



# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

*February 26, 2017 - Eighth 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 - "Hymn of Faith"

Mass Book page 63

**READING I** - Isaiah 49:14-15

Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my LORD has forgotten me." Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** - Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

**R/ Rest in God alone, my soul.**

Only in God is my soul at rest;  
from him comes my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed at all.

**R/ Rest in God alone, my soul.**

Only in God be at rest, my soul,  
for from him comes my hope.

He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.

**R/ Rest in God alone, my soul.**

With God is my safety and my glory,  
he is the rock of my strength; my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O my people!

Pour out your hearts before him.

**R/ Rest in God alone, my soul.**

**READING 2** - 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Brothers and sisters: Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. It does not concern me in the least that I be judged by you or any human tribunal; I do not even pass judgment on myself; I am not conscious of anything against me, but I do not thereby stand acquitted; the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God.

**Priest/Lector:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**R:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Priest/Lector:** The word of God is living and effective; discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.

**R:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**GOSPEL** - Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples: "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

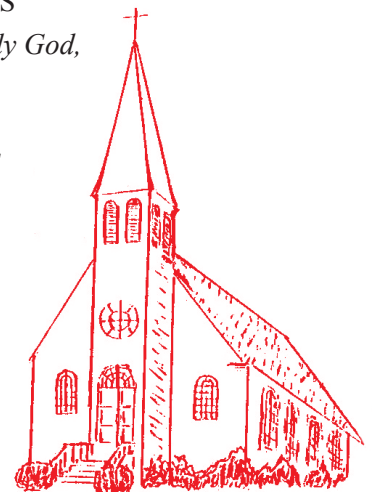
*R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**GENERAL CONCESSIONS**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** - *Holy God,  
We Praise Thy Name*

**COMMUNION HYMN** -  
*Sing of the Lord's Goodness*

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



St. Francis PNCC  
1932-2017

# St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

## SEASON OF LENT

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, directly after his baptism, prepared Himself for His public life and mission by a fast of forty days in the desert, which extends from Jericho to the mountains of Judea. Let us prepare ourselves by fast, prayers and works of charity for the solemn Feast of Easter.

## ASH WEDNESDAY - March 1st

This day opens the liturgical season of Lent. In Old Law ashes were generally a symbolic expression of grief, mourning or repentance. In the Early Church the use of ashes had a like signification and with a sackcloth formed part of the public penances. The blessing of the ashes is one of the great liturgical rites of the year. It was originally instituted for public penance, but is now intended for all Christians, as Lent should be a time of penance for all. The ashes used this day are obtained by burning the palms of the previous year. Four ancient prayers are used in blessing them; having sprinkled them with holy water and incensed them, the priest puts them on the foreheads of the faithful with the words; "Remember man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shall return."

Ash Wednesday, Mass and Distribution of Ashes will be held on Wednesday, March 1st, at 7 p.m.

## GOOD READING IS LIKE GOOD FOOD: HEALTHY!

Come Wednesday, March 2nd, the beginning of Lent, "Ash Wednesday" most Catholics will be looking forward to this six-week period. Especially with the renewed understanding of our faith - baptized life in and with Jesus Our Lord who is with us at all times. Lent comes at a special time for Catholics. The Lenten observance is a time, a period, even an invitation from God to enter into renewal and spiritual growth. In many ways, Lent is like a vacation. Time to remind ourselves that the Christian life is more than an endless round of the ordinary workaday world.

It is true that many Americans have become enamored of the quick fix. The quick and easy way to physical fitness...the perfect diet as a plan to beauty and good health. And whatever the plan, we have all the collateral to go with it books, videos, best seller lists, top ten ways to achieve the goal. For those looking to tone the body and glisten inside and out, there are myriad health clubs before work, after work, some open 24 hours a day. With that comes special diets which you find in special sections of food markets. See the array of frozen foods speaking to a particular diet...with low fat...low calorie...low carb... shouting out at us from supermarket shelves.

For Catholic Christians, we embark on just such a renewal plan for mind and soul (as well as body) beginning with the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, an age-old symbol painted in ashes. Keeping the days of Lent, we trim away the fat of spiritual sloth...the laziness of spirit that comes with letting prayer slide down the list of our priorities. Among the best plans of action, the sure fire step by step program: Fill our minds with good Spiritual reading. And as Christians, we are blessed with more material than we can ever use. A library of spiritual books, tapes, and videos. Our Diocesan newspaper, Catholic magazines, television shows, local regional and national, offer a diet of good reading, offering the experience of other believers living lives much like our own. And there are the classics; lives of the saints, people of faith who have gone before us, people we discover to be not so unlike ourselves. And the classics of classics; Holy Scripture, God's holy Word. Especially the Gospels, speaking to us loud and clear, even today, with the words and teachings of Jesus, the Lord. Lent invites us to spiritual renewal. Make time in this holy season to support that goal with solid spiritual reading!

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY ! - Henri Nouwen FACING OUR MORTALITY

We all have dreams about the perfect life: a life without pain, sadness, conflict or war. - The spiritual challenge is to experience glimpses of the perfect life right in the middle of our many struggles. By embracing the reality of our mortal life, we can get in touch with the eternal life that has been sown there. The apostle Paul expresses this powerfully when he writes, "We are subjected to every kind of hardship, but never distressed; we see no way out but we never despair; we are pursued but never cut off; knocked down, but still have some life in us; always we carry with us in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus, too, may be visible in our...mortal flesh." 2 Corinthians 4:8-12).

Only by facing our mortality can we come in touch with the life that transcends death. Our imperfections open for us the vision of the perfect life that God in and through Jesus has promised us.

