

## 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 • [www.StFrancisPNCC.org](http://www.StFrancisPNCC.org)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25, 2020

9:00 AM - The Nativity of the Lord

Niech Bedze pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

R/. Na wieki, wiekow Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN - "O Come All Ye Faithful"

CONTEMPORARY RITE - Mass Book pg. 63

READING I - Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing  
peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to  
Zion, "Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy,  
for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring  
Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For  
the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The  
LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations;  
all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous  
deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the  
sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has re-  
membered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house  
of Israel.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song;  
sing praise.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and  
melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

**R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving  
power of God.**

READING II - Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and  
various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these  
last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he  
made heir of all things and through whom he created the  
universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint  
of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.  
When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took  
his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,  
as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited  
is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did

God ever say: You are my son;  
this day I have begotten you?

Or again: I will be a father to  
him, and he shall be a son to  
me? And again, when he leads  
the firstborn into the world, he  
says: Let all the angels of God  
worship him.

Priest/Lector: Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia.

**R./ Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia.**

Priest/Lector: A holy day has  
dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.  
For today a great light has come upon the earth.

**R./ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL - John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him, and without him noth-  
ing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and  
this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in  
the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man  
named John was sent from God.

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might  
believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify  
to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was  
coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world  
came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He  
came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept  
him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to be-  
come children of God, to those who believe in his name, who  
were born not by natural generation nor by human choice  
nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became  
flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.  
John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of  
whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead  
of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we  
have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the  
law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through  
Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God,  
who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. This is the gos-  
pel of the Lord. **R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

OFFERTORY HYMN - "O Holy Night"

COMMUNION HYMN -

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

RECESSIONAL HYMN -

"Joy to the World"



# St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

## **Merry Christmas to Our St. Francis Family & Friends!**

Following is most of a newsletter from a fabulous chiropractor, my friend Dr. Josephine Centore of North Bellmore. I think the stories and her sentiments reflect this season, and I wanted to share them with you.

## **WISHING YOU A HEALTHY & SAFE HOLIDAY & NEW YEAR FROM DR. JO!**

As I reflect on 2020, I know that all of you have pandemic fatigue for so many reasons. I know that half of you are not happy with the results of the election. And I know that so many of you have suffered losses—losses of loved ones, of health, of careers, of money, and of opportunity. Now we need to focus what this year has taught us—the need to cooperate, the need for faith and perseverance, and the need for us to remember what is really important in life—the priority and quality of our relationships and our ability to get along. Please enjoy the following two stories that reflect these ideas.

### **A ROSE FOR MOTHER**

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have 75 cents, and a rose costs two dollars." The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me, I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother." She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave. The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.

### **A FATHER AND SON CONVERSATION**

One day, a father was doing some work and his son came and asked, "Daddy, may I ask you a question?" The father said,

"Yeah sure, what it is?" The son asked, "Dad, how much do you make an hour?" The father said, "Why do you ask such a thing?" The son said, "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?" So, the father told him, "I make \$100 per hour." The little boy seemed sad and he said, "Dad, may I please borrow \$75?" The father furiously said, "If the only reason you asked about my pay is so that you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or other nonsense, then march yourself to your room and go to bed." The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The father sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money! After about an hour or so, the father had calmed down and started to think that maybe there was something he really needed to buy with the money. He realized his son rarely asks for money. The father went to the door of little boy's room and opened the door. "Are you sleeping, son?" He asked. "No daddy, I'm awake," replied the boy. "I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier", said the father. "It's been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you, here is the \$75 you asked for". The little boy sat straight up, smiling "Oh thank you, dad!" he yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crinkled dollars. The father seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, then looked up at his father. "Why do you want money if you already had some?" the father grumbled. "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do," the little boy replied. "Daddy, I have \$100 now! Can I buy an hour of your time? Can you spend some time with me tomorrow? I would like to have dinner with you." The father was dumbstruck!

Remember that relationships take time and being present. You cannot build relationships by text messages or Facebook posts alone, even in a pandemic! We all need to work on improving our communication by word and deed and make more of an effort to creatively connect!

***Peace and good health to all this Christmas Season!!***

*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 & Elena 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.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

**ANNOUNCEMENTS • THANKS • REQUESTS**

Lectors: Joni Blenn, Cheryl Haase & Adam Koterba

Altar Servers: Adam Koterba, Shea McNeill-Peck, Robert Koterba & Jafet Alvarez

10:00 AM - "Breakfast/Social Hour" - Please join us in the Hall downstairs after Mass! All Invited!

**UPCOMING SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS**

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

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*

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

For God's blessing and health for our family in USA  
and in Poland

*offered by Fr. Andrzej & Monika*

For good health and peace in 2021

for all St. Francis family and friends

*offered by Joni & John Blenn*

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

**LUKE 2:8-14**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

**THE BEAUTY OF CHRISTMAS, "KEEP THE MESSAGE"!**

In a world where nature and our environment are threatened, let us make our Christmas tree and manger scene reminders of the beauty and sacredness of nature. How closely at his coming did Jesus bind himself to the animals of the field, as well as to the earth and the open sky!

Remembering the poor shepherds and the circumstances of Christ's birth, so marked by poverty, let us make them reminders of the forgotten poor of our world.

Let the Child and Joseph and Mary teach us the dignity and importance of children and families in a society so neglectful of them.

The Christmas season's rich traditions come from people throughout the world, from Spain, South America, Eastern Europe, and so many others. Let them remind us of the unity of all people as children of God.

Let us... "Keep the Message!"

**Welcome to Our Visitors** - We welcome all our visitors who are present with us for worship this Sunday! Please introduce yourself to the Pastor, Rev. Andrew Koterba after Mass. Please remember that you are always welcome to join us in worship at St. Francis Parish.

**Health need requests or requiem intentions** - to be placed in bulletin, contact Joni at 516-578-9123 or joancapuano@aol.com or Fr. Andrew at frandrew@St.FrancisPNCC.org or 516-794-5189.

**Hall Rentals** - Our Hall rentals add great financial support to our Parish. Please support, promote and encourage our hall rentals. If you know of someone in need of a hall, keep St. Francis Parish Hall in mind. A great space for parties or meetings; dates are available and reasonable in price! Call (516) 794-5189.

*If you have any words of wisdom, a favorite poem, a cute or religious story to share in our Weekly Bulletin, please e-mail Joni at joancapuano@aol.com.*

*And, don't forget about offering Mass for birthday wishes, health intentions or requiem intentions.*

**WHAT DOES THE "CRECHE" SYMBOLIZE?**

Francis called it a "creche," the French word for cradle. Francis created the first creche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass and real shepherds.

The Incarnation - Christmas - was a key component in the spirituality of Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how He lay in a manger with an ox and ass standing by - how He lay upon the hay where He had been placed.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223, at the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the new Bethlehem. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit the night to come to adore Him. All were filled with great joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition was begun.

As you look upon your Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the creche symbolizes!

-From the Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano

**BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB FOR THE INFANT JESUS**

Bless, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, this crib † which we have prepared in honor of the new Birth in the flesh of Thine Only-Begotten Son, that all who devoutly contemplate, in this image, the Mystery of His Incarnation, may be filled with the light of His glory. Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, One God, forever, unto ages of ages. Amen.

