

December 26, 2011



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Garfield Heights, Ohio
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St. Benedict: (216) 662-9380
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(216) 475-3633
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open
8:00 am—5:00 pm. Mon.,
Tues. & Thurs & 8:00
am— Noon on Wed. & Fri.

MASSSES: 7 days a week
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
and 10:45 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m

Bulletin Announcements due to
sshepka@saintmonicachurch.net
by NOON on Friday

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Thomas A. Haren, **Pastor**
Rev. Theodore Marszal,
Senior Parochial Vicar
Rev. Thomas G. Montavon,
Retired, in Residence
Stan Drozell, **Deacon**

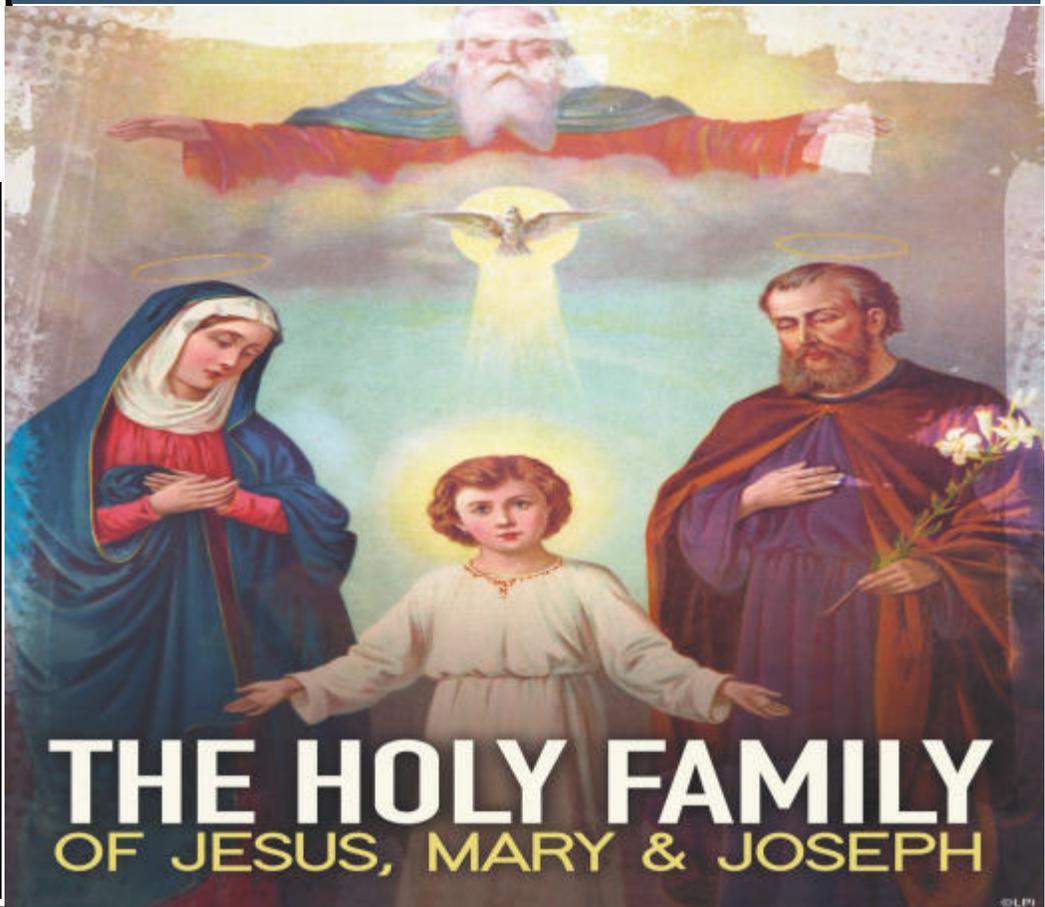
PASTORAL STAFF

Sister Helene Skrzyniarz
SSJ-TOSF,
Parish Catechetical Leader
srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net
Bob Soeder, **Director of
Liturgy and Music**
Stan Jakosh, **Business Mgr**
Susan Shepka, **Office Mgr**

