

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

August 31, 2014 - 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.

1:00 PM - "*Hymn of Faith*"

Mass Book page 63.

READING I - Jer 20:7-9

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM -

Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

READING 2 - Romans 12:1-2

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.



GOSPEL - Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

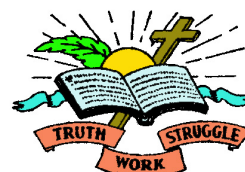
Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct." This is the gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "*Just As I Am*"

COMMUNION HYMN - "*Shepherd Me, O God*"

RECESSIONAL - "*Prayer of St. Francis*"



2014 ST. FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 4th - 1:00 p.m.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Come one, come all... creatures of God.
Your pets will receive a blessing for the year
and a St. Francis medal.

Sunday, December 7th - 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS/ST. NICHOLAS FUND-RAISER DINNER

Always a great day! Lots of delicious food and,
of course, a visit from St. Nick
with gifts for all the children.

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (first century) August 29th

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. His prayer: O 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 IN GOD'S HANDS

The way we use adversity is strictly our own choice, for in God's hands adversity can make the heart rejoice. "I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul." —Psalm 31:7
Today demonstrate dependability, for it is equally as important as your ability!

PRAY FOR SEEMINGLY HOPELESS (ST. JUDE)

Perhaps of all the season of the year, summer is the hardest time to bear a "terminal illness". The world is in bloom. Sounds of children playing, garden talk, sounds and sights of life in bloom. How unfair it all must seem to the men and women and children who know they must bear the label quietly spoken by others as "hopeless cases." It makes a person of deep faith to keep the whole picture in mind, the full spectrum of life the birth day, the living out of God's gift of life, and the return home to God and life in eternity. In the tradition 'of our Church, we know that miracles do happen. Miracles of all kinds, great and small, everyday. God is with us, often whether we wish God to be there or not. God is present, caressing and sustaining our lives, lives that truly are so fragile as we approach death. Our Church tradition also teaches that miracles are given as a special gift of God. We don't know why or how miracles, like full healing, come about. And it is always foolish, even harmful, for well meaning people to impose on the dying the so called guaranteed "miracles" of theatrical types of "miracle-workers" In fact, the Church teaches that miracles are given to us by God to enrich the faith of the Church, to help others come to Christ. Case in point; the thousands who visit the famed Shrine of Lourdes each year. Many come away "healed in spirit" if not "cured" of bodily ills. These remarkable people, often labeled "hopeless cases," find spiritual refreshment as they depart their pilgrimage and return home. As their cases are regarded as an "uphill battle all the way," even family members are amazed at the new found peace, and the wider perspective on life such pilgrims discover in the experience of holy sites. This season, in the midst of blooms, children's laughter, and life so truly in abundance, find time to pray for those who approach the final threshold of death. And know that you have a friend in Jude, the First Century Apostle and Martyr. Renowned over the centuries as the "saint of hopeless cases," his example can buttress your faith and that of the dying. Pray that they may take courage and benefit from the intercession of St. Jude on their behalf.

A GARDEN GIFT

We always welcome your garden gift of a single flower or a floral bouquet to adorn our altars. Nature's gift of uplifting soul and spirit in its beauty. Vases are provided. Thank you!

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen A reflection of faith and wisdom...

A GRATEFUL DEATH

When we think about death, we often think about what will happen to us after we have died. But it is more important to think about what will happen to those we leave behind. The way we die has a deep and lasting effect on those who stay alive. It will be easier for our family and friends to remember us with joy and peace if we have said a grateful good-bye than if we die with bitter and disillusioned hearts. The greatest gift we can offer our families and friends is the gift of gratitude. Gratitude sets them free to continue living without bitterness or self-incrimination.