

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, December 13, 2009

## THIRD 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"*

OPENING PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant) O Father, our hearts respond with joy as we approach the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. As we sense within ourselves His coming, may there be restored within us the image and likeness of our Creator, who gave us the Christ of Christmas. Amen

PRAYER: (celebrant) O God, as we look upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and as we light a third candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE: (Reader): O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may indeed prepare for Your only begotten Son, that through his coming, we may be made worthy to observe you with pure minds. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

READING I - Zephaniah 3, 14-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**R/: Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R/: Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R/: Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let tis be known through all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**R/: Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

READING II - Philippians 4, 4-7

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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL - Luke 3, 4, 6

The crowds asked John, "What ought we to do?" In reply he said, "Let the man with two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same. Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "teacher, what are we to do?" He answered them, "Exact nothing over and above your fixed amount." Soldiers likewise asked him, "What about us?" He told them, "Do not bully anyone. Denounce no one falsely. Be content with your pay."

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying: "I am baptizing you in water, but there is one to come who is mightier than I. I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn in unquenchable fire." Using exhortation of this sort, he preached the good news to the people. This is 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"*  
& *"Patience People"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Every Valley"*



## St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

ADVENT ... A SEASON OF PREPARATION

### ST. LUCY, (d. 304), December 13

According to legend, St. Lucy was a young woman born at Syracuse, Sicily. One day she went to the shrine of St. Agatha in Catania with her mother, who suffered from uncontrolled bleeding. While praying at the shrine, Lucy's mother was cured. Lucy decided to give up her worldly goods to serve the poor, took a vow of virginity, and broke off her impending marriage to a young nobleman in order to give her life entirely to God.

Her suitor was incensed at her action and accused her before the Roman consul of being a Christian who would not honor the laws of the Empire.

Bravely confessing her faith, Lucy was sentenced to be tortured by fire and boiling oil. She was unmoved by the ordeal and showed no sign of weakness. "God has granted that I should bear these things in order to free the faithful from the fear of suffering," she said. Though a sword was thrust through her throat, the young girl lived till communion was brought to her for her final journey to heaven. She died during the persecution under Emperor Diocletian in 304.

### PRAYER TO ST. LUCY

O Saint Lucy, who stood firm in your convictions even as unwelcome advances from an unwanted suitor threatened your hope for a peaceful, prayer life in Christ, pray for us whose faith needs deepening that we may not be uprooted from our convictions. Pray to our Lord with us and for us that we may walk in light and understanding on the path of Christian living and not be buffeted by the angry emotions or dark intentions of others who would try to dissuade us. Blessed virgin and martyr, mercifully grant that we who venerate your sacrifice may receive your intercession. Amen.

### BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen ANTICIPATING 'THE VISION'

The marvelous vision of the peaceable Kingdom, in which all violence has been overcome and all men, women, and children live in loving unity with nature, calls for its realization in our day-to-day lives. Instead of being an escapist dream, it challenges us to anticipate what it promises. Every time we forgive our neighbor, every time we make a child smile, every time we show compassion to a suffering person, every time we arrange a bouquet of flowers, offer care to tame or wild animals, prevent pollution, create beauty in our homes and gardens, and work for peace and justice among peoples and nations we are making the vision come true.

We must remind one another constantly of the vision.



Whenever it comes alive in us we will find new energy to live it out, right where we are. Instead of making us escape real life, this beautiful vision gets us involved.

### ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice THE PROMISE OF GLORY

Make us aware that the Christmas story is everyone's promise of eternal glory.

'Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.' - Psalm 115:1

Today send some of your own love into the world. You don't have to buy it, box it, wrap it, tie it - just give love away!

### ST. FRANCIS NOTES ...

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

(*SHEPHERD'S MASS*), Thursday, December 24 Come Rejoice! Christ is born today! Mass will be held at 9 p.m..

**OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION:** Please join us in our Parish Hall, after 'Shepherd's Mass' - for a special time to share a meal together, listen, and care for one another...

A Merry and Blessed Christmas to All!

**YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Do a regular or random act of kindness, it does make a difference! "Be the change you would like to see in the world."

—Mahatma Gandhi

**PROTECT THE CREATION?** Think Green? recycle, conserve energy, encourage protection of our environment.

**THE GIFT...** What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a Wise Man I would do my part. Yet what can I give Him? I give Him my heart.

—Christina Rossetti

**OPLATEK (CHRISTMAS WAFER)** This thin plain white wafer with nativity scenes stamped thereon, remains one of our important traditions. Sometimes referred to as "chleb anielski" (angel bread), it is shared with family and friends at Christmas Eve supper and extended in our greeting cards to those distant from us. In this breaking of bread we extend our greetings and good wishes for all the blessings and happiness of the gift of Christmas. Please ask Fr. Andrew for your 'oplatek'

**'THANK YOU'...** To all Parishioners and dear Friends of St. Francis, for your hard work, time, talent and contributions! Again making last Sunday's, St. Nicholas Celebration, a "GREAT" success! God's blessings continue in so many ways! Thank you!

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL...** presented by the Spotlight Players at St. Francis Parish Hall TODAY, Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m. Adults \$15. It's another St. Francis Fundraiser. Call 516-794-5189 or 631-225-9102 or visit [sptltplyrs@aol.com](mailto:sptltplyrs@aol.com)