



ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

March 19, 2023 - Fourth Sunday in 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 I - 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, anoointed 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 anoointed 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 - *O Lord, I Am Not Worthy*

RECESSIONAL - *How Great Thou Art*

TODAY'S MASS INTENTIONS:

Requiem Intentions for:

Ralph Capuano,

41 years in heaven March 19th

& John F. Blenn,

7 years in heaven March 22nd

offered by Joni & John Blenn



St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

ST. JOSEPH (FIRST CENTURY) MARCH 19

St. Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus Christ, was a descendant of King David, according to the genealogy presented by the Gospel. Betrothed to Mary, he decided to divorce her quietly when he found she was with child, but an angel of the Lord told him to take her as his wife, since the child to be born was the "Holy One of God."

Joseph assisted at the birth of Jesus and became his support and guide through childhood. In a dream he was told by an angel to flee from Bethlehem with the infant and his mother, lest Herod Kill the child. he accompanied them to the temple where Jesus was presented to God, with Mary, he sought the boy Jesus when he was lost on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In his work as a carpenter he shared the many hours of his trade with his young son.

Joseph, a man of faith, a just man, was a worthy successor to the great patriarchs - Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. He followed the call of God through the mysterious circumstances that surrounded the coining of Jesus. God entrusted this silent, humble man with the unique privilege of raising his only Son as a growing child.

A saint close to God, he is honored as the patron of the universal Church.

His prayer: Remember us, St. Joseph, and pray for us to your foster child. Guard and protect the Church on earth, till its time is fulfilled. Amen.

PUSSY WILLOWS LEGEND

According to an old Polish legend, a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning. The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each spring-time since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the kittens once clung.

~shared by Dorothy Capuano



2023 Upcoming Events

Sundays after Mass During Lent

Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 2 - 9:00 am

Palm Sunday Mass & Procession

Thursday, April 6 - 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday Mass

Friday, April 7 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 8 - 1:00 pm

Blessing of Easter Baskets

Sunday, April 9 - 9:00 am

Easter Sunday Mass

Fri., Sat. & Sun., April 21, 22 & 23

Yard Sale

Sunday, May 21 - 3:00 pm

Spring Fund-raiser Dinner

Saturday, September 2

Quinceañera

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 a.m. Sunday Mass... grow in faith and spirit!