

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, New York 11554

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Sunday, January 4, 2009 • **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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

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

9:00 AM - **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST** "Silent Night"

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 Arabia 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 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 3:2-3a,5-6**

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

R/: ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL - Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Matthew: **R/: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel. "

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

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

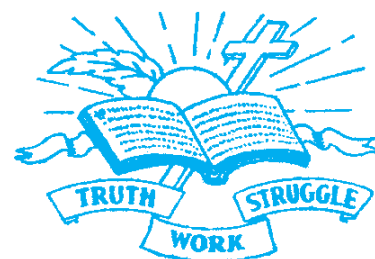
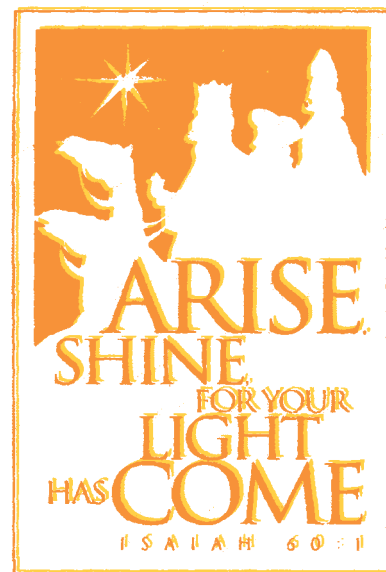
GENERAL CONCESSIONS: **God, Hear Us!**

OFFERTORY HYMN - ""God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - "O Come All Faithful" & "Joy to the Word"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Angels We Have Heard on High"



St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

On this feast day, celebrated on January 6th, we remember the Magi, the Three Kings, who guided by a 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.

"WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM"

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews?" On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His Mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and myrrh." —Matthew 2:1,2, 11

MAGI BRING 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; Melchior, the king of Arabia and Nubia, offered frankincense; and Balthasar, the king of Saba, the land of spices, offered myrrh.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In Puerto Rico, the children put boxes on the rooftops for Santa instead of hanging stockings inside. A most picturesque and beautiful celebration known as "Bethlehem Day" is observed

by the children on January 12, in memory of the coming Magi. It consists of a procession through the streets led by three children, dressed as the Wise Men of the East. The children wear colorful costumes and ride on ponies or horses, holding the gifts for the Infant King in their hands. Behind the children dressed as Wise Men come those dressed as angels and shepherds. Flute players bring up the rear.

HIS WORDS - GLORY

"Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all Peoples." —1 Chronicles 16:24

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen

**A refecton of faith
and wisdom...**

OUR SPIRITUAL PARENTS

Joy and sorrow are never separated. When our hearts rejoice at a spectacular view, we may miss our friends who cannot see it, and when we are overwhelmed with grief, we may discover what true friendship is all about. Joy is hidden in sorrow and sorrow in joy. If we try to avoid sorrow at all costs, we may never taste joy,



and if we are suspicious of ecstasy, agony can never reach us either. Joy and sorrow are the parents of our spiritual growth.

THANKFULNESS

We sincerely thank all parishioners and friends of St. Francis Parish, for your sincere, kind and generous stewardship, helping to make for a spectacular Christmas Season and Celebration. May God Bless your hands, hearts and lives forever. Thank you! Bog Zaploc! meaning simply - God's Thanks!

BLESSING OF HOMES

Fr. Andrew opens this tradition to all those interested in having their homes blessed for the New Year 2009 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 doorways to write the initials of the Three Kings, separated by crosses, thus 20+K+M+B+09 with each advancing by one over the previous year. The sign remains until the end of the year. The priest writes the letters on the doors as he visits the homes and pronounces the Christmas blessing of your home. Please contact Fr. Andrew for a visit. God's Blessings!

PRAYER FOR A HOME

O God, by your heavenly star, you guided those who were wise to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May your blessing come to rest on our home and all of us. Make our lives wise with your wisdom, true to your teaching, and enlivened by your love. May your Word made flesh make his home among us. Amen.