

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue East Meadow, New York 11554 (516) 794-5189

Pastor Rev. Andrew Koterba Lillian Zaradich, Chairperson

September 14, 2008 • Twenty-Fourth 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 - Jer. 20:7-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Bless the Lord, O, my soul and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O, my soul and forget not all his benefits.

R/: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R/:The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever.

Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R/:The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us .

R/: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

READING 11 - Romans 14:7-9

Priest or Cantor: Alleluia **R./ Alleluia.** Verse. **R./ Alleluia.**

GOSPEL - Matthew 18:21-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Matthew

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, when my brother wrongs me, how often must I forgive him? Seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I say, seventy times seven times. That is why the reign of God may be said to be like a king who decided to settle accounts with his officials. When he began his auditing, one was brought in who owed him a huge amount. As he had no way of paying it, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that the of- prostrated himself in homage and said, 'My lord, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with pity, the master let the official go and wrote off the debt. But when that same official went out he met a fellow servant who owed him a mere fraction of what he himself owed. He seized him and throttled him. 'Pay back what you owe,' he demanded. His fellow servant dropped to his knees and began to plead with him, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full.' But he would hear none of it. Instead, he had, him put in jail until he paid back what he owed. When his fellow servants saw what had happened they were badly shaken, and went to their master to report the whole incident. His master sent for him and said, 'You worthless wretch! I canceled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your fellow servant, as I dealt with you?' Then in anger the master handed him over to the torturers until he paid back all that he owed. My heavenly Father will treat You in exactly the same way unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"Here I Am Lord"*

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION - *"One Bread, One Body"* & *"Christ Be Our Light"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Joyful, Joyful"*

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

THE TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS, September 14

ST. PAUL the Apostle spoke of the power of Christ's Cross. According to tradition, the Empress Helena discovered the Lord's Cross in Jerusalem on September 14, 320. Five years later, a great church was built on Mount Calvary by Emperor Constantine to shelter the holy relic. Parts of the wood of the Cross were sent to the major cities of Christendom, where they were shown to the faithful on this special feast.

We worship you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

By this holy tree you gave your people victory, and put aside the tree of our defeat.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS, September 15

THE FEAST, popular in the Middle Ages, follows the feast of Mary's birth on September 8. It recalls the special bond between Jesus and Mary and reminds us of the torment and suffering of Christ. Mary suffered greatly as the Mother of God, and the pain she felt was real. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows recalls the succession of sorrows Mary experienced during her life: the prophecy she heard from Simeon in the temple, the flight into Egypt, the three day loss of Jesus on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary, the hours she stood beneath the Cross, the removal of Jesus from the Cross, and the burial of Jesus in a tomb.

Holy Mother, pierce me through; In my heart each wound renew of my Savior crucified.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY... Henri Nouwen REMAINING FAITHFUL

Many people live with the unconscious or conscious expectation that eventually things will get better; wars, hunger, poverty, oppression, and exploitation will vanish; and all people will live in harmony. Their lives and work are motivated by that expectation. When this does not happen in their lifetimes, they are often disillusioned and experience themselves as failures.

But Jesus doesn't support such an optimistic outlook. He foresees not only the destruction of his beloved city Jerusalem but also a world full of cruelty, violence, and conflict. For Jesus there is no happy ending in this world. The challenge of Jesus is not to solve all the world's problems before the end of time but to remain faithful at any cost.

FAITH...

How sad, hearing someone talk of having "lost my faith." As if faith, the great theological virtue and gift of God, could be misplaced like a favorite ring, or a good book one pulls off the shelf every now and then.

At the same time, most of us know that the gift of faith is taken for granted. To keep our faith strong and growing, we need to put faith in practice. And how do we do that?

By expressing our faith, through prayer. Making time for prayer shows commitment to God is a priority in our lives.

Another practice of faith is quite simple; Trying to see the

presence of God in those we live and work with each day; in our children, our parents, our elderly, our fellow workers, the people in line at the supermarket - that is faith in action!

ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice GOOD THINGS

Let us see in others not their little imperfections, but let us find the good things that arouse our best affections.

"Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out." —Proverbs 17:14

Today develop the ability to look for and find Jesus in others!

ST. FRANCIS NOTES ...

NEW STEPS! The work has started on the church steps and looks great! The work will include the Hall and Rectory steps. A decision was made to remove the large shrubs at the bottom of the church steps. Our hope and added prayer is that a Christmas tree (Colorado Blue Spruce) will be donated and planted on the corner of the church property. Which could be decorated for the Christmas holiday and for years to come.

OUR VENDORS FAIR will be held on November 1st! Fliers for this event were distributed to vendors at various fairs already with great interest. This event will be advertised. Please attend, tell and bring a friend! Thank you!

HALL RENTALS have increased! Father Andrew hopes to soon paint the Hall with a different color tone and further open the space of the Hall. Need a rental?

ST. FRANCIS PNCC has a beautiful Website! and in addition our weekly bulletin is now included! For

those unable to attend church or who are distant parishioners - our tradition has been to mail you the weekly bulletin.

These mailings will be kept until the end of this year. Please visit our web site or notify Fr. Andrew that you would like the weekly bulletin mailed to you. Thank you.

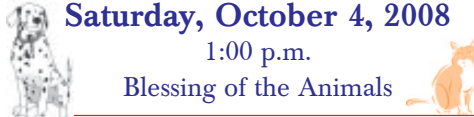
IMPORTANT UPCOMING 2008 DATES

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Church of Resurrection
Greenpoint Bklyn
86th Anniversary Mass 11:00 am
Social Hour 12:00 noon
Dinner 1:00 p.m.
Reservations Steve 718 225 1298

Saturday, October 4, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals 

Sunday, October 5, 2008

76th Anniversary Celebration
& Blessing of Renovated Church

Thurs-Sat, October 23-25, 2008

Diocese Synod, Wilkes Barre, PA
Fr. Andrew is looking for attendees

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Holiday Market
Vendor Fair, Sell Tables

Sunday, December 7, 2008
St. Nicholas/Christmas Dinner
Fundraiser