



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554

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Pastor Andrew Koterba

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Twenty-Second 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 - Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

R. One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue.

R. One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; by whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the LORD.

R. One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed.

R. One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

READING 2 - Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his

R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.--For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. --So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand.

Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.

"From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile." This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"We Gather Together"*

COMMUNION HYMN - *"Sing of the Lord's Goodness"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"How Great Thou Art"*

**THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
(first century), 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.

God, make us faithful to truth and justice, as you did your servant, John the Baptist, herald of your Son's birth and death. Amen.

**FROM THE HEART - Helen Steiner Rice
THE POWER OF PRAYER**

Teach us, dear God, that the power of prayer is made stronger by placing the world in Your care! "When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him." —Proverbs 16:7

Today diminish doubt and increase your faith!

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

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen

A reflection of faith and wisdom... HEALING LETTERS

When you write a very angry letter to a friend who has hurt you deeply, don't send it! Let the letter sit on your table for a few days and read it over a number of times. Then ask yourself; "Will this letter bring life to me and my friend? Will it bring healing, will it bring a blessing?" You don't have to ignore-the fact that you are deeply hurt. You don't have to hide from your friend that you feel offended. But you can respond in a way that makes healing and forgiveness possible and opens the door for new life. Rewrite the letter if you think it does not bring life, and send it with a prayer for your friend.

WORK?

DOES IT REALLY DO US ANY GOOD?

For so many people, Labor Day in America is many things; the official end of summer... a big sale... family reunion picnic - but a day to celebrate work as holy? Not exactly. Take this basic evaluation of work: work as dignity, work as something holy, work as the continuation of God's creation. There is a long-accepted distortion of work as a punishment for the sin of Adam and Eve. But more correctly in thought, though Adam and Eve lived in harmony with God, their daily lives were filled with joyful, effective work - food gathering, meals, learning, growing in relationships, trying to increase their knowledge of God and the world around them. All of these activities are works we are familiar with today. What we've lost is the revelation found in the Book of Genesis. God worked. The first worker so to speak. "God looked at everything he had made," we read in Genesis, "and he found it good." (Genesis 1:31) Work is good; creation itself is "very good." In the New Testament, Jesus was Known as the son of Joseph the Carpenter. A son always followed in his father's footsteps, so Jesus was a trained carpenter, a worker. In his public ministry, as a teacher and Messiah, Jesus taught with parables and stories -always filled with people at work; homemakers sweeping floors to seek a lost coin... laborers in the field... managers who pay the wages... tax collectors. The Lord knew about work. His stories reached people, then and now, because work is common to the whole human family. God's holy work of creation continues through us. Our work is important and it is holy. So this Labor Day, instead of concentrating on the latest "sales" and stressful road trips, how appropriate it is to go to Mass and receive the very Lord of Creation and Work. If at all possible, take a few moments to reflect, to invite God's light on our own work, and God's grace as we try to take our place in creation.