

# 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 21, 2008 • Twenty-Fifth 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 - Isaiah 55:6-9

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/: The Lord is near to all who, call him.**

Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

**R/: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

**R/: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.  
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**R/: The Lord is near to all who call him.**

READING II - Philippians 1:20-24,27

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

GOSPEL - Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The reign of God is like the case of the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workmen for his vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them out to his vineyard. He came out about mid-morning and saw other men standing around the marketplace without work, so he said to them, 'You too go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.' At that they went away. He came out again around noon and mid-afternoon and did the same. Finally, going out in late afternoon he found still others standing around. To these he said, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'No one has hired us,' they told him. He said, 'You go to the vineyard too.' When evening came the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workmen and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first! When those hired late in the afternoon came up they received a full day's pay, and when the first group appeared they supposed they would get more; yet they received the same daily wage. Thereupon they complained to the owner, 'This last group did only an hour's work, but you have put them on the same basis as us who have worked a full day in the scorching heat.' My friend,' he said to one in reply, 'I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, did you not? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this man who was hired last the same pay as you. I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not? Or are you envious because I am generous?' Thus the last shall be first and the first shall be last."

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

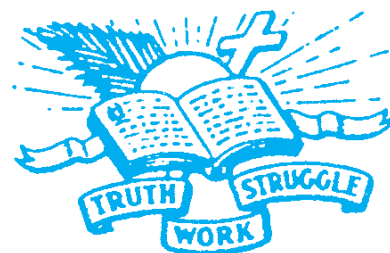
GENERAL CONCESSIONS: **God, Hear Us!**

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"

## ST. MATTHEW (first century) September 21

THE CALL of St. Matthew, the tax collector, to be one of the twelve apostles of Jesus is described in the Gospel which bears his name. "Jesus saw a man named Matthew at his post where taxes were collected. He said to him, 'Follow me!' And Matthew got up and followed him."

It is hard to imagine a more unlikely person for Jesus to call as a companion than Matthew. Tax collectors, as agents of a hated Roman government and members of a profession known for unfairness and greed, were despised by the Jewish people. They were excluded from the synagogue and the temple. No good Jew would have anything to do with them.

When Jesus invited Matthew to follow him and then ate at his house where Matthew's friends, outsiders like himself, were gathered, he heard the outraged comments of Capernaum's local leaders. "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered simply, "Those who are well have no need of a doctor; sick people do."

By calling Matthew, Jesus invited an outcast to enjoy the healing friendship of God. In a lesson of love, he showed that God wants all, no matter who they are, to share his life.

According to tradition, Matthew wrote down the stories and words of Jesus in Aramaic, the ancient language of Palestine. The first Gospel had its origins in him. Among the evangelists he is symbolized by the figure of a man, because Matthew's Gospel begins with the human origins of Jesus. There are reports that Matthew left Judea and preached in the East, where he was martyred in Ethiopia.

O God, may we follow your call!

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY... Henri Nouwen MEDITATION

When Jesus says, "Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Luke 21:33), he shows us a direct way to eternal life. The words of Jesus have the power to transform our hearts and minds and lead us into the Kingdom of God. "The words I have spoken to you," Jesus says, "are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63).

Through meditation we can let the words of Jesus descend from our minds into our hearts and create there a dwelling place for the Spirit. Whatever we do and wherever we go, let us stay close to the words of Jesus. They are words of eternal life.

## WORDS WORTH NOTING ...

"The value of persistent prayer is not that He will hear us ... but that we will finally hear Him." —William McGill

"No kitchen is forsaken where there is cabbage cooking."  
—Slovakian Proverb

"The mind is like the stomach. It is not how much you put into it that counts, but how much it digests."

—Albert Jay Nock

## ONE MINUTE DEVOTIONS ... Helen Steiner Rice A BEACON BURNING BRIGHT

God's love is like a beacon, burning bright with faith and prayer, And through the changing scenes of life we can find a haven there!

"They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven." Psalm 107:30

Today be an active captain of your life. Direct your coursetoward God's haven. He is your navigator and your lighthouse!

## ST. FRANCIS NOTES ...

**OUR PARISH HALL!** Fr. Andrew has painted the Hall a mint green with a darker green tone for the moldings and trim. Our Hall is cleaner and brighter with this additional improvement! Need a Hall to rent? We have the place!

**STEPS!** Have we got steps! The new steps to the church are now complete, slate tops with old and new bricks used for the new. We await the installation of new railings in the coming week. New Hall steps are almost complete. Now 71 wide! Next the Rectory steps will be improved. These new entrances add invitation to our facilities and safe access now. The large shrubs have been removed from the front steps and landscape will be our spring project for these areas.

**O' CHRISTMAS TREE!** A Christmas tree (Colorado Blue Spruce) has been donated to us by the contractor of our new steps! It will make for a nice addition and will serve us for many years to come. Thank you and God Bless You!

**OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND...** is fast approaching! We need your help, participation and involvement for these days. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, is our Blessing of the Animals and celebration of the Feast of St. Francis (Our Patron). Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Blessing of our renovated Church and celebration dinner! Please make your reservation with Fr.

Andrew, invite your family and friends to join us in this special celebration. Our journey continues ...

## F.Y.I.

Sunday Collection  
9/14/08 = \$119.00

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS  
AS YOUR MEANS WILL ALLOW.



Harrison Price (Sept. 3)  
Florence Dabrowski (Sept. 17)  
Irene Janusewski (Sept. 27)  
May Our Lord Bless You