

# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Pastor Rev. Andrew Koterba Lorraine Pacheco, Chairperson

**August 23, 2009 • Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

ENTRANCE HYMN: *"Hymn of Faith"*

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book page 63

READING I - Joshua 24, 1-2, 15-17, 18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.  
The Lord confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

When the just cry out the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.  
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Many are the troubles of the just man, but out of them all the Lord delivers him;  
He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Vice slays the wicked, and the enemies of the just pay for their guilt.  
But the Lord redeems the lives of his servants; no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

**R/: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

READING II - Ephesians 5, 21-32

Priest or Cantor: Alleluia **R./ Alleluia.** Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy. **R./ Alleluia.**

GOSPEL - John 6, 60-69

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. John

Many of the disciples of Jesus remarked, "this sort of talk is hard to endure! How can anyone take it seriously?" Jesus was fully aware that his disciples were murmuring in protest at what he had said. "Does it shake your faith?" he asked them.

"What then, if you were to see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before...? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words I spoke to you are spirit and life. Yet among you there are some who do not believe."

(Jesus knew from the start, of course, the ones who refused to believe, and the one who would hand him over.) He went on to say: "This is why I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

From this time on, many of his disciples broke away and would not remain in his company any longer. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you want to leave me too?" Simon Peter answered him "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God's holy one."

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"Christ Be Our Light"*

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION - *"Be Not Afraid"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Prayer of St. Francis"*



## St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

### **ST. BARTHOLOMEW (first century) August 24**

St. Bartholomew, is one of the twelve apostles, was born in Galilee and is probably the same person as Nathaniel, whom Philip brought to see Jesus of Nazareth. "Can anything good come from that place?" Nathaniel asked. (John 1, 45-51)

Jesus called him an Israelite incapable of deceit, an honest, straightforward man, and promised that heaven would open for him and the mysteries of God would be revealed before his eyes.

Like some other apostles, little is known about St. Bartholomew's activity after Pentecost. According to reports, he preached the Gospel in Armenia and India and was beaten and beheaded by King Astyages for his faith in Christ.

Lord, keep strong the faith which made Bartholomew believe in your Son.

May we too witness to what we believe wherever we go. Amen.

### **ST. MONICA (332-387) August 27**

St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, was born in Tagaste, North Africa, about 332. Married to a pagan, Patricius, she had three children, two sons and a daughter. Because she recognized his extraordinary gifts, she tried to give Augustine the best education possible. Above all, she wanted him to use his gifts for God and the Catholic faith. Through her efforts, Patricius was converted to Christianity in 370. He died one year later.

Augustine disappointed her by choosing a life of pleasure, accepting the Manichaean heresy, and rejecting Christianity. Turning to God, Monica spent herself in earnest prayer for her wayward son. A priest whose advice she sought said to her, "It is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

Monica followed her son to Rome in 383 and then to Milan in 386. There she learned he was converted to Christianity. She joined him in preparing for his baptism by St. Ambrose on Easter, 387. As they were returning to Africa, Monica fell mortally ill at the seaport of Ostia. Augustine tells of her moving words of farewell before she died. "Son, nothing in this world

now makes me happy. All my hopes have been fulfilled. All I wished to live for was that I might see you a Catholic and a child of heaven. God has given me more; I see you ready to give up everything and become his servant." She died in 387.



*Michelangelo's The Last Judgment shows St Bartholomew holding the knife of his martyrdom and his flayed skin. The face of the skin is recognizable as Michelangelo's.*

### **BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY...**

**Henri Nouwen**

#### **THE QUALITY OF LIFE**

It is very hard to accept an early death. When friends who are seventy, eighty, or ninety years old die, we may be in deep grief and miss them very much, but we are grateful that they had long lives. But when a teenager, a young adult, or a person at the height of his or her career dies, we feel a protest rising from our hearts: "Why? Why so soon? Why so young? It is unfair."

But far more important than our quantity of years is the quality of our lives. Jesus died young. St. Francis

died young. St. Therese of Lisieux died young. Martin Luther King Jr., died young. We do not know how long we will live, but this not knowing calls us to live every day, every week, every year of our lives to its fullest potential.

### **ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS...**

**Helen Steiner Rice**

#### **A BLESSED HOME**

Every home is specially blessed when God becomes a daily guest.

"Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever." —Psalm 145:2

Today and every day put out the welcome mat for Jesus. Invite Him to enter each heart and home!

### **ST. FRANCIS NOTES...**

**Giant Yard Sale...** don't forget! Next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, August 29 & 30, is our fundraiser yard sale. Have you brought in your stuff to sell? Have you volunteered to price items on Friday night? To work it on Saturday and/or Sunday? Have you posted the flyers wherever you can? Have you asked friends and family to attend? We certainly hope so, because we need all the help we can get!!!