

*The Nativity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ*

MUSICAL PRELUDE 9:30 PM

PROCESSION & SOLEMN MASS 10:00 PM

Sunday, December 24, 2023

**The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
in the City of New York**

A Vision for Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's is a vibrant Anglo-Catholic witness in the heart of New York City. With our identity in Christ and a preference for the poor, we are an inclusive, diverse community called to love God and each other for the life of the world.

Merry Christmas

Christians began celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25 near the beginning of the fourth century. By the beginning of the fifth century, a midnight celebration on Christmas Eve was held in Rome. This came to be celebrated throughout Western Europe. Christmas Masses soon became among the most beloved services of the year for Christians. Matthew and Luke both record the story of Christ's birth. John's gospel begins with a proclamation on the meaning of the story. The mystery of God becoming Human in Christ is a fundamental Christian belief, and so at Saint Mary's we retain the tradition at the Christmas Masses of kneeling, or bowing, by all who are able, during the Nicene Creed as we sing or say, "by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man."

About the Music

A Selection of Choral & Congregational Carols at 9:30 PM

Aita Donostia (1886–1956) was a Spanish composer, musicologist, organist, and priest. He was known by many names including José Gonzalo Zulaika, José Antonio Donostia, and Padre Donostia de San Sebastian. *Happy Bethlehem (Oi Betleém)* is a two-stanza Basque Christmas Carol credited to Padre Donostia. The publisher's note from 1923 reads: "The melody of this Carol was noted down from the lips of peasants by the Padre José Antonio de San Sebastian. Originally restricted to the small valley of Lekarotz-Elizondo in the Spanish Pyrenees (half-way between Pamplona and Bayonne). The tune has, thanks to the Padre's efforts, spread to all the Basque centers, where it is now cherished. The choral harmonization is the one used by the Orfeon Donastiarra in San Sebastian. It was first sung in America at the Christmas Concerts of the Schola Cantorum of New York in December, 1922." The English translation is credited to Kurt Schindler.

William Bradley Roberts (b.1947), the composer of "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime," has recently retired as Professor of Church Music and Director of Chapel Music at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia. He had previously held notable church music directing positions in Houston, Texas, Louisville, Kentucky, Tucson, Arizona, and Washington, D.C., and had served on university and other seminary faculties in Indiana, North Carolina, and Kentucky. A distinguished choral conductor, he is also an Episcopal priest. Roberts's setting of "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime," is inscribed to the Choir of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Louisville, and was composed in 1983 while he was music director of that parish. The text is that of a Native American Nativity Carol by the French Jesuit missionary, Jean de Brébeuf, (1593–

1649), who was beatified in 1925 and canonized as a saint in the Roman Church in 1930. The English translation is by Jesse Edgar Middleton.

Richard Wilbur (1921–2017) was a distinguished and Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet. His 1961 collection *Advice to a Prophet, and Other Poems* included “A Christmas Hymn,” which has become well known in recent years. The musical setting of Wilbur’s “A Christmas Hymn” (*A stable lamp is lighted*) is by David Hurd, Organist and Music Director at Saint Mary’s. It was composed in 1983 for, and first appeared in *The Hymnal 1982*. It has since been arranged, published, and recorded widely. It is a ballad-like art song and is dedicated to Lily Andújar Rogers (1915–2005), under whose direction Dr. Hurd sang as a child and teenager in the Choir of Boys and Men of Saint Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, Hollis, Queens. The congregation is invited to sing this hymn as it appears in *The Hymnal 1982* at 104 while the choir sings the choral anthem overlay for this relatively recent addition to the Christmas hymn repertoire.

Music at the Mass at 10:00 PM

The setting of the Mass is *Missa O magnum mysterium* by Tomás Luís de Victoria (1548–1611). Victoria, considered the most important Spanish composer of Renaissance polyphony, was born in Avila, the seventh of eleven children. He began his musical education as a choirboy at Avila Cathedral, and his classical education at San Gil, a Jesuit school for boys founded in 1554. By 1565 Victoria had entered the Jesuit *Collegio Germanico* in Rome, where he was later engaged to teach music and eventually named *maestro di cappella*. Victoria knew and may have been instructed by Palestrina (1525–1594) who was *maestro di cappella* of the nearby *Seminario Romano* at that time. During his years in Rome, Victoria held several positions as singer, organist and choral master, and he published many of his compositions. He was ordained priest in 1575 after a three-day diaconate. There are twenty authenticated Mass settings of Victoria. The *Missa O magnum mysterium*, dated 1592, is one of fifteen of Victoria in the style of *Missa parodia*. In this case, Victoria parodies his own motet of the same title which had been composed twenty years earlier in 1572. Victoria’s manner of parody normally resists the usual practice of beginning each Mass movement with clear melodic references to the earlier composition being parodied. Rather, he skillfully selects his borrowed themes and applies them where they best serve their new texts. *Missa O magnum mysterium* is in four voices until the *Agnus Dei* in which an additional soprano voice is included to sing in canon with the original part.

