

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Let there be peace on earth." —St. Francis

1752 Harton Avenue • East Meadow, NY 11554 • (516) 794-5189 • www.StFrancisPNCC.org • Pastor Andrew Koterba

Fourth Sunday in Advent - December 21, 2019



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"

OPENING PRAYER: (please say with Celebrant) O

Father, as we approach the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, may we sense within ourselves His coming, may there be restored within us the image and likeness of our Creator, who gave us the Christ of Christmas. Amen

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

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE: (Reader):

O Lord, we beg you, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

READING II - Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest/Lector: The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

R./ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out"

COMMUNION HYMNS - "Patience, People"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Every Valley"

St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen A SECOND DEATH

Hell is a second death. This is what the Book of Revelation says (see Revelation 21:8). Just as there is an eternal life, there is an eternal death. Eternal life is a second life; eternal death is a second death. Our first death can be a passage not only to eternal life but also to eternal death.

Looking at hell as a second death takes away the images of eternal suffering and torture that are so prevalent in medieval art and literature. It defines hell more as the refusal to choose life than as a punishment for wrongdoing. In fact, the sins that the Book of Revelation mentions as leading to eternal death are choices for death: murdering, worshipping obscenities, sexual immorality, lying, and so on (see Revelation 21:8). When we sow death we will reap death. But when we sow life we will reap life. It is we who do the sowing!

"OPLATEK" SYMBOLIZES BROTHERHOOD & FAMILY

The word "oplatek" is derived from the Latin word "dolatus" which means "to give". This wafer which looks much like unconsecrated communion bread is traditionally broken at grace before the Christmas meal. The symbolism of this tradition is three-fold: 1) Breaking of bread reminds us of the bread we share at the Eucharist, Jesus comes to feed us with his body and blood; 2) Breaking bread with one another - we forgive each other for past hurts; 3) The taste, texture and color reminds us of the sweetness, gentle love and purity of God. Traditionally the oldest in the family breaks the wafer with the youngest. They in turn break with the others. This continues until everyone breaks bread with one another.

JUST FOR KICKS AND GIGGLES...

There was a great loss in the entertainment industry years ago. A person who brought happiness to a lot of people, Larry LaPrise was a Detroit native who wrote the song, "The Hokey Pokey."

It was especially difficult for his family when it came time to place him in the casket.

They'd put his left leg in, and...well, you know the rest!

A couple had a great solution for stopping people they don't want to show up uninvited around dinner time. After dinner was over, they calmly put all the plates on the floor and let the dogs lick them clean. Then, as if it were the most natural thing in the world, they picked up the plates and put them away in the cupboard! The uninvited guests never show up around dinner time again. (And never see the couple take the plates out and wash them.)

—shared by Debbie Scillia



**This year there will be NO
Christmas Eve Mass.
Christmas Day Mass is
9 a.m. followed
by our sharing social hour.
THANK YOU!!**

ST. PETER CANISIUS - December 21

St. Peter was born at Nijmegen, Holland, in 1521 into a prominent political family. He studied Canon Law at Louvain and received his master of arts degree at Cologne University in 1540. In 1543, while attending a retreat given by Blessed Peter Faber at Mainz, he decided to enter the Jesuits.

After some years of prayer and study in Cologne, Peter was ordained in 1546. He began a career of writing and preaching and went to the Council of Trent for two sessions as a delegate. He returned to Rome and was commissioned by St. Ignatius Loyola to teach in the first Jesuit school at Messina. In 1549, he went to Ingolstadt, Germany, at the request of Duke William IV of Bavaria. In 1552, King Ferdinand asked Peter to go to Vienna. Peter's mission in Germany was to labor for the Church in its struggle with the Reformation. He taught at universities in Ingolstadt and Vienna and his preaching caused a religious revival among the Catholic people. He founded a new college at Prague in 1556 and won the respect of both Catholics and Protestants. He lived in Augsburg from 1559 to 1565 as the Jesuit superior and directed the ministry of his community for the revival of Catholicism in southern Germany.

Peter was a prolific writer and his famous catechism, or Summary of Christian Doctrine, was published in 1555. He produced a number of well known catechisms, theological writings, editions of the writings of early Church theologians, as well as controversial essays. He went to Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1580 to establish a university. Today, the University of Fribourg is the result of his efforts. Peter died at Fribourg on December 21, 1597, leaving behind a vast legacy of apostolic works for the Church he loved so dearly.

St. Peter Canisius has been called the "Second Apostle of Germany" - the first being St. Boniface. In his diary he recalled the first commission he received in Rome to go labor among the German people: "You know, Lord, how strongly and how often you committed Germany to my care on that very day. I was to continue to be solicitous for it thereafter; I was to desire to live and die for it." St. Peter Canisius is a Doctor of the Church.