

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Pastor Andrew Kotera

September 18, 2011 - Twenty-Fifth 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.

9:00 AM - "Hymn of Faith"

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

GOSPEL - Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." 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 to Pray*"

RECESSIONAL HYMN -
"*Hail Mary, Gentle Woman*"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Is 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

READING II - Phil 1:20c-24, 27a

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

ST. MATTHEW (first century) September 21

The call of St. Matthew, the tax collector, to be one of the twelve apostles of Jesus is described in the Gospel which bears his name.

"Jesus saw a man named Matthew at his post where taxes were collected. He said to him, 'Follow me!' And Matthew got up and followed him." It is hard to imagine a more unlikely person for Jesus to call as a companion than Matthew.



Tax collectors, as agents of a hated Roman government and members of a profession known for unfairness and greed, were despised by the Jewish people. They were excluded from the synagogue and the temple. No good Jew would have anything to do with them. When Jesus invited Matthew to follow him and then ate at his house where Matthew's friends, outsiders like himself,

were gathered, he heard the outraged comments of Capernaum's local leaders. "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered simply, "Those who are well have no need of a doctor; sick people do." By calling Matthew, Jesus invited an outcast to enjoy the healing friendship of God. In a lesson of love, he showed that God wants all, no matter who they are, to share his life. According to tradition, Matthew wrote down the stories and words of Jesus in Aramaic, the ancient language of Palestine. The first Gospel had its origins in him. Among the evangelists he is symbolized by the figure of a man, because Matthew's Gospel begins with the human origins of Jesus. There are reports that Matthew left Judea and preached in the East, where he was martyred in Ethiopia. His prayer, O God, may we follow your call. Amen.

HIS WORDS - SEEKING GOD

"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him." —Lamentations 3:25

ST. COSMAS and ST. DAMIAN (d. 303), martyrs

Their feast day is September 26th. According to tradition, Sts. Cosmas and Damian were twin brothers born in Arabia. They were doctors who lived at Aegeae, Cilicia, and ministered to the sick. Because they would not accept money for their services, they became known as "the holy moneyless ones." They were arrested during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian. They were tried by Lysias, governor of Cilicia, tortured and beheaded in 303. They are buried at Cyrrhus, Syria, and many people have been cured after praying at their shrine. We pray, Lord, cure the sick and suffering, comfort those in pain. Amen.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen A reflection of wisdom and faith... BAPTISM, A RITE OF PASSAGE

Baptism is a rite of passage. The Jewish people passed through the Red Sea to the Promised Land in the great exodus. Jesus himself wanted to make this exodus by passing through suffering and death into the house of his heavenly Father. This was his baptism. He asked his disciples and now asks us, "Can you ... be baptised?" (Mark 10:38). When the apostle Paul, therefore, speaks about our baptism, he calls it a baptism into Jesus' death. (Romans 6:4). To be baptized means to make the passage with the people of Israel and with Jesus from slavery to freedom and from death to new life. It is a commitment to a life in and through Jesus.

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