

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor Andrew Kotera



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* - Sir 27:30-28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

***R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.***

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

***R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.***

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

***R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.***

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

***R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.***

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

***R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.***

*READING II* - 2 Rom 14:7-9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Priest/Altar Server: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Verse. R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*GOSPEL* - Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "*Fairest Lord Jesus*"

OUR FATHER - Mass book page 95

COMMUNION HYMN - "*Down in the River*"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "*Be Not Afraid*"

## St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

### PRAYER, SPEAKING TO GOD ...

The Lord manifests Himself to those who pause while in peace and humility of heart. If you look into the murky and turbulent waters, you cannot see your own countenance. If you want the face of Christ to appear in your countenance, pause, collect your thoughts in silence, and shut the door of the soul to the noise of exterior things.

The greetings of the angels and the blessings of the Good are not for those who live in public squares, that is, outside of themselves, agitated and distracted. The sweet "Ave", was addressed to the Virgin Mary when she was absorbed in prayer, in the privacy of her house...God, in order to be able to speak to the soul and fill it with the Knowledge of his love, leads it to the solitude, detaching it from preoccupations of earthly things. He speaks to the ears of those who are silent and makes them hear His secrets.

*(From the Sermons of St. Anthony)*

### OUR LADY OF SORROWS

This feast day is celebrated on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The feast, popular in the Middle Ages, follows the feast of Mary's birth on September 8<sup>th</sup>. It recalls the special bond between Jesus and Mary and reminds us of the torment and suffering of Christ. Mary suffered greatly as the Mother of God, and the pain she felt was real. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows recalls the succession of sorrows Mary experienced during her life; the prophecy she heard from Simeon in the temple, the flight into Egypt, the three day loss of Jesus on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary, the hours she stood beneath the Cross, the removal of Jesus from the Cross, and the burial of Jesus in a tomb.

### MARY - MODEL FOR MEN AND WOMEN?

Who are the role models for today's youth? That's the question. And do we really want to know the answer? Experts, however, tell us not to worry. Most young people want to be like someone they already know somebody who has given them love and security and attention. That outstanding person is usually a grandmother or a mother, a father or an older brother or sister. They are the people who set the pattern the next generation will use as a guide. And count on it: You are one of those unsuspecting role models. For starters, you can work on being the best role model you can be. And just as people on a diet devise a "plan" to help them achieve their goal, good role models need a plan to keep themselves on track. Here is one, with practical steps to consider: For each day of the week, practice a virtue - be more temperate in speech; be kind, genuinely kind, even in small things (like being on time as a courtesy to others); practice justice; give love and don't just wait to receive it. For each of us knows where our faults lie -and there we find the beginning of the plan. Each fault has a corresponding virtue. Pick seven. Mark one virtue on the calendar for each day of the week, and practice that, even for one hour a day. Begin with Sunday. Give gratitude to God by making time

for family and friends. Appreciate being human, being alive. Get off the workaholic treadmill! Think of what it says about the value of human life. And for your role model? Who better than Mary, the Mother of God. And who better than Mary to be hailed as the Queen of Daily Living - for daily life is the place where we must work hard to be good role models. Mary enjoyed life and friendship. See her role in the Marriage Feast of Cana. She knew and practiced good listening, from the heart as well as ears. And she knew and practiced giving love. And loyalty. Mary stood by Jesus even to the end...and beyond...in His resurrected life. Mary gave her heart once and forever. She never let Him down. A role model for every Christian man and woman!

### FROM THE HEART - Helen Steiner Rice UNCHANGING LOVE

Seasons come and seasons go and with them comes the thought of all the various changes that time in its flight has brought. But one thing never changes, it remains the same forever, God truly loves His children and He will forsake them never. "Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior." -Psalm 27:9

### BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen

**A reflection of faith and wisdom...**

### GUARDING OUR SOULS

The great danger of the turmoil of the end-time in which we live is losing our souls. Losing our souls means losing touch with our center, our true call in life, our mission, our spiritual task. Losing our souls means becoming so distracted by and preoccupied with all that is happening around us that we end up fragmented, confused, and erratic. Jesus is very aware of that danger. He says, "Take care not to be deceived, because many will come using my name and saying, "I am the one" and "The time is near at hand," Refuse to join them" (Luke 21:8). In the midst of anxious times there are many false prophets, promising all sorts of "salvations." It is important that we be faithful disciples of Jesus, never losing touch with our true spiritual selves.

**SAVE THE DATES for  
ST. FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011 - 1 p.m.**  
Blessing of the Animals by Father Andrew  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011 - 3 p.m.**  
St. Francis Fall Fund-raiser Dinner.  
Volunteer to help.  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011 - 3 p.m.**  
Christmas Dinner Fund-raiser