

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace! —St. Francis*

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Sunday, Noember 29. 2009

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

9:00 AM - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant) O Father, we remember with awe and joy that the world is yours, and that life is your gift. Lift up our thoughts from the littleness of our own minds to the greatness that is yours, so that our lives might more adequately reveal the truth that Christ brought to the world. Amen.

BLESSING THE WREATH: Celebrant: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from you abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE: (Lector): O Lord, stir up your might, we beg of You, and come, that by your protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Your deliverance. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63 (please note: No "Gloria" during Advent)

READING I - Jeremiah 33, 14-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**R/: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

**R/: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way.

**R/: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.  
The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

**R/: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

READING II - 1 Thessalonians 3, 12-4, 2

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. **R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL - Luke 21, 25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. Men will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, men will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, for your ransom is near at hand.

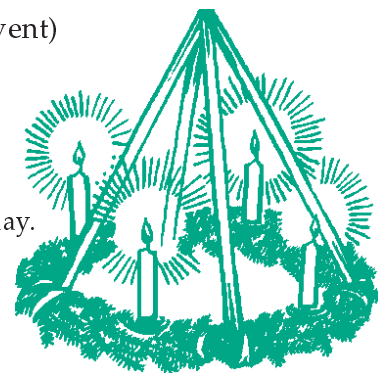
"Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence and drunkenness and worldly cares. The great day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. The day I speak of will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on the watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever is in prospect, and to stand secure before the Son of Man." This the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out" - OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION & POST COMMUNION HYMNS - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"



# St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

## ADVENT...A SEASON OF PREPARATION

This Sunday we begin the Season of Advent. The four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of preparation, waiting and hope. You will find the Advent liturgy resounds with the longing cries of the Hebrew prophets, the voice of Jesus, and John the Baptist's preaching that the Lord is near. Hear their message still ringing through today's dark winters. 'Prepare Ye the way of the Lord.'

## OUR ADVENT WREATH...

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent before Christmas. Each Sunday a candle is lit with a short prayer of waiting and hope for the coming Light and Hope ...Jesus Christ!

## ST. ANDREW (first century) November 30

St. Andrew came from Bethsaida, a town in Galilee on the Lake of Genesareth. He became a disciple of St. John the Baptist, who sent him to see Jesus. After visiting the Lord, Andrew called his brother, Simon Peter, to come and meet the Messiah. Later, as Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Peter and Andrew casting their nets into the sea. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Andrew accompanied Jesus throughout his public ministry, and his name appears in the story of the feeding of five thousand in the desert. After the death of Christ, he labored as a missionary in Scythia, Greece, and Turkey and established the Church at Constantinople. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras, Acaia. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Russia and Scotland.

'I bow before the Cross made precious by Christ, my Master.

I embrace it as his disciple.' Amen.

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen OUR LIVES, SOWING TIMES

Our short lives on earth are sowing times. If there were no resurrection of the dead, everything we live on earth would be for nothing. How can we believe in a God who loves us unconditionally if all the joys and pains of our lives are in vain, vanishing in the earth with our mortal flesh and bones? Because God loves us unconditionally, from eternity to eternity, God cannot allow our bodies - the same as that in which Jesus, his Son and our savior, appeared to us - to be lost in final destruction.

No, life on earth is the time when the seeds of the risen body are planted. Paul says, "What is sown is perishable, but what is raised is imperishable; what is sown is contemptible but what is raised is glorious; what is sown is weak, but what is raised is powerful; what is sown is a natural body, and what is raised is a spiritual body"

(Corinthians 15:42-44). This wonderful knowledge that nothing we live in our bodies is lived in vain holds a call for us to live every moment as a seed of eternity.

## ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Steiner Rice WHAT WE NEED

If we put our problems in God's hand, there is nothing we need understand. It is enough to just believe that what we need we will receive.

'If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.' —Psalm 139:9, 10

Today let go and let God help solve your dilemma!

## ST. FRANCIS NOTES...

**EAST MEADOW THANKSGIVING:** This year's East Meadow Thanksgiving Service was held at the Methodist Church of East Meadow. It was another grand success for all those in attendance. A good job to all the InterFaith Council and those in attendance for this 'special service!'

**ST. FRANCIS FAMOUS PIEROGIES!** We have another great batch of assorted pierogies for sale...\$5 for a dozen, potato & cheese, saurkraut & mushroom, and spinach. Try one, you'll love them! Please see Monika for your order.

**'ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION'** ...Next Sunday! December 6th, Mass honoring St. Nicholas, will be held at 9 a.m.; St. Nicholas, smorgasbord dinner, raffles, and a visit from St. Nick! Will be held at 3 p.m.. Please come and bring your family and friends for this celebration... We hope to see you!