



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor Andrew Koterba • Fr.

Sunday, August 23, 2015
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.
R/. Na wieki, wiekow. Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.
R/. Now and forever. Amen.

8:00 AM - "Hymn of Faith"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

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.

The LORD has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry. The LORD confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

When the just cry out, the LORD hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Many are the troubles of the just one, but out of them all the LORD delivers him; he watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

READING 2 - Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL - John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Taste and See"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "How Great Thou Art"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

August 29

St. John was born at Ain-Karim, near Jerusalem. His father was Zachary, a priest in Jerusalem, and his mother was Elizabeth, a kinswoman of the Virgin Mary. He lived as a hermit in the desert of Judea until 27. He began to preach along the banks of the Jordan River and stated, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Many people came to hear him, including several who would become Christ's apostles. It was John, who baptized Jesus and pointed him out as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." After the baptism, John continued to preach along the banks of the Jordan.

The Gospel of Mark records the circumstances of John the Baptist's death. Herod had John imprisoned because the Baptist had condemned the ruler's marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife. Infuriated with John, Herodias plotted to Kill him. At a birthday banquet, Herod, delighted by the dancing of Herodias' daughter, told her he would give her anything she requested. At her mother's prompting, she told him, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

John's death is celebrated by a feast, because it resembles in so many ways the death of Jesus. Like his master, John went to death silently and helplessly, a victim of petty revenge, human cowardice and cruelty. His death in such absurd circumstances was his confession of faith in God, who alone sustains the human heart when it seems crushed by evil and injustice.

TRUST IN YOURSELF AND YOU ARE DOOMED TO DISAPPOINTMENT...TRUST IN MONEY AND YOU MAY HAVE IT TAKEN FROM YOU...BUT TRUST IN GOD, AND YOU ARE NEVER TO BE CONFOUNDED IN TIME |OR ETERNITY.

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."
—Psalm 118:8

Earl Weaver, former manager of the Baltimore Orioles, had a rule that no one could steal a base unless he gave the steal sign. This ruling upset Reggie Jackson, who felt he knew the pitchers and catchers well enough to judge when he could steal. One day he decided to steal without a sign. He got a good jump off the pitcher and easily beat the throw to second base. As he shook the dirt from his uniform, he smiled with delight, feeling he had vindicated his judgement.

Weaver later took Jackson aside and explained why he hadn't given the steal sign. The next batter was Lee May, a major power hitter. Because first base was open, the opposing team intentionally walked May. The batter after May hadn't been strong against this pitcher, so Weaver had to send in a designated hitter. That left their team without the bench strength they might have needed later in the game.

Jackson had seen a stolen base as involving only the relationship between pitcher and catcher. Weaver was calling signals with the entire game in mind.

Don't put your trust in what you see around you. Trust the One Who sees the "big picture" that spans all of time and eternity.

JUST A THOUGHT...COURAGE

"Vitality shows not only in the ABILITY TO PERSIST, but in the ability to start over." —F. Scott Fitzgerald

LABOR DAY! Monday, September 2nd

This holiday is in honor of those of us who labor, in essence, all of us who work for a living. Our summer season comes to a close...Schools open again so drive extra carefully!

WHAT IS LIFE?

Life is the time we are given by God
To be lived upon this earth...
Will it be a time to remember
Or a time of not much worth?

Since God is the One Who gives us our time,
Wouldn't it be nice to share
Every moment given to us—
Our sorrow, our joy, our prayers?
With Him we can do all things!
Without Him we haven't a chance!
The choice is whether we prefer to fail
Or, every day, to advance!
—Margaret Peterson

A faithful friend is beyond price,
no sum can balance his worth.
—Sirach 6:15



Welcome back
home from
vacation
Fr. Andrew,
Monika,
Adam &
Robertt!!

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

Saturday, October 3, 2015 - 1 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, December 5, 2015 - 3 p.m.
Christmas Fund-raiser Dinner