Joseph Ungarsky
Pastoral Council Chairman
Bill Simon
Finance Council Chairman



The Nativity of the Lord



THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



LITURGY SCHEDULE
Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:00 Antonia & August Supan

10:45 Clara Holderman

Monday, December 27

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 Living & deceased members of Terry & Vivian Budd

Tuesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 In thanksgiving Ray Hanzlick Family

Wednesday, December 29

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 Richard and Dolores Koziol

Thursday, December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 Thomas Dowd

Friday, December 31

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 Priest Intention

4:00 Marge Konkowski

Saturday, January 1

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 Veronica & Thomas Kvosnok

4:00 Frank & Henrietta Pellettieri

Sunday, January 2

Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 George Kaczmarek

10:45 People of the Parish

11:45 Baptism

Pastoral Scene

In the glow of the Birth of Christ, on the last Sunday of 2021, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This unique family in the history of salvation experienced many happenings. Their trials and struggles were truly felt by them. For this reason we can have hope in all the challenges which we face in life.

The New Year begins on Saturday with the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This is a holy day but not one of obligation. Mary not only gave life but she preserved life through her faith and trust in God through all that she would experience in the life, death and resurrection of her Son. This message of hope which begins each New Year comes at the right time. This is especially true in this Year of 2022. The winter months of the Northern Hemisphere can oftentimes seem to close in upon us. This is especially true for those who may be confined to their homes or rooms. With this in mind, I suggest that if you know such an individual, it would be good to call, write and even visit them. The Blessed Mary was moved to such a visit when she visited her older relative, Elizabeth, upon hearing of the upcoming birth of her child.

The thought of New Year resolutions come to mind. There are many thoughts of what to do, such as, cutting down on food, stop smoking, less time on the computer and the list goes on. All these thoughts are good but more important is to think about a rhythm to our lives. As followers of Christ there needs to be time spend in daily prayer, particularly in the morning and at night. The reading of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and growing in our knowledge of the Faith is also helpful. The "let down" of the Christmas festivities can leave all of us a little empty.

A return to the basics, through seeking to reintroduce a daily rhythm to our lives can be helpful. If you will, we need to listen to our bodies. Oftentimes the stress we may discover in life is caused by our own doing. It is true there are external sources of stress but more important is our need to look at what is in our control. Using the phrase: "if this was not in my life it would be different" or "that is not my fault" and other such phrases can blind us to opportunities for change. "Seek the Lord that he may be found" and doing so will help us to see happenings in his light!

As this year comes to an end, may we never lose the wonder of this Holy Season. May the New Year resolutions we make contain a greater commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church always remembering our unique gifts are there to be used for the betterment of the world and its people.

Be well and be close to God in the New Year.

Fr. Ted Marszal

Please keep in your prayers the following members of our Parish Community:



Michael Walker, Marianne Toma, Denise Vlasek, Joann Reddinger, Gloria Unger, John Jacob, Anthony Lupica, Madison Jacob, Mike Wyrzykowski, Jan Angus, Larry Piechowiak, Toni Oden, Veronica Mayak, Joan Kaczmarczyk, Carol & Gerald DeLooze, Harrison Justin Shepherd.

The names will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. Please call the parish office if your name or a loved one's name needs to be added to the list. If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer, please call Lillian Neptune (216) 662-5464.



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the families and friends of: **Rev. Donald B. Cozzens, Joseph John Tanski, Daniel Korkowski** who was recently buried. May they, and all of our dearly departed, rest in peace.

The office will be closed until Tuesday, December 28th for Christmas and close Friday, December 31st for New Years. **Holiday Schedule**

**Celebrating Christmas Traditions
Christmas in Italy**

One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is using a Nativity scene to help tell the Christmas story. Most Italian families have a Nativity scene on display in their homes that have a prominent place during the Christmas season.

