

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, New York 11554  
Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org

Sunday, December 6, 2009

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

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

BLESSING THE WREATH: (usually done the first week of Advent) 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 SECOND CANDLE: (Lector): 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 - Baruch 5, 1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

**R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

**R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert.  
Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

**R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

**R/: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

READING II - Philippians 1, 4-6, 8-11

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

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOPEL - Luke 3, 4, 6

In the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God was spoken to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went about the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A herald's voice in the desert, crying. Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled. The windings shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God." 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"

## ST. NICHOLAS (4<sup>th</sup> century), December 6

"The anonymous gift giver."

Nicholas takes the place alongside the other "solstice fathers" of Santa Claus, Old Nick and Father Christmas because of one story: A rich man in Myra went bankrupt during Nicholas' tenure as bishop, and having three daughters and no dowries, despaired of their ever marrying. Incredibly, he decided they should become prostitutes. When Nicholas heard of this, he devised a way to save the girls. He secretly, tossed a bag of gold through their window one night. In the morning, the father was amazed by the miracle and used the money as a dowry for his eldest daughter. A second time, Nicholas left a bag of gold so that the next daughter could marry. On the third occasion, when Nicholas sneaked up to the house at night to leave his anonymous gift, the father caught him, so that he could thank him for changing their lives. And thus, Nicholas becomes the patron of "the anonymous gift givers!"



many others. Let them remind us of the unity of all people as children of God!

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen GOD'S TIMELESS TIME

There is no "after" after death. Words like after and before belong to our mortal life, our life in time and space. Death frees us from the boundaries of chronology and brings us into God's "time," which is timeless. Speculations about the afterlife, therefore, are little more than that: speculations. Beyond death there is no "first" and "later," no "here" and "there," no "past," "present," or "future." God is all in all. The end of time, the resurrection of the body, and the glorious coming again of Jesus

are no longer separated by time for those who are no longer in time.

For us who still live in time, it is important not to act as if the new life in Christ is something we can comprehend or explain. God's heart and mind are greater than ours. All that is asked of us is trust.

## ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice A HEART OF PEACE

Teach me how to quiet my racing, rising heart, so I may hear the answer You are trying to impart.

'My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways.' —Proverbs 23:26

Today calm someone else's fears and maintain a serenity of your own!

## ST. FRANCIS NOTES ...

### "OUR ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION"

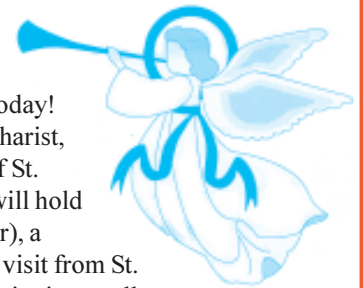
We welcome ALL today! Our 9 a.m., Celebration of the Eucharist, this Sunday, combines the Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>). At 3 p.m. we will hold our St. Nicholas Dinner (fundraiser), a smorgasbord dinner, raffles, and a visit from St. Nick! Our welcome and cordial invitation to all to join us today! We hope to see YOU!

**CHRISTMAS EVE' (SHEPHERD'S MASS)** Thurs., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. Come Rejoice! Christ is born today! Mass will be held at 9 p.m..

**THANK YOU** Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Parish, who through their good and kind stewardship, of their giving of time, talent and treasure, keep St. Francis Church going...spreading the 'Good News' of Christ! Thank You!

**PEARL HARBOR DAY**, December 7, 1941 Remember our fallen heroes, in thought and prayer. Pray for our nation. God Bless America!

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, December 8<sup>th</sup> Her feast day prayer asks God to "trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith." On this day the (PNCC) also celebrates the Feast of Divine Love.



## A PRAYER TO ST. NICHOLAS ...

'Nicholas, give me the spirit of giving. Teach me that it really is more blessed to give than receive, and that to whom much has been given, much will be expected. Help me to over-come my fears that if I give generously I will suffer want.' Amen.

## JUST SOME THOUGHTS ...

### 'CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT'

Few times are more sacred for a family or household than Christmas. Along with the Advent Season, Christmas time is rich in traditions which, despite modern commercial exploitation, still stir our hearts and imagination. The Christmas tree, the manger scene, the music and carols, the lights shining in the winter darkness joyfully proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ and call us to come and adore him.

Christmas and Advent customs appear everywhere today. True symbols that they are, the living traditions of the season bring peoples and families together and connect us with our ancient faith. And they respond surprisingly to modern needs as well. The Christmas and Advent seasons uphold so many precious realities presently endangered; birth, children, family, the earth itself. In celebrating Christmas and Advent then, keep their message for today in mind.

- In a world where nature and our environment are threatened, let us make our Christmas tree and manger scene reminders of the beauty and sacredness of nature. How closely at His coming did Jesus bind himself to the animals of the field, as well as to the earth and open sky!

- Remembering the poor shepherds and the circumstances of Christ's birth, so marked by poverty, let us make them reminders of the forgotten poor of our world!

- Let the Child and Joseph and Mary teach us the dignity and importance of children and families in a society so neglectful of them.

- The Christmas season's rich traditions come from peoples throughout the world, South America, Eastern Europe, and so