

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554

(516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org • Pastor Andrew Koterba

September 7, 2014 - *Twenty-Third 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 - Ez 33:7-9

Thus says the LORD: You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

*R/ If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

*R/ If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

*R/ If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

*R/ If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

READING 2 - Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and sisters: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

GOSPEL - Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." This is the gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "*We Gather Together*"

COMMUNION HYMN - "*You Are Mine*"

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.

PATRIOT DAY, September 11

Honor America's Heroes. Fly the Flag! PRAY FOR OUR NATION. United we stand, in thought and prayer. Remember the victims and rescue workers, of the terrorist attack of 9-11-01...and for the innocent victims that still followed...Pray for our military men and women, for their families, for peace in Iraq and the peace and safety of our nation. Pray for Peace!

If you are available, the Town of Hempstead 9-11 Memorial Service at Town Park Point Lookout (Meadowbrook Parkway South to Loop Parkway to the end) at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11 is a great time to experience closure & peace at this moving sunrise service. There are short speeches including a sibling of a victim, a priest, a reverend and a rabbi. There are interactive activities including writing on a 15' wall of honor, placing flags in a sand base, throwing carnations into a reflecting pool and a bridge to walk over a girder from the World Trade Center.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen - WAITING WITH OUR RESPONSE

Choosing life instead of death demands an act of will that often contradicts our impulses Our impulses want to take revenge, while our wills want to offer forgiveness. Our impulses push us to an immediate response: When someone hits us in the face, we impulsively want to hit back.

How then can we let our wills dominate our impulses? The key word is wait. Whatever happens, we must put some space between the hostile act directed toward us and our response. We must distance ourselves, take time to think, talk it over with friends, and wait until we are ready to respond in a life-giving way. Impulsive responses allow evil to master us, something we always will regret. But a well thought through response will help us to "master evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER

Does God seem distant? Is He detached from you? Maybe that's because you are waiting for God to come to you. If so, then you've got things backwards.

God has given His Word, His Son, and His Spirit. That is more than we will ever need in order to understand God (and certainly more than we can absorb in a lifetime). But the next step belongs to each of us. It's up to us to read God's Word, to believe in His Son, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You see, God is a perfect gentleman. He never forces Himself on anyone. He anxiously desires a deep and meaningful personal relationship with you, but He won't force the issue. It must be voluntary on your part. So, if you want to know God better, you must approach Him. When Jesus taught about this principle, He presented the relationship as an invitation: "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." (Revelation 3:20)

God makes Himself available, but you must respond to His invitation. Take Him at His Word. Go to Him. Open the door of your heart to Him. You don't have to move to a monastery to know God better. You don't have to learn ancient Hebrew or memorize the names of the twelve disciples in alphabetical order. All it takes is your time and attention - reading His Word and talking to Him. Start with a few minutes each day, and grow from there. You don't have to schedule an appointment. He has already extended the invitation, and He's waiting for you to respond!