For many Italian American families, a big Christmas Eve meal of different fish dishes is now a very popular tradition! It's known as The Feast of the Seven Fishes ('Esa dei Sette Pesci' in Italian) and seems to have its root in southern Italy. It was brought over to the USA by Italian immigrants in the 1800s and now seems more popular in American than it is in Italy! Common types of fish eaten in the feast include Baccala (salted Cod), Clams, Calamari, Sardines and Eel. There are many explanations for 'why seven' that are dependent upon the regions in Italy.

The Christmas celebrations begin eight days before Christmas with special 'Novenas' or a series of prayers and church services. Some families have a 'Ceppo' or *Yule Log* which is burnt throughout the Christmas season. In Italian Happy/Merry Christmas is '**Buon Natale**', in Sicilian it's '**Bon Natali**' and in Ladin, which is spoken in some parts of the northern Italian region of South Tyrol, it's '**Bon/Bun Nadèl**'.

The celebration of Epiphany is also important in Italy. On Epiphany night, children believe that an old lady called '**Befana**' brings presents for them. The story about Befana bringing presents is very similar to the Russian story of **Babushka**. Children hang their stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill. In parts of northern Italy, the Three Kings might bring you presents rather than Befana. On Christmas day 'Babbo Natale' (Santa Claus) might bring them some small gifts, but the main day for present giving is on Epiphany.

Sr. Helene



The next Baptism class will be held on Tuesday, **January 11, 2022, at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Office. If you would like to have your child Baptized, please call Parish Office to register: 216-662-8685

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAY!

Help us build a Culture of Life while you save 50% on Restaurants (fast food to fancy), Westside Market, Leisure time activities, Golf, retail stores, and much, much more! The Our Town & All-Around book is \$28. There's something for everyone in this book! Call Regina at 216-581-4122. Delivery is free!

A New Wish For Christmas

The Christmas Season is one of the special times of the year for most Americans. It has been a time for families to get together and celebrate the Birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, into our world. As the effects of the pandemic begin to wane, it is time again to come together as a nation to celebrate this wonderful event.

Although we don't know for sure the actual date of Jesus' birth, the Western Churches celebrate His birthday on December 25th each year, while the Eastern Churches celebrate this event on January 7th. No matter which date we use, what is most important is that we are celebrating one of the most important days in history, the day that God the Son entered our world with a human nature.

This year, especially, it is important that we all celebrate Christmas. With the recent division we have been experiencing, this is one event that can reconnect us together as a nation again. The joy we experience at the birth of a child is a wonderful event for our immediate families; but the joy we experience at the Birth of Jesus is a wonderful event for all of our families. Most of us have customs as to how we celebrate this day. Many begin by attending Church the evening before, or on the actual day of Christmas. There is usually a family meal with our relatives. Then there is the sharing of presents with each other. It is a wonderful day to celebrate with our families.

One new wish that I have for Christmas is that we make a special effort to include God in our celebration. The original cause of this day was God's gift to the world – His only begotten Son. God wanted to share Jesus with us. Our job is to share Jesus with our families and friends. This can be done by making sure that we attend our Church services, and that we say a prayer before we eat our Christmas dinners. If we keep Jesus as the center of this day, it will truly be the way that God intended when the Angels announced the birth of the Savior of the World.

God bless all of you this Christmas as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Thomas Haren

Join us every Thursday at 6:00 pm in Church as we pray the Rosary. All are invited.



COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL

Our next Coffee & Donut Social will be in the new year, January 9th. Hosting will be our Ushers and Tri M members.



Religion Question of the Week

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem rather than in Nazareth? (Answer on page 4)

Did You Know?

Did you know that there are 96 Retired Priests living in the Diocese of Cleveland?

One Liner

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love". (St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta)

 **ActivitiesCALENDAR**

MONDAY, December 27

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 4:15 p.m. Walking Group (J)
 7:00 p.m. Holy Name Board Mtg (F)

TUESDAY, December 28

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)

WEDNESDAY, December 29

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 7:00 p.m. G.A. Mtg. (+)

THURSDAY, December 30

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)

FRIDAY, December 31

Office Closed
 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

SATURDAY, January 1

Office Closed
 9:00 a.m. Mass—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass
 4:00 p.m. Mass—Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass

SUNDAY, January 2

9:00 a.m. Mass
 10:45 a.m. Mass
 7:00 p.m. A.A. (AR)

Answer to This Week's Religion Question

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem instead of Nazareth?

