

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554 • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org

Pastor Andrew Koterba

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time August 25, 2013



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 - Isaiah 66:18-21

Thus says the LORD: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels. Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 117:1, 2

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

Praise the LORD all you nations;  
glorify him, all you peoples!

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,  
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

READING II - Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Brothers and sisters, You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges." Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you

as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Verse. R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Luke 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Shepherd Me, O God"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "One Spirit, One Church"

# 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

### BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen REMEMBERING THE DEAD

When we lose a dear friend, someone we have loved deeply, we are left with a grief that can paralyze us emotionally for a long time. People we love become part of us. Our thinking, feeling, and acting are co-determined by them: Our fathers, today we remember especially Concetto Ribis & Joseph Piro, our mothers, our husbands, our wives, our lovers, our children, our friends - they all are living in our hearts. When they die a part of us dies too. That is what grief is about: It is that slow and painful departure of someone who has become an intimate part of us. When Christmas, the new year, a birthday, or an anniversary comes, we feel deeply the absence of our beloved companion. We sometimes have to live a whole year or more before our hearts have fully said good-bye and the pain of our grief recedes. But as we let go of them they become part of our "members," and as we "re-member" them they become guides on our spiritual journey.

**Faith, Food  
& Fellowship  
Fesitval**

**Saturday  
August 31**  
(rain or shine) 10 am - 5 pm

**Holy Trinity  
Orthodox Church**

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