



# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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*March 22, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent*

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" Then Mass Book page 63.

## **READING 1** - Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anooint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** - Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.* You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anooint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

## **READING 2** - Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

## **GOSPEL** - John 9:1-41 [or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

[As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.] His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, [he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in

the Pool of Siloam"—which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.]

[His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am."] So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

[They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."]

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

[They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.]

[When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.] Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN - *I Come to the Garden Alone*

COMMUNION HYMN - *How Great Thou Art*

RECESSIONAL - *O Lord, I Am Not Worthy*

# St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

## VIRTUE: PRAISE GOD!

We all know the answer to this question; What's the difference between the Optimist and the Pessimist? The Optimist sees half a glass of water as "half-full." The Pessimist calls the same glass "half-empty." As people baptized into the very life of the Risen Christ, Christians are optimists by calling and experience. We live praising God, whether we are at Mass, or drawing breath with each new day. We praise God for His goodness: life, health, pleasure, pain, joy, sorrow. We recognize that all, from our loving Creator - even when we can not yet "see" how God turns sorrow to joy, pain to growth and new life. Be a Christian optimist this Lent. **Praise God each day!**

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come join the journey...During Lent, we have Stations of the Cross immediately following 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass... grow in faith and spirit!

## A WALK WITH JESUS

There's a place within my heart  
Where God's own Spirit dwells.  
His Spirit fills it with His love;  
All other thoughts dispelled.  
It's here in peaceful quietude  
I pause midst daily chores,  
To be refreshed by Jesus' touch,  
With Him, walk tranquil shores.  
We'll pause beside some little pool  
Just watching minnows play,  
And then, He'll ask what bothers me,  
Makes discord in my day.  
We'll sit upon a driftwood log  
And talk a little while,  
And when I see Him walk away,  
My heart can always smile.

*By Barbara Dexter*



## "I WAS NAKED, AND YOU CLOTHED ME"

Imagine something terrible happens, a famine, a flood, a fire, and residents hardly have anything left. When that happens, people around the world always try to help out. They collect money, clothes, food, medicine, and furniture that they send to those who need help. The shipment arrives, and it's distributed to the people.

About six months later, donors come to visit, and they ask those who received the aid, "What did you do with the assistance we sent you?" Suppose the person who had been in need said; "Oh, it's terrific. Look at my closet. It's full of clothes. Look at the shelves where I have all this food. And the money? I was able to buy a couple of houses. I also have all the medicine stocked up for me and my family."

The donors will reply: "That's not why we gave it to you. We want you to have enough food, clothes and furniture, but we gave all this to you to do something with it for all the people who are in need."

Someday Jesus is going to say the same thing to me: "What did you do with what I gave you? I gave you food and good things. Did you share them? I gave you a mind. Did you use it to make this world a better place?"

Jesus gave me these gifts so that I could help people. A good thing to remember during Lent.

'The service you cannot render me you must do for your neighbors.' —St. Catherine of Siena (recounting words God spoke to her)

## 2020 Upcoming Events

### Sundays After Mass During Lent

Stations of the Cross

**Sunday, April 5 - 9:00 am**

Palm Sunday Mass & Procession

**Thursday, April 9 - 7:00 pm**

Holy Thursday Mass

**Friday, April 10 - 7:00 pm**

Good Friday Liturgy

**Saturday, April 11 - 1:00 pm**

Blessing of Easter Baskets

**Sunday, April 12 - 9:00 am**

Easter Sunday Mass