

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace! —St. Francis*  
1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-518  
Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor



## *Epiphany of the Lord - January 3, 2010*

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus. R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ. R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - *First Sunday of the Month - General Confession*

*Celebration of the Eucharist - "O Come All Ye Faithful"*

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book page 63

READING I - Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.** O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the King's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arbia and Seba shall bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor man when he cries out and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R/ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

READING II - Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. **R/: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.** We have seen his star in the east, and have come to adore the Lord. **R/: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

GOSPEL - Matthew 2:1-12 A reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." At this news King Herod became greatly disturbed, and with him all Jerusalem. Summoning all of the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the princes of Judah, since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel!'"

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them: "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have discovered something, report your findings to me so that I may go and offer him homage too."

After their audience with the king, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, found the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They received a message in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

This is the gospel of the Lord. R./ Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS - RESPONSE - **GOD, HEAR US!**

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"We Three Kings Of Orient Are"*

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE - *"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"*

POST COMMUNION HYMN - *"Tidings of Greatest Joy" & "Christ Is Born"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Joy to the World"*

## *St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"*

### **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ... January 6**

On this day we remember the Magi who, guided by the star shining in the heavens, came to the house where Jesus rested in the arms of Mary his mother. They were blessed as they brought their gifts to that holy place. Today we ask Christ our Lord to bless our home and make it his dwelling place.



### **PRAYERS FOR A HOME ...**

Fr. Andrew, opens this tradition to all those interested in having their homes blessed for the New Year 2010, during the month of January.

On Epiphany, the Feast of the Magi, chalk, incense and myrrh are blessed in church. The chalk is used in the blessing of each home and used over the main **entrance of the doorway to write the initials of the** three Kings, separated by crosses, thus 20+K+M+B+10, with each advancing by one over the previous year. The priest writes the letters on the doors as he visits the homes and pronounces the Christmas blessing of your home.

If you are interested in this brief social call and blessing, please, call Fr. Andrew for a visit. God's Blessings!

### **THE MAGI'S GIFTS ...**

The gifts of the Magi were symbolic of their three-fold faith; the gold signified that He was King; the incense that He was God; and myrrh, that He was man doomed to death. According to legend, Casper, the king of Tarsus, the land of merchants made the offering of gold; Melchoir, the king of Arabia and Nubia, offered frankincense; and Balthasar, the king of Saba, the land of spices, offered myrrh.

### **BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen - VULNERABLE, LIKE A BIRD**

Life is precious. Not because it is unchangeable, like a diamond, but because it is vulnerable, like a bird. To love life means to love its vulnerability, asking for care, attention, guidance, and support. Life and death are connected by vulnerability. The newborn child and the dying elder both remind us of the preciousness of our lives. Let's not forget the preciousness and vulnerability of life during the times we are powerful, successful, and popular.

### **BLESSINGS ...**

'The proud man counts his newspaper clippings, the humble man his blessings.' —Fulton J. Sheen

'How blessings brighten as they take their flight.' —Edward Young

'Live the life you love, Love the life you live.' —Proverb

The worst poverty is not to live in a small house, but to live in a small world.' —Roy L. Smith

### **ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Steiner Rice - ANSWERED PRAYERS**

Games can't be won unless they are played, and prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed.

'The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.'

—Proverbs 15:8

Today pray with a sincere heart. Pray earnestly and constantly!

### **THE PARISH'S SYMPATHY...**

on the passing of +Anna Ruggiero+, mother of Rea (& Bill) Piro on December 25, 2009.