

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-5189

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor
Lillian Zaradich, Council Chair

Sunday, December 14, 2008



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

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

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 then 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 - Isaiah 61, 10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lk 1, 46-48, 49-50, 53-54

R/: My soul rejoices in my God.

My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit find joy in God my savior, for he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed.

R/: My soul rejoices in my God.

God who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is his name; His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him.

R/: My soul rejoices in my God.

The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away. He has upheld Israel his servant, ever mindful of his mercy.

R/: My soul rejoices in my God.

READING II - 1 Thes 5, 16-24

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 - John 1, 6-8. 19-28

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

There was a man named John sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the light, so that through him all men might believe—but only to testify to the light, for he himself was the light.

The testimony John gave when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask "Who are you?" Was the absolute statement, "I am not the Messiah." They questioned him further, "Who then? Elijah?" "I am not Elijah," he answered. "Are you the prophet?" "No," he replied.

Finally they said to him: "Tell us who you are, so that we can give some answer to those who sent us. What do you have to say for your self?" He said, quoting the prophet Isaiah, "I am ' a voice in the desert, crying out: Make straight the way of the Lord! "

Those whom the Pharisees had sent proceeded to question him further: "If you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet, why do you baptize?" John answered them: "I baptize with water. There is one among you whom you do not recognize—the one who is to come after me—the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to unfasten." This happened in Bethany, across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

GENERAL CONCESSIONS: God, Hear Us!

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"A Voice Cries Out"*

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - *"Let The Valleys Be Raised" and "Patience People"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Every Valley"*



ADVENT - "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" ADVENT...

The word "ADVENT" is from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "the coming" of Jesus as His birth here on earth and also in His Second Coming.

The four weeks of Advent prepare us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation; God became human to bring us out of the darkness into His eternal light. During Advent, liturgy stresses not only penance, but also hope, light, joy and surrender.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. St. Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything." (Philippians 4:4-5)

Called *Gaudete* from the Latin word meaning "rejoice," this Sunday's liturgy breaks from the somber mood of penance and reintroduces joy. We await the coming of the Lord with glad anticipation and try to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Mother Macrina, a 4th century mystic, was asked, "How does one acquire joy?" She answered, "You cannot acquire joy, you must find it." "And how do you find it?" She replied, "There is only one way to find it; to find joy, you must lose yourself."

Jesus explains that we will be judged by the way we love our neighbor: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Loving service is a way of life. Parents care for children, teachers for students, doctors and nurses for the sick. Only by being cheerful givers can we attain joy. Spiritual joy rises above injustice, inequality and prejudice. It can coexist with suffering, because it rises from the soul. While pleasure basically comes from the gratification of the senses, joy . comes from union with God.

'Dear Lord, fill me with Your divine joy that I may be more caring.'

ST. LUCY (d. 304) December 13

According to legend, St. Lucy was a young woman born at Syracuse, Italy. 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



St. Francis Polish National Catholic Church

for her final journey to heaven. She died during the persecution under Emperor Diocletian in 304.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen HEAVEN AND HELL

Is everybody going to be all right? Are all people ultimately going to be free from misery and all their needs fulfilled? Yes and no! Yes, because God wants to bring us home into God's Kingdom. No, because nothing happens without our choosing it. The realization of the Kingdom of God is God's work, but for God to make God's love fully visible in us, we must respond to God's love with our own love.

There are two kinds of death; a death leading us into God's Kingdom, and a death leading us into hell. He says, "The legacy for cowards, for those who break their word, or worship obscenities, for murderers and the sexually immoral, and for sorcerers, worshippers of false gods or any other sort of liars, is the second death in the burning lake of sulphur" (Revelation 21:8). We must choose for God if we want to be with God.

SIMPLE INSPIRATIONS...

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."
—Robert F. Kennedy

"Instead of complaining that the rosebush is full of thorns, be happy that the thornbush has roses." —German proverb

"If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves." —Thomas Edison

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Steiner Rice COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

In counting our blessings, we find when we're through we've no reason at all to complain or be blue.

"A faithful man will be richly blessed." —Proverbs 28:20

'Today count your loved ones as your top priority and blessing. It is also important to be remembered by your loved ones. For which reason, characteristic, personality trait, or act of kindness do you wish to be remembered? Think about it. Work on it!'

ST. FRANCIS NOTES...

"WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH - THE TOUGH GET GOING!" That's the Parishioners of St. Francis! Broken stoves - few hands and only hours to go. How do we do it? But we do and everyone plays their part...to each parishioner, supporter, special friends and family connected to St. Francis Church, again plays their unique part and help pull it all together to make our dinners a success! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! GOD BLESS ALL!



Third Sunday in Advent, December 14, 2008

ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



PREPARE YE

(The Way of the Lord)

(from the musical "Godspell")

Prepare ye—the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye—the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye—the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye—the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye—the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye—the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye—the way of the Lord,
Prepare ye—the way of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

A VOICE CRIES OUT

Console my people,
the ones dear to me;
speak to the heart of Jerusalem:
the time of your mourning is ended now,
the Lord of life will come.

Refrain:

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare a way for the Lord!"

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Make straight a highway for God!"

Ev'ry valley is made a plain,
ev'ry mountain is leveled;
the glory of God shall then be revealed,
and the nations will sing in praise.

(repeat refrain)

A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry?
All flesh is like grass and its flowers;
the grass may wither, the flowers may fade,
but the Word of the Lord is forever.

(repeat refrain)

Communion Hymn

**LET THE VALEYS
BE RAISED**

Refrain:

Let the valleys be raised
and the mountains made low,
Ev'ry meadow and field overturn.
Make the path— way straight
and the high— way run smooth
for the coming of God in our day.

God has come to his people,
as you promised of old.
He has raised up a Savior
in the sight of us all.

(Repeat refrain)

God has come like the morning
on the darkness of night,
as a light to the people,
like the breaking of day.

(Repeat refrain)

Recessional Hymn

EVERY VALLEY

Refrain:

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry hill made low.
And all God's people
shall see together
the glory of the Lord.

A voice cries out
in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight
in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God.'

(repeat refrain)

Comfort all my people.
The time for war is gone.
The blind shall see,
the deaf shall hear,
the lame shall leap for joy.

(repeat refrain)

Stand upon the mountain top.
O lift your voice to the world.
Sing joyfully, Jerusalem:
"Behold, behold your God."

(repeat refrain)



Post Communion Hymn

PATIENCE PEOPLE

Patience, people, till the Lord is come.
See the farmer await the yield of the soil.
He watches it in winter and in spring rain.
Patience, people, for the Lord is coming.
Patience, people, till the Lord is come.
You have seen the purpose of the Lord.
You know of his compassion and his mercy.
Patience, people, for the Lord is coming.
Patience, people, till the Lord is come.
Steady your hearts, for the Lord is close at hand.
And do not grumble, one against the other.
Patience, people, for the Lord is coming.