

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY • (516) 794-5189

Father Andrew Koterba, Pastor

Lillian Zaradich, Council Chair

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Second Sunday in ADVENT

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus. **R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.**

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ. **R/. Now and forever. Amen.**

9:00 AM - *"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"*

PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant)

O God, as we look upon this wreath, the symbol of eternity, and as we light a second candle, may we be prepared more thoroughly in making the way for your son, especially in the depths of our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE: (Reader):

O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may indeed prepare for Your only begotten Son, that through his coming, we may be made worthy to observe you with pure minds. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book page 63 (*please note: No "Gloria" during Advent*)

READING I - Isaiah 40,1-5, 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

R/: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R/: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.

Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R/: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.

Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps.

R/: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.



READING II - 2 Peter 3, 8-14

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths: all mankind shall see the salvation of God. **R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

GOSPEL - Luke 3, 4, 6

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Luke: **R/: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet, it is written:

"I send my messenger before you to prepare your way: a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path.' "

Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins. All the Judean countryside and the people of Jerusalem went out to him in great numbers. They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was grasshoppers and wild honey. The theme of his preaching was "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - *"O Come, O Come, Emanuel"*

OUR FATHER - page 95

COMMUNION HYMNS - *"From Heaven A Voice Comes Down to Earth"* & *"Mother Dear, We Greet Thee"*

RECESSIONAL HYMN - *"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"*

ADVENT...

"PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD"

The four weeks of Advent prepare us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation: God became human to bring us out of the darkness into His eternal light. During Advent, liturgy stresses not only penance, but hope, light, joy and surrender.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LIGHT

The Light of Jesus dispels the darkness of sin and confusion. He said, "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me should not remain in the darkness." —John 12:46

St. Athanasius said that "True joy and genuine festival calls for a casting off of selfishness and everything that is not of God."

"The call to repentance is intended to purify us for the coming of the Lord. John the Baptist proclaimed "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

—Luke 3:3

To truly dwell in the light of Christ, we also need to develop the will to "bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Jesus is our light and our strength. In Him we place all our trust as He guides our way even in the darkest times.

Dear Lord, forgive me my sins, and make me more aware of the needs of others.

ST. NICHOLAS (fourth century) December 6

ST. NICHOLAS was born into a wealthy family at Patara, Lycia, Asia Minor. He was imprisoned during the persecution of Diocletian, attended the Council of Nicaea, and died at Myra, where he was buried in the cathedral. Nicholas was chosen Bishop of Myra and devoted himself to helping the poor.

Tradition says that Nicholas devoted himself to works of charity. Hearing that an impoverished father had to sell his three daughters into prostitution because he had no money for their marriage dowry, Nicholas threw a small bag of gold into the poor man's window on three different evenings, and his daughters were able to marry. Finally, he was discovered as the bearer of these gifts.

At one time, he saved three innocent young men from execution by the powerful civil governor, Eustathius. At another time he came to the aid of seamen who called for his help during a storm at sea off the coast of Lycia. Suddenly appearing on their ship, he manned the ropes and sails beside the weary sailors and brought the vessel to port. Another tale relates that during a famine in his country, Nicholas was able through his prayers to guide some passing ships filled with grain to come to relieve his starving people.

Needless to say, with stories like these to his credit, Nicholas became a popular saint after his death. Seamen throughout Europe and Asia, as well as his own people,

St. Francis Polish National Catholic Church

adopted him as their patron. His relics were carried to Bari, Italy, in 1087, after the Moslem invasion of Asia Minor. Countless churches in England, France and Germany bear his name. In Germany he became associated with Christmas, and as a giver of gifts on that holy day he is known in America as the kind and generous "Santa Claus."

Lord, giver of good gifts, make us generous to others, especially to the needy!

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY December 8

THE SOLEMN feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, celebrated nine months before the feast of her birth

(September 8), recalls the Christian belief that Mary was preserved free from all stain of original sin from the moment of her conception by her mother, Ann. Because of her unique role as the mother of Jesus Christ, God endowed her with special graces and gifts. Like a new Eve, she brought new life to the world through her Divine Son.

The feast is also a reminder that the whole Church shares in Mary's privileges in some way. For this reason the feast day prayer asks God to "trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith."

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ... Henri Nouwen RESTORED TO ETERNAL LIFE

One thing we know for sure about our God: Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. God is life. God is love. God is beauty. God is goodness. God is truth. God doesn't want us to die. God wants us to live. Our God, who loves us from eternity to eternity, wants to give us life for eternity.

When that life was interrupted by our unwillingness to give our full yes to God's love, God sent Jesus to be with us and to say that great yes in our name and thus restore us to eternal life. So let's not be afraid of death. There is no cruel boss, vengeful enemy, or cruel tyrant waiting to destroy us - only a loving, always forgiving God, eager to welcome us home.



Please Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday - 3 pm

December 7, 2008

**Christmas Dinner
Fundraiser**

Second Sunday in Advent, December 7, 2008