During the administration of Communion, the choir will sing a setting by Jacob Handl (1550–1591) of a portion of the same text Victoria had set and which was the musical inspiration for tonight’s Mass setting. The motet’s text occurs as a responsory for Matins of Christmas and has been set by many composers over the centuries. Jacob Handl (1550–1591), also known as Jacobus Gallus, is credited with over five hundred compositions, both sacred and secular, including twenty Masses and hundreds of motets. Slovenian by birth, Handl’s compositions incorporate the influences of the leading Franco-Flemish and Venetian musical schools of his time. While Victoria’s setting of O

magnum mysterium is more meditative in character, Handel's setting has a more declarative nature. It includes a reference to animals beholding the new-born Lord lying in a manger derived from Isaiah 1:3 and Luke 2:7. Handel's setting is for two four-voice choirs singing largely in antiphonal dialogue, and it concludes with the Christmas festive acclamation *Noë* declaring "Good News."

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Music for Choir & Congregation at 9:30 PM

The Saint Mary's Choir
Dr. David Hurd, organist & music director

The Congregation is invited to join with the choir in singing the carols that are listed with hymn numbers below. The numbered hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, which can be found in the pews.

*The People remain seated for the carols
and hymns before Mass.*

Carol: Hymn 81—Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

The Congregation remains seated. The hymn is sung by both Congregation and Choir.

Happy Bethlehem

Aita Donostia (1886–1956)

The Congregation remains seated as the Choir sings the carol.

O Bethlehem,
Who gavest birth to our Redeemer,
O happy town!
Glorious and great is thy renown:
For 'tis from thee shone forth the light
That fill each home and heart tonight,
O Bethlehem!
O happy town!

Come and adore!
Come all ye shepherds from the mountain,
Come and adore!
Heavenward let your voices soar
Praising the glorious Jesus Child
And his sweet Mother Mary mild.
Shepherds, adore!
Come, shepherds, adore!

Carol: Hymn 115—What child is this

The Congregation remains seated. The hymn is sung by both Congregation and Choir.

‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

The Congregation is seated as the Choir sings the carol.

‘Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
That God the Lord of all the earth sent angels choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wond’ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born *in excelsis gloria!*

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born *in excelsis gloria!*

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
The Holy Child of earth and heav’n is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy, Who brings you beauty peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born *in excelsis gloria!*

*Text: A Native American Nativity Carol, St. Jean Brèbeuf, S.J.,
trans. Jesse Edgar Middleton*

Carol: Hymn 104—A stable lamp is lighted

The Congregation remains seated. The hymn is sung by both Congregation and Choir.

Organ Interlude

The Congregation remains seated as organ music is played.

The Procession & Solemn Mass at 10:00 PM

THE ENTRANCE RITE

The Entrance Song

All stand at the signal of the bell. The ministers of the assembly enter as the appointed antiphon is sung.

Dominus dixit ad me:	<i>The Lord said to me:</i>
Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.	<i>“You are my Son, today have I begotten you.”</i>
Quare fremuerunt gentes:	<i>Why are the nations in an uproar</i>
et populi meditati sunt inania?	<i>and why do the peoples mutter empty threats?</i>
Gloria Patri,	<i>Glory to the Father,</i>
et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:</i>
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now,</i>
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.	<i>and will be for ever.</i>
Amen.	<i>Amen.</i>

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

The traditional account of the birth of Jesus Christ is sung.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the
earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;
Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt;

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred fifty-second year
from the foundation of the city of Rome;

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

The Procession

Incense is made at the Altar, and the procession is formed. A Minister then intones the procession.

Let us go forth in peace.



People

In the name of Christ. A-men.

Hymn 83—O come all, all ye faithful

The Congregation remains standing and sings the hymn as the Ministers process to the first station.

The Station at the Crèche

The Procession stops at the first station. The Celebrant sings

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us;



People

And we be-held his glo-ry.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.



People

A-MEN.

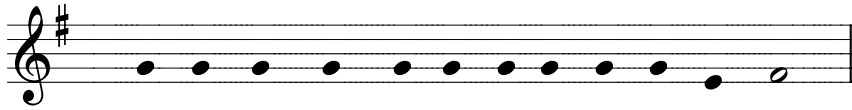
Hymn 96—Angels we have heard on high

The Congregation remains standing and sings the hymn as the Ministers process to the second station.

The Station at the Rood

The Procession stops at the second station. The Celebrant sings

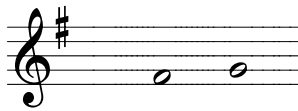
The glory of the Lord has been revealed:



People And all flesh shall see the sal-va-tion of our God.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



People A-MEN.

The Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant sings



✠ Bless-ed be God: Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.



People And bless-ed be his king-dom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

Setting: Louis Weil (1935–2022)

The Song of Praise

The Choir sings Gloria in excelsis Deo. The setting of the Mass ordinary is Missa O magnum mysterium by Tomás Luís de Victoria (c. 1548–1611).

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory.*

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram;
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

*O Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
O 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.*

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
Tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus Altissimus,
Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
✠ in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*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.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant sings

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

All **AMEN.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Lessons

All are seated for the Lessons. The first Lesson, Isaiah 9:2–4, 6–7, is now read.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

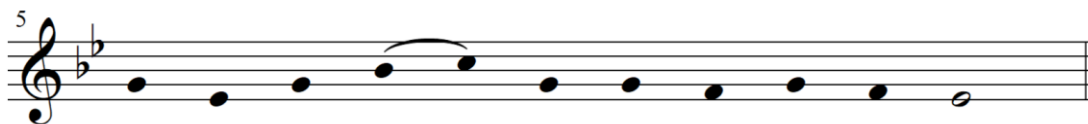
After the Lesson, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1–4, 11–12

The Congregation remains seated. The Cantor sings the Refrain, and the Congregation repeats it. Then the Choir sings the psalm verses to Anglican chant by David Hurd and the Congregation sings the Refrain.



To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

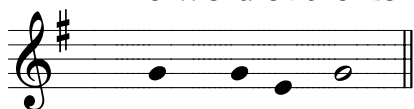
- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. *Refrain*
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods. *Refrain*
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth. *Refrain*

The second Lesson, Titus 2:11–14, is now sung.

For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

After the Lesson, the Reader sings

The Word of the Lord.



People Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

All stand. The ministers of the assembly prepare for the proclamation of the Gospel while the appointed antiphon is sung.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Dominus dixit ad me:

Filius meus es tu, ego hodie genui te.

Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord said to me:

“You are my Son, this day have I begotten you.”

Alleluia.

A Minister proclaims the Gospel, first singing

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Minister ✠ **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**



People Glo-ry to you, Lord Christ.

The appointed Gospel, Luke 2:1–20 is now proclaimed.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord

shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among men with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After the Gospel, the Minister sings



People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Sammy Wood

The Nicene Creed

All stand and sing the Creed. It is traditional for those who are able to kneel, or bow, during the Creed at the reference to Jesus Christ becoming Human.

We be - lieve in one God, the Fa-ther, the Al-might-y, mak-er of
 heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen. We be-lieve
 in one Lord, Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, e - ter - nal - ly
 be-got-ten of the Fa - ther, God from God, Light from Light, true God

from true God, be-got-ten, not made, of one Be-ing with the Fa-ther.
 Through him all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion
 he came down from hea - ven: by the power of the Ho - ly Spi - rit
 he be - came in - car - nate from the Vir - gin Ma - ry, and was made man.
 For our sake he was cru - ci - fied un - der Pon - tius Pi - late;
 he suf - ered death and was bur - ied. On the third day he rose a - gain
 in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures; he a - scend - ed in - to hea - ven
 and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther. He will come a -
 gain in glo - ry to judge the liv - ing and the dead, and his king - dom
 will have no end. We be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spi - rit, the Lord,
 the giv - er of life, who pro - ceeds from the Fa - ther and the Son.
 With the Fa - ther and the Son he is wor - shipped and glo - ri - fied.
 He has spo - ken through the Pro - phets. We be - lieve in one ho - ly

cath - o - lic and a - po - sto - lic Church. We ac - know - ledge one bap - tism
 for the for - give - ness of sins. We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,
 ✠ and the life of the world to come. A - - - men.

Setting: Plainsong, Mode 5; Credo 3; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947).
 © 1985, Bruce E. Ford.

The Prayers of the People

A Minister bids the prayers of the assembly. At the end of each petition the People sing

Hear our prayer.

Setting: David Hurd (b. 1950)

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be al - ways with_ you.

People And al - so with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Preparation of the Gifts

All are seated as the appointed antiphon is sung. The ministers prepare for the Offertory procession, while an offering is taken. If you would like to make an offering online, you may do so by using this code:



Laetentur coeli, et exsultet terra.
ante faciem Domini: quoniam venit.

*Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad
before the face of the Lord, for he cometh.*

Hymn 105—God rest ye, merry gentlemen

The Congregation stands and sings the hymn while the ushers bring forward the People's gifts.

The Great Thanksgiving

All remain standing. The Celebrant faces the People and sings

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Choir sings Sanctus and Benedictus. The setting is by Tomás Luís de Victoria.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
✠ Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.*

The People stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,



We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur - rec - tion,



We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being ✠ sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



All

A - MEN.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Then all sing the Lord's Prayer.

