

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, New York 11554  
Pastor Andrew Koterba • Lillian Zaradich, Council Chair  
(516) 794-5189 • www.stfrancispncc.org

Sunday, MARCH 29, 2009

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

L • E • N • T



5<sup>th</sup>  
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 - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

**R/ Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out

my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

**R/ Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit take not from me.

**R/ Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

**R/ Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

READING II - Hebrews 5: 7-9

Verse: If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

GOSPEL - John 12: 20-33

Among those who had come up to worship at the feast of Passover were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put his request to him:

"Sir, we should like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Philip and Andrew in turn came to inform Jesus. Jesus answered them: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. The man who loves his life loses it, while the

man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal. If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be. Anyone who serves me, the Father will honor. My soul is troubled now, yet what should I say—Father, save me from this hour? But It was for this that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from the sky: "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." When the crowd of bystanders heard the voice, they said it was thunder. Others maintained, "An angel was speaking to him." Jesus answered, "That voice did not come for my sake, but for yours.

"Now has judgment come upon this world, now will this world's prince be driven out, and I—once I am lifted up from earth will draw all men to myself." (This statement of his indicated the sort of death he was going to die.)

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 - "Down in the River to Pray"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Cross of Compassion"

## PRAYER FOR LENT:

Jesus Christ, Lord and Redeemer, we who have been baptized into your death hope to be raised to new life in you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us this Lent so that we might have the courage to take up our cross each day, to fulfill our duties with great love and to hope always in your word. May this sacred season strengthen us to live as men and women dead to sin and alive in you. Help us to grow in faith so that we might be witnesses of your love to the world. Amen.

# "St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

## OUR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL...LENT

Our Lenten observance remains a time, a period, even an invitation from God to enter into renewal and spiritual growth. Traditionally, we are asked to prepare through fasting, prayer and works of charity. Know that there are many paths to our Lord and we have only to gain ... take time and take good action! Read a classic - the Bible, a passage or a psalm - better still a Gospel, they speak to us loud and clear! Pray, meditate, reflect, just talk to God, volunteer, or make a donation to a favorite charity, do a random or regular act of kindness, pray for another or simply share a smile ... the journey is yours!



Legend has it that wood from the Dogwood tree was used to make the cross on which Christ was crucified. The truth of this is not known. But the tree does display four beautiful white petals on each blossom. Each petal bears a dark red stain along the outer edge, and at the center of each bloom is what appears to be a tiny crown of thorns. Nature celebrates God's great gift every spring with such shows!

## EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS ...

Our sincere 'Thank You' to all for your kind and generous donations for Easter flowers to adorn our altars for this Easter season! God Bless!

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen THE AUTUMN OF LIFE

The autumn leaves can dazzle us with their magnificent colors: deep red, purple, yellow, gold, bronze in countless variations and combinations. Then, shortly after having shown their unspeakable beauty, they fall to the ground and die. The barren trees remind us that winter is near. Likewise, the autumn of life has the potential to be very colorful: wisdom, humor, care, patience, and joy may bloom splendidly just before we die.

As we look at the barren trees and remember those who have died, let us be grateful for the beauty we saw in them and await hopefully for a new spring.

## EASTER FLOWERS - NATURE'S CELEBRATIONS

There are many beautiful Easter legends about the flowers which bloom in the spring. As people looked at these flowers and thought about Easter, they made up stories to explain how the blossoms related to 'the death of Jesus. Two of these legends are about the lily and the dogwood.

Known as the "white-robed apostles of hope," Easter lilies are the most celebrated of all the holiday flowers. The beautiful white lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed on the night before His crucifixion. Legend has it that they sprang up where drops of sweat fell from Jesus' brow as he agonized over what lay ahead of Him. The lily blossom appears to be down-turned in sorrow. But best of all is the beautiful perfume, an aroma that is acceptable to God as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

## ST. FRANCIS NOTES...

**AGAPE CELEBRATIONS**, Sunday, March 29th, at 4 p.m.. This Lenten celebration (Christ's Last Supper) will be held at Holy Cross Parish, West Patterson, N.J.. If you are interested? Please contact Fr. Andrew today.

**NEW FLOORS** and moldings have been beautifully installed in our Hall bathrooms and outside hall. Please take note ... again thank you' Fr. Andrew and Monika!

**PARISH COUNCIL** for St. Francis was elected last Sunday, March 22 -Congratulations to All!

Installation for Fr. Andrew, Mass and dinner will be held on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This event will be open to all ...Please ask how you can help?

**BUTTER LAMBS** will be available on Palm Sunday for a small donation. They are ideal for your Easter basket or Easter table to be blessed on Holy Saturday.

**VANDALISM...**about a month ago tools were stolen from the church's garage, again Father had confronted visitors to the backyard, last week damaging the back gate. We need to resolve this problem, any ideas?? Better lighting outside? Alarm system? Contacting police for more frequent visits at night???

## ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice

Great is your gladness and rich your reward when you make life's purpose the choice of the Lord.

"Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life."

—Proverbs 22:4

Today act with humility!

