trust God's judgement and be guided by His hand.

The way of the Lord is a refuge for the righteous.

—Proverbs 10:29

Today let the direction of your life be guided by God's hand!

### ST. FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

#### \*ST. PATRICK'S / ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER

Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.  
Corned beef dinner plus Polish specialties  
with Italian desserts! Sounds delicious!



#### PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Sunday, March 28, 9 a.m.  
Holy Mass Liturgy and Distribution of Palms



#### \*HOLY THURSDAY

April 1, Mass - 7 p.m.

#### \*GOOD FRIDAY

April 2, Passion Service - 7 p.m.

#### \*EASTER BASKET BLESSINGS

Saturday, April 3, 1 p.m.  
Traditional blessing  
of Easter food baskets



#### \*EASTER SUNDAY (RESURRECTION MASS)

Sunday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.



#### \*MAXIMILLIAN FARQUHARSON'S BAPTISM

Sunday, April 11, 11:00 a.m. Mass