Answer

Because Caesar Augustus was demanding a Census of all of his subjects, and this was the place of origin for Jesus' family.

Sandwich Saturday

Join us for our next Sandwich Saturday on **January 8th**, beginning at **9:00 am** in the lower level of the Parish Office. At this time, Jelly and round plastic tablecloths are still needed. Any questions, call the Parish Office, 216-662-8685. We have just completed our 6th year! This has been possible through all the generous donations and help from all who have participated in some way. Thank you!



Feast of Mary the Mother of God

January 1st is the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. There are several Masses scheduled for this Feast Day. Because this Day falls on a Saturday, there is no obligation to attend Mass for this Holy Day.



STEWARDSHIP

December 12, 2021

Sunday Offertory.....	\$ 5,487.00
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 591.00
Misc. Special Envelopes.....	\$ 1,148.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 1,415.00

Due to early bulletin deadlines, December 19th will be published as early as possible.

Please continue to mail in your donations, donate online or drop off at the office. You can also drop your donation in the baskets in church. Thank you for your continued support.

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is now open until 5:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. At this time, the office will still close at Noon on Wednesday and Friday.



The Synod Listening Process

The Synod is an opportunity for people to reflect on faith as part of their life and truly think about its importance. The objective of the Synod is to 'resurrect' the spirit of the Early Church in the living of their faith in discussions that will begin in January. The Synod Listening Process is going on throughout the world-wide Church and what we discuss during the Synod Process will be recorded and sent to Rome.



FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH
 COMMUNION • PARTICIPATION • MISSION

This Synod process is an opportunity to take people out of the "News of the Church" and bring them into the "Mission of the Church" by discussing strategies to encounter our LORD in Word, Sacrament, and the Community of the Faithful.

Listening sessions will begin in January and be facilitated by Sister Helene. Stay 'tuned' for dates!

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Chant: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes,
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte, Regum angelorum.
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus, Dominum
2. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880
alt. Music: John F. Wade.

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you. **All:** And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect: *Proper of the Day*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: *See Following Pages*

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 96**

Today is born our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord!
Today is born our Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord!

Text: Luke 2:10-11; Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13. Psalm refrain copyright © 1969, 1981 by ICEL. All rights reserved.
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Second Reading: *See Following Pages*

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: *Proper of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you. **All:** And with your spirit.

P: A reading from the Gospel.. **All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

Homily

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Chant: *Away in a Manger*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Text: 11 11 11 11; verses 1-2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Parishes, ca. 1885;
verse 3, John T. McFarland, 1851-1913; Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892,
alt. Music: Attr. to James R. Murray, 1841-1905.

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

All: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer Over the Gifts:

Proper of the Day

The Eucharistic Prayer:

Preface

P: The Lord be with you. **All:** And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts **All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Holy:

Holy, holy holy, Lord God of hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again, until you come again.

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace:

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles... who live and reign for ever and ever. **All:** Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your Spirit.

Lamb of God

Communion:

P: Behold the Lamb...the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Chant: Angels We Have Heard On High

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing:
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn
King.

5. Those who were in the dark
are thankful for the sunlight;
We who live, we who die
are grateful for his gift,
thankful for his love.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

6. Peaceful now, those whose hearts
are blessed with understanding
Of the wheat, of the wine,
united with his word
and the love we share.

7. Gentle One, Child of God,
join with us at this table.

Bless our lives, nourish all
who hunger for this feast;
shelter them with peace.

9. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold
like flow'rs before thee
op'ning to the sun above.

8. Lord of all, give us light.
Deliver us from evil.

Make us one, be our shield.
Make still the winds that blow;
Cradle us with love.

