

ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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Sunday, December 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

9:00 AM - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"



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.

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

READING I - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.

I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

READING II - Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Priest/Lector: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL - Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "O, Lord I Am Not Worthy"

COMMUNION HYMN - "Every Valley"

RECESSIONAL HYMN - "A Voice Cries Out"

St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The liturgy reminds us, during these four weeks, of the time during which the world was without Jesus. This Mediator we now await, and since we go to God through Him, we implore Him to hasten his coming.

ST. JOHN OF KANTI (1390-1473) December 23

St. John of Kanti, also known as St. John Cantius, was born at Kanti, Poland, on June 23, 1390. A learned, holy man, he studied at the University of Cracow and was ordained to the priesthood. He taught for many years at the University of Cracow, where his colleagues and students admired his scholarly integrity and simple faith.

His success as a preacher and teacher caused his associates to become jealous of him. As a result, he served for a time as a parish priest in the city of Olkusz. Because of problems in the parish, he would soon return to Cracow to teach Sacred Scripture at the university for the remainder of his life.

John endured envy and misunderstanding from some colleagues who resented his holy life and intellectual gifts, but he remained faithful to his teaching and pastoral work. Unconcerned for his own needs, he gave all he had to others, especially the poor. Desiring to become a martyr, John made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to preach amongst the Turks. During his lifetime, he made four pilgrimages to Rome on foot.

Pope Clement XIII praised his holy teacher after his death, "He gave a wonderful example to university professors, an inspiration of complete dedication to duty and to teaching... With his humility went a rare and childlike simplicity. Every day-after his teaching he would go straight from the lecture hall to the church and spend hours in prayer before Christ and the Eucharist. The God in his heart and the God on his lips were one and the same God." John died at Cracow on Christmas eve, 1473. His prayer: O God, may we grow in wisdom and love. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Centuries ago Christians brought plants and flowers into the celebration of Christmas, for did not Christ come to uphold the dignity of all God's creation? The natural world as well as humans, angels and animals, should have a part in welcoming him.

The evergreens, from ancient times symbols of life and eternity, have always had a prominent place in Christian celebrations. Holly, with its green leaves, its prickly points and red berries, suggested that the Child born in the manger would wear a crown of thorns and shed drops of blood. Mistletoe, long associated in the pre-Christian world with healing, became a symbol of the healing power of Christ. The poinsettia, from Central America, with its bright, starlike flowers, is

a natural reminder of the Star of Bethlehem. Other plants that bloom during this season are images also of the Root of David that flowered with new life.

Many nations have contributed a rich mosaic of Christmas customs. Among the Latin peoples, the Christmas novena, nine days of prayer before Christmas, is a popular tradition. The Christmas meal after Midnight Mass, in which all the family participates, is traditional among the French. Among the Slavic peoples on Christmas Eve, the father of the family breaks the feast-day wafers of bread and gives them to the members of his household, while wishing all the peace of Christmas. From Ireland came the custom of placing lighted candles in the windows during Christmastime. It originated in penal times when the Catholic religion was suppressed in Ireland and priests were forced into hiding. Irish families put a burning candle in their window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come to their door and celebrate the Christmas Mass with them. On the feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, the peoples of South America celebrate the coming of the Three Kings with colorful processions and give gifts on that day.

UPCOMING SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

December 20th

In Memory of Mary Lodiato-Cronin
& Barbara Mooney-Delloio
offered by Dennis & Jane Mooney

For those feeling lonely & sad this holiday
offered by Cheryl Haase

For a speedy COVID recovery
for Jimmy & Elena Capuano
offered by Joni & John Blenn

For the joyous of occasion of thier lives together
offered by Louis & Piedad Mollo

December 27th

In Memory of James Sikorski
offered by Patricia Sikorski

In Memory of Ann Prekopa
offered by Andrew & Terry Prekopa

In Memory of Bridget Hart
offered by Dennis & Maryann Hart

St. Francis PNC Church sincerely thanks you for your donation.

Take a moment out and pray...

† † † † † † **PRAYERS** † † † † † † †

Health Needs: Lord God, Jesus, our Savior, Mary and all the Saints, we ask you to bring peace and your healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen.

Health Needs of: All who have the Coronavirus & Debbie Marciano, Beverly Hester, Gregory Klein, Jim Richards, Richard Majewski, Nancy Fernandez Petrozza, Sophia Kyriakakis, Billy Murphy, Helen de la Sota, Jeff Curtis, Ottavia Daquino, Linda Frysztacki, Daniella Vasquez, Ann Klein-Siebuhr, Blanca Vasquez, Iris Cafran, John Luis Vasquez, Eileen McChesney, Peter Rapanaro, Dennis Erb, Rosemary Rosen, Jay Lasker, Joe Glovack, Carla Calabrese, Janis Siebuhr, Debbie Granaldi, Jimmy Capuano, Louise & Anthony Kuzniewski, Jorge Juan Vasquez, Jessica Arrubla
& for all those who care for the sick and disabled.

Requiem Intentions for faithfully departed:

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

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