

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sunday, MARCH 22, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



4th
SUNDAY OF
LENT

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** "*Hymn of Faith*"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book page 63 (No GLORIA during Lent)

READING I - 2 Chronicles 36: 14-17, 19-23

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Though there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs,
And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:
"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the Lord in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not,
If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

R/ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

READING II - Ephesians 2: 4-105

Verse: God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL - John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him avoids condemnation, but whoever does not believe is already condemned for not believing in the name of God's only Son. The judgment in question is this: the light came into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were wicked. Everyone who practices evil hates the light he does not come near it for fear his deeds will be exposed. But he who acts in truth comes into the light, to make clear that his deeds are done in God."

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

GENERAL CONCESSIONS

OFFERTORY HYMN - "*O, My Jesus*"

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - "*Lord Forgive*"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "*Cross of Compassion*"



THE ANNUNCIATION, March 25

"St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

+ LENT - 2009 +

LENT, OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES ...

This season of Lent, remains a **spiritual time for healing and renewal!** We are asked to prepare through fasting, prayer and works of charity ... still there are many paths to our Lord. Give this thought, pray and take good action! Read the Passion, or a passage of the Bible, reflect, meditate, talk to God, listen to hymn, do a random or regular act of kindness, pray from your heart, just give a smile ... the journey is yours!

THE ANNUNCIATION, March 25

One of the "Christmas feasts" celebrated outside the Christmas season, the feast of the Annunciation recalls the coming of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at Nazareth to announce that she was to be the mother of Jesus. St. Luke records the historic moment;

The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her: "Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I do not know man?" The angel answered her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age; she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God."

Mary said: "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." With that the angel left her. Luke 1, 28-38

The feast of the Annunciation is an ancient feast of the Church. March 25, the time of the spring equinox, was seen as a significant day by the early Christians who regarded it as the day the world was created, the day of Christ's conception in Mary's womb, and the day of his death on the Cross.

HOLY WEEK - 2009 (EASTER SCHEDULE)

APRIL 5 - PALM SUNDAY - 9 a.m.

Liturgy and distribution of Palms, Holy Mass

APRIL 9 - HOLY THURSDAY - 7 p.m., Holy Mass

APRIL 10 - GOOD FRIDAY - 7 p.m., Passion Service

APRIL 11 - HOLY SATURDAY - 1 p.m. Blessing of Easter foods, blessing of new fire and holy water.

APRIL 12 - EASTER SUNDAY - 8:30 a.m.

Procession of the Resurrection High Mass -9 a.m.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen THE WAYS TO SELF-KNOWLEDGE

"Know yourself" is good advice. But to know ourselves doesn't mean to analyze ourselves. Sometimes we want to know ourselves as if we were machines that could be taken apart and put back together at will. At certain critical times in our lives it might be helpful to explore in some detail the events that led us to our crisis, but we make a mistake when we think that we can ever completely understand ourselves and explain the full meaning of our lives to others.

Solitude, silence, and prayer are often the best ways to self-knowledge. Not because they offer solutions for the complexity of our lives but because they bring us in touch with our sacred center, where God dwells. That sacred center may not be analyzed. It is the place of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.

EASTER SYMBOLS ... "THE LAMB"

Long before the first Passover, Hebrew families gave lambs as offerings to God. And since the first Passover, Hebrews serve lamb as an important part of the Passover feast each year. When Jesus died during Passover, he gave himself as an offering to God for the sins of all the world. This is why the Bible calls Jesus the "Lamb of God." Early Christians saw the lamb as a symbol of Jesus and began using it in their Easter celebrations.

BUTTER LAMBS - BARNAEK...

On Palm Sunday, in the Parish Hall, butter lambs will be available for a small donation. They are ideal for your Easter basket or table - to be blessed on Holy Saturday.

ST. FRANCIS NOTES

WOW! We did it again! After much worry, stress, planning, preparations, action, donation of time-money and more donations of good efforts...Our dinner was a huge success! The Parishioners of St. Francis are the true and faithful treasure! Thank you to All! St. Patrick and St. Joseph continue your watchful eyes on us...Bless and keep us always. Amen. Our sincere thank you to Fr. Andrew and Monika... for their 'grand' stewardship of St. Francis Church! Bog Zaploc - God's thanks! God Bless us all!

AGAPE CELEBRATION

The Holy Cross Church, 220 Browertown Rd, Woodland Park (former West Paterson), NJ invites parishioners from the NY/NJ Seniorate to attend the Agape Celebration on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4 p.m. Please let Fr. Andrew know if you plan to attend no later than March 24th.

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...Helen Steiner Rice SPRINGTIME AWAKENING

The God who sends the winter and wraps the earth in death will always send the springtime with an awakening breath.

"For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life."

—Psalm 56:13

Today thank God for the gift of changing seasons of nature and the gift of new life!