10. All thy works
with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Angels We Have Heard on High - Text: 77 77 web refrain; trad. French Carol, ca 18th cent.; tr. fr. Crown of Jesus Music, IL, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813-1882, and others, alt.
Music: GLORIA; Trad. Frenche Carol; guitar acc. Copyright © 1984 by OCP Publications, Portland OR.
Behold the Lamb - Text: John 1:29 and Martin Willett. Music: Martin Willett. Copyright © 1984 by OCP Publications, Portland OR.
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee - Words: Henry van Dyke, 1852 - 1933. Music: HYMN TO JOY, K7 87 D, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827. Reprinted with permission Lic. #RNC2984406.1. All rights reserved.

Hymn of Praise:

Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Text: Irregular; Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849, English tr. by John F. Young, 1820-1885.
Music: Franz X. Gruber, 1787-1863.

Prayer After Communion:

Proper of the Day

CONCLUDING RITES

P: The Lord be with you. **All:** And with your spirit.

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Sending Forth:

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, And nature sing!

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759.

Readings At the Vigil Mass

Reading 1 Is 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

Reading 2 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it.

Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.' From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'"

Gospel Mt 1:18-25

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. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

Readings for Mass during the Night

Reading 1 Is 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Reading 2 Ti 2:11-14

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

Gospel Lk 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who

is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Readings for Mass at Dawn

Reading 1 Is 62:11-12

See, the LORD proclaims to the ends of the earth: say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the LORD, and you shall be called "Frequented," a city that is not forsaken.

Reading 2 Ti 3:4-7

Beloved: When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel Lk 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

Readings for Mass During the Day

Reading 1 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.

Reading 2 Heb 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.

Gospel Jn 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 nothing 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 become 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.

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Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Entrance Chant:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*Journeysongs* #313)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809 - 1847; adapt. by William H. Cummings, 1831 - 1915.

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

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Universal Prayer Response:

God, Ever-Faithful

God, ever faithful, God, ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.

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Offertory Chant:

What Child is This? (*Journeysongs* #330)

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear: for sinners here
the silent word is pleading.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him.

*Text: 87 87 with refrain; Bransley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871; William C. Dix, 1837 - 1898.
Music: Trad. English melody, 16th cent.; Bransley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871.*

Communion Chant:

Gather the People (*Journeysongs* #766)

Gather the people! Enter the feast! All are invited, the greatest and least.
The banquet is ready, now to be shared. Join in the heavenly feast that God has prepared.

1. Around this table we dine as kin,
beloved family of God.
We share the body of Christ the Lord.
Here we become what we eat.
2. Around this table we tell great tales,
the wondrous stories of grace.
We hold the mem'ry of Christ the Lord.
So we become what we eat.
3. Around this table God's bounty falls
on all who hunger and thirst.
We drink the fullness of Christ the Lord.
So we become what we eat.
4. Around this table God's mercy flows
to hearts imprisoned by shame.
we know compassion in Christ the Lord.
Let us become what we eat.
5. Around this table new hope is born,
the flame of faith in our hearts.
We find our courage in Christ the Lord,
till we become what we eat.
6. Around this table God's healing flows
to all the wounded and worn.
We join the sufferings of Christ the Lord,
as we become what we eat.
7. Around this table God's peace will reign
in hearts imprisoned by fear.
we live in freedom through Christ the Lord,
as we become what we eat.
8. Around this table our hearts rejoice
in love that's stronger than death.
We'll rise in glory with Christ the Lord.
Then we become what we eat.

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Sending Forth:

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing!

Text: CM with repeat, based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759.

Reading 1 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

In those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him. The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever; I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite."

Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh. After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: "Pardon, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." Hannah left Samuel there.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. **R.**

Happy they who dwell in your house!
Continually they praise you.
Happy the men whose strength you are!
Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage. **R.**

O LORD of hosts, hear our prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob!
O God, behold our shield,
and look upon the face of your anointed. **R.**

Reading 2 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be

Joy to the World (*Journeysongs* #303)

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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