

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, December 20, 2009

FOURTH 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, as we approach the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, may 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 fourth candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our joyful hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE: (Reader): O Lord, we beg you, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

READING I - Micah 5, 1-4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

R/: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R/: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; Take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted [the son of man whom you yourself made strong].

R/: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R/: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

READING II - Hebrews 10, 5-10

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

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL - Luke 1, 39-45

Mary set out, proceeding in haste into the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby stirred in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out in a loud voice: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby stirred in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." 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" RE-
CESSIONAL HYMN - "Let the Valleys Be Raised"



St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

ADVENT ... A SEASON OF PREPARATION

REFLECTIONS OF ADVENT

our Church calendar gives us the season of Advent to prepare for one of the most significant events in history: the movement of God onto human history with the birth of Jesus. Becoming one of us, sharing our struggles, our success, our failure, our human relationships with one another - and bringing us life in incredible abundance.

In this season we are asked to listen closely with heart, mind, and spirit to the readings at Mass for the Sundays of Advent. The readings are not easy listening but set the stage. They call our attention to the end times. And at the same time, they point to the wonders of Christ's birth - the second chance His coming brought to the world both then and now. In this preparation time we are asked to deepen our prayer life, to clean out the debris in our hearts, the clutter that keeps us from fully welcoming Jesus into our lives and world - as He stands ready to come. Not just at Christmas, but as Christmas teaches us, every day of our lives.



ST. JOHN OF KANTI (1390-1473) December 23

St. John of Kanti, also known as St. John Cantius, was born at Kanti, Poland, on June 23, 1390. A learned, holy man, he studied at the University of Cracow and was ordained to the priesthood. He taught for many years at the University of Cracow, where his colleagues and students admired his scholarly integrity and simple faith.

His success as a preacher and teacher caused his associates to become jealous of him. As a result, he served for a time as a parish priest in the city of Olkusz. Because of problems in the parish, he would soon return to Cracow to teach Sacred Scripture at the university for the remainder of his life.

John endured envy and misunderstanding from some colleagues who resented his holy life and intellectual gifts, but he remained faithful to his teaching and pastoral work. Unconcerned for his own needs, he gave all he had to others, especially the

poor. Desiring to become a martyr, John made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to preach amongst the Turks. During his lifetime, he made four pilgrimages to Rome on foot.

Pope Clement XIII praised his holy teacher after his death, "He gave a wonderful example to university professors, an inspiration of complete **dedication to duty and to teaching...**With his humility went a rare and childlike simplicity. Every day after his teaching he would go straight from the lecture hall to the church and spend hours in prayer before Christ in the Eucharist. The God in his heart and the God on his lips were one and the same God."

John died at Cracow on Christmas Eve, 1473.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen SEEING GOD FOR OTHERS

The experience of the fullness of time, during which God is so present, so real, so tangibly near that we can hardly believe that everyone does not see God as we do, is given to us to deepen our lives of prayer and strengthen our lives of ministry. Having experienced God in the fullness of time, we have a lifelong desire to be with God and to proclaim to others the God we experienced.

Peter, years after the death of Jesus, claims his Mount Tabor experience as the source for his witness. He says, "When we told you about the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not slavishly repeating cleverly invented myths; no, we had seen his majesty with our own eyes ... when we were with him on the holy mountain" (2 Peter 1:16-18). Seeing God in the most intimate moments of our lives is seeing God for others.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice NEW HOPE

God, make us aware that in Thy name the Holy Christ Child humbly came to live on earth and leave behind new faith and hope for all mankind.

'I await for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.' -Psalm 130:5

Today radiate with the glow of Christmastime. Jesus came to earth as a baby. Look for the innocence, purity, goodness, and love in those around you!

