

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 17, 2023—Third Sunday of Advent



ALL ARE WELCOMED TO OUR PARISH!

We are so pleased that you chose to celebrate with us this weekend. We warmly invite you to active participation in our liturgical celebration. Please feel free to approach one of our Ministers of Hospitality if you are in need of any assistance. No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, your current family or marital situation, your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, sexual orientation, gender, race, or color; no matter what your self-image or self-esteem: YOU are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Ithaca, New York.

ADVENT PRAYER 2023

Gracious God, thank you for this season of anticipation.
Confident in your unfathomable love, we seek forgiveness
and the grace to be ever watchful for, and to boldly proclaim, your kingdom.
Comfort and strengthen us in our earthly struggles so we can joyfully join Mary in saying Yes to you.
We ask this and all our prayers through your son, Jesus Christ, our savior who is to come.
Amen.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of St. Catherine of Siena Parish
is to inspire, engage, and nurture our community
through worship, witness, and service.*

St. Catherine of Siena Church is a Tompkins County Living Wage Employer

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

309 Siena Drive, Ithaca, New York 14850

607-257-2493

stcathofsiena.org / [facebook/stcatherinesithaca](https://www.facebook.com/stcatherinesithaca)

Office Hours: Monday 1–4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; and Friday 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

MINISTRY TEAM

Parochial Administrator

Rev. John Orenge Omboga, fr.john.omboga@dor.org

Director of Liturgical Music

Alejandro Bernard-Papachryssanthou,
alejandro.bernard@dor.org

Director of Multi-Parish Faith Formation

Rich Rasmussen, rich.rasmussen@dor.org

Pastoral Care Associate

Karen Webb, karen.webb@dor.org

Communications Coordinator

Jane Bonassar, jane.bonassar@dor.org

Administrative Assistant

June