Musical notation for the Lord's Prayer, consisting of four staves of music in a single system. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,

as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and sings

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Ambrosian Chant adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991)

The Choir sings Agnus Dei. The setting is by Tomás Luís de Victoria.

Agnus Dei,
 qui tollis peccata mundi;
 miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world;
 have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
 qui tollis peccata mundi;
 miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world;
 have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei,
 qui tollis peccata mundi;
 dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God,
 you take away the sins of the world;
 grant us peace.*

The Invitation

The Celebrant invites the People to receive the Holy Communion.

We are all invited to the Lord's Table

Those who wish to receive Communion should proceed to the Communion rail, guided by the ushers. At the rail, you may either stand or kneel.

In the Episcopal Church all baptized persons are invited to receive the Holy Communion. Members of other Christian churches who are baptized are also invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Persons who do not wish to receive the Holy Communion are also invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you would like someone to bring you Communion at your seat, please notify an usher. We would be happy to accommodate you.

*

The Communion Song & Motet

As the ministration of Communion begins, the appointed antiphon is sung.

In splendoribus sanctorum,
ex utero ante luciferum
genui te.

*In the beauty of holiness,
from the womb, before the morning star,
have I begotten you.*

During the ministration of Communion, the Choir sings the motet, O magnum mysterium. The setting is by Jacob Handl (1550–1591).

O magnum mysterium et admirabile
sacramentum, ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem
in praesepe.
Noe, noe.

*O how great and wonderful
a mystery that beasts should behold
[their new]born Lord lying
in a manger.
Noe, noe.*

Hymn 111— Silent night, holy night

All who are able stand and sing the hymn.

The Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

All we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant Go into the world in peace, be of good cheer, hold fast to that which is good, return to no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the poor, honor all people, love and serve our Lord Jesus, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **AMEN.**

Welcome and Announcements

All may be seated for the announcements.

Hymn 87—Hark! the herald angels sing

All who are able stand and sing the hymn.

The Dismissal

A Minister dismisses the assembly, first singing

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Minister Let us go forth in the name _____ of Christ.



People Thanks _____ be _____ to God.

Setting: *Missa orbis factor*

*

The Postlude

Improvisation

*

THE MUSIC THIS EVENING IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARY HOLTON AND FRANK EASTMAN.

MUSIC AT SAINT MARY'S IS PROVIDED IN PART BY
THE CHARLES B. HARMON FUND.

THE FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS IN THE CHURCH AND CHAPELS
ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS MCKEE BROWN,
PRIEST AND FIRST RECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN,
BY THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THIS PARISH.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY
THE MEMBERS OF THE FLOWER GUILD OF THE
CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD
AND TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE
THIS WEEK TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS.

AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

Solemn Mass & Procession to the Crèche 11:00 AM

*Music at the Mass to include music by
Johann Sebastian Bach, Tomás Luís de Victoria, and Calvin Hampton*

Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Mass 12:10 PM

The church is open 7:00 AM–7:00 PM.

The parish offices are closed.

Morning and Evening Prayer are not said in the church.

Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Morning Prayer 8:00 AM

Mass 12:10 PM

Evening Prayer 5:30 PM

Mass 6:00 PM

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We invite you to join us

We are enormously grateful to all the members and friends of Saint Mary's from far and wide who have supported the parish during the past three and a half years. Your gifts have encouraged us, and they have kept us going.

We hope that you will consider making a pledge to the parish for 2024 this fall. If you can make an additional donation to support the parish at this time, we would happily receive it. Donations may be made online via the Giving section of the parish website. You may also arrange to pay in other ways by contacting our parish administrator, Christopher Howatt, who would be happy to assist you. He may be reached at 212-869-5830 x 10.

If you have questions about pledging, please speak to one of the members of the Stewardship Committee, Father Sammy Wood, MaryJane Boland, Steven Heffner, Marie Rosseels, or Father Peter Powell.

We are grateful to you for your crucial support of Saint Mary's at this time.

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

145 West Forty-sixth Street
New York, New York 10036-8502

Web: www.stmvirgin.org

Phone: 212.869.5830

The Parish Clergy

The Reverend Sammy Wood, *priest-in-charge*

The Reverend James Ross Smith, *associate rector*

The Reverend Dr. Matthew Daniel Jacobson, *assistant to the rector*

The Reverend Canon Victor Conrado,

The Reverend Dr. Peter Ross Powell, *assisting priests*

The Music Program

Dr. David Hurd, *organist & music director*

Mr. Lawrence Trupiano, *organ curator*

The Parish Staff

Mr. Christopher Howatt, *parish administrator*

Mr. Shalim Peña, Mr. Marcos Orengo Roman, Mr. Jorge Trujillo, *sextons*

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**Saint Mary's ministries are supported
by the financial gifts of those who worship here.**