

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554

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Pastor Andrew Kotera

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist



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 - Is 49:1-6

Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory.

Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, yet my reward is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God. For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

O LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

My soul also you knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to you When I was made in secret, when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

READING 2 - Acts 13:22-26

In those days, Paul said: "God raised up David as king; of him God testified, I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish. From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am' I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet."

"My brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent."

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse.

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL - Luke 1:57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel. This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "We Gather Together"

COMMUNION HYMNS - "On Eagle's Wings"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, June 24

The birthday of John the Baptist, six months before the birth of Jesus, has been celebrated on June 24 from the earliest days of the Church. Jesus himself called John, who prepared the way for him by his preaching, the greatest of men. A "voice in the desert," John, as the final prophet of the Old Testament, told the people of his time that their Lord was near.

The announcement of John's birth by the Angel Gabriel to Zachary, his father, was received with disbelief because Zachary's wife, Elizabeth, was beyond childbearing age. Yet the angel insisted, "You shall call his name John for he will be great before the Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb."

In the wastelands of Judea, people from all ranks of society - soldiers and priests, tax collectors and workers came to hear John and their hearts were moved by his call to repent. Many were baptized by him in the River Jordan as a sign of their conversion; some remained to live with him as his disciples. His denunciation of King Herod's immoral conduct shocked the King's court, and John eventually suffered death for speaking truth to the powerful.

Jesus began his own mission by being baptized by John. Recognizing the Son of God, whose "sandals he was not worthy to untie," John said, "He must increase, and I must decrease." John's life prepared for Jesus who was eternal life.

Early commentators never fail to note that after June 24, the Feast of John the Baptist, the sun's light begins to decrease until December 25, the birth of Jesus, when the light of the sun increases again.

'Lord, may you increase your life within us.'

UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS for 2012

- July 15 In memory of Margaret & Baxter Steiger offered by Carol & Ron Thomas
- July 22 In memory of Bart Delaney, Laura Dunn, Tom Sabatino, Bernadette Beante and Joe McDonald offered by Joni & John Blenn

Thank You!!

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

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (370-444)

June 27, feast day

St. Cyril, was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 370. His uncle, Theophilus, was the patriarch of Alexandria and died in 412. Upon his death, Cyril succeeded him as patriarch. It is thought that Cyril was present at the Synod of the Oak, a meeting at which St. John Chrysostom was deposed. Cyril began to close the churches of the Novation heretics and had many confrontations with the Jews of the city. In 428, Nestorius became the Archbishop of Constantinople. He believed that Christ was two persons, one human and the other divine, and denied Mary the title, "Mother of God." Cyril's learning and deep faith-prepared him to uphold the Catholic faith against Nestorius. Cyril appealed to Pope Celestine I and had Nestorius condemned. At the third General Council of Ephesus in 431, Cyril acted as Pope Celestine's representative and presided over two hundred bishops. As a result of this conclave, Nestorius was condemned and excommunicated. Eventually, he was exiled to the deserts of Egypt. Cyril, a Doctor of the Church, died in 444. His absolute loyalty to his faith offset the controversial traits of harshness and prejudice that weakened his personality. He produced a vast quantity of theological and spiritual works which nourished Christianity in later centuries. His prayer, Christ was not born as an ordinary man of the holy Virgin and then the Word descended upon him; the Word became flesh in her womb. St. Cyril

MARK THE DATES!

Sunday, July 1 - 8 a.m. Mass with Father Wes

Sunday, July 8 - 8 a.m. Mass with Father Wes

Saturday, August 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Garage / Yard Sale at Anne Klein's house
More details forthcoming. Bring in stuff...

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 25th Anniversary
Renewal of Marriage Vows

Sunday, December 2, 3 p.m.

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