

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sunday, December 28, 2008 • **SOLEMNITY OF HUMBLE SHEPHERDS**

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 - Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Happy are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; happy shall you be and favored.

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of our home;

Your children like olive plants around your table.

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fear the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

READING II - Col. 3:12-21

Priest/Lector: ALLELUIA. **R/: ALLELUIA.** May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; and the fullness of his message live within you. **R/: ALLELUIA.**

GOSPEL - Luke 2, 22-40 (or 2, 22, 39-40)

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

When the day came to purify them according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem so that he could be presented to the Lord, for it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to the Lord." They came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

There lay in Jerusalem at the time a certain man named Simeon. He was just and pious, and awaited the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not experience death until he had seen the Anointed of the Lord. He came to the temple now, inspired by the Spirit; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him the customary ritual of the law, he took him in his arms and blessed God in these words:

"Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed displayed for all the peoples to see: A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were marveling at what was being said about him. Simeon, blessed them and said to Mary his mother: "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed—and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare."

There was also a certain prophetess, Anna by name, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had seen many days, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She was constantly in the temple, worshiping day and night in fasting and prayer. Coming on the scene at this moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When the law had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

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

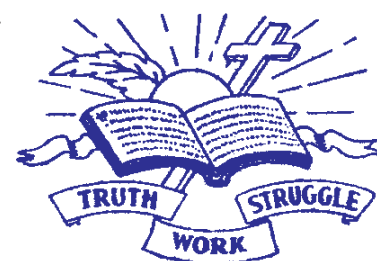
GENERAL CONCESSIONS: **God, Hear Us!**

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"



HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2009! A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year-ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was a vast waste, darkness covered the deep, and the spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. God said: "Let there be light," and there was light; and God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from darkness. He called the light day, and the darkness night,

So evening came, and morning came; it was the first day. —Genesis 1:1-5

LET THERE BE PEACE!

Since January 1st is a day for praying for peace, the Prayer of St. Francis suits this day:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Good Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...Henri Nouwen LETTING GO OF OLD HURTS

One of the hardest things to do in life is to let go of old hurts. We often say, or at least think, "what you did to me and my family, my ancestors, or my friends I cannot forget or forgive ... One day you will have to pay for it. Sometimes our memories are decades, even centuries, old and keep asking for revenge.

Holding people's faults against them often creates an impenetrable wall. But listen to Paul; "For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old order is gone and a new being is there to see.

It is all God's work" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). Indeed, we cannot let go of old hurts, but God can. Paul says, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's faults against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). It is God's work, but we are God's ministers, because the God Who reconciled the world to God entrusted to us "the message of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19). This message calls us to let go of old hurts in the Name of God. This is the message our world most needs to hear.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of the Holy Family is an appropriate day for prayers for a family.

O God, bless our family and all its members and friends; bind us together by your love. Give us kindness and patience to support each other; and wisdom in all we do. Let the gift of your peace come into our hearts, and remain with us. May we rejoice in your blessings for all our days. Amen.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice THE SWEETNESS OF PEACE

After the night, the morning, bidding all darkness cease, after life's cares and sorrows, the comfort and sweetness of peace.

"O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you." —Psalm 88:1

Today practice stability and dependability. They are just as necessary in life as having an ability!

