



# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor Andrew Kotera

*April 12, 2015 - Second Sunday of Easter*

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "Christ Is Risen"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Acts 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R. Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever."

**R. Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just:

**R. Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

**R. Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

READING II - 1 John 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia (3x). **R.** Alleluia (3x)

Verse: You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe! **R.** Alleluia (3x)

GOSPEL - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. This is the gospel of the Lord. R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "O'er Death Victorious"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Come Ye Faithful"

POST COMMUNION HYMN - "Here I Am Lord"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

## **CELEBRATE EASTERTIDE - 2015!**

### **THE EASTER CYCLE (EASTERTIDE)**

Eastertide begins at Easter and ends on the Saturday after Pentecost. It is a time of uninterrupted joy and feasts, during which we celebrate the mysteries of the Resurrection, the Ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and also on His Church. Let us proclaim our faith in the risen Lord, and His divine presence in the Holy Eucharist!

### **ST. GEORGE (fourth century) April 23**

Historically, very little is known of St. George's life. According to tradition, he was a Christian soldier who suffered martyrdom about the year 303 in Palestine, sometime before the reign of the Emperor Constantine. A legend beginning in the thirteenth century by a book called -The Golden Legend tells of George as a Christian soldier born in Cappadocia. In Sylene, Libya, he rescued the King's daughter from a dragon and in turn killed it. As a result, thousands of people were baptized and led to God. Devotion to George spread to the West during the Crusades when he was invoked for protection by King Richard I of England and his army. St. George is the patron saint of England as well as-Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Genoa and Venice.

His prayer: Lord, we praise your power that enabled your saints to be strong in life and in face of death. Give us help too in our weakness. Amen.



### **BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen BEING SENT INTO THE WORLD**

Each of us has a mission in life. Jesus prays to his Father for his followers, saying, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (John 17:18). We seldom realize fully that we are sent to fulfill God-given tasks. We act as if we were simply dropped down in creation and have to decide how to entertain ourselves until we die. But we were sent into the world by God, just as Jesus was. Once we start living our lives with that conviction, we will soon know what we were sent to do.

### **SUNBEAMS OF LIGHT**

*In the words of St. Francis,  
"A single sunbeam has the power  
to drive away many shadows."*



Beacons of light shine brightly in our small parish in so many ways. A thank you to all, who attended our Holy Week services and Easter Mass. Our Easter Food

Blessing was an additional success and always adds a few new faces and added interest to our parish. Our church was once again beautifully transformed from the sorrow of Lent to the glory of Easter. Thank you to all who had a helpful hand, in big and small ways. Thank you for our filling Easter Breakfast, enjoyed by all! To all Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis - 'Thank You and God's Blessings' for your good stewardship and kind donations. Yes, Sun-Beams do have the power and light the world in so many ways! God Bless You! As we continue ...

### **HIS WORDS - ETERNAL LIFE**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16

### **ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS - Helen Steiner Rice A MUCH BRIGHTER DAY**

In sickness or health, in suffering or pain, in storm laden skies, in sunshine and rain, God always is there to lighten your way and lead you through darkness to a much brighter day. "He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills."

—Psalm 147:8

Today, whatever the weather or circumstances, know that darkness will end, dawn will break, and the sun will rise!

*Love is the only flower that grows and blossoms without the aid of the Seasons —Kahlil Gibran*

*Where there is great Love, there are always miracles —Willa Cather*

*What lies before us and what lies beyond us is tiny compared to what lies within us —Oliver Wendell Holmes*

*Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.*

*Be the living expression of God's kindness —Mother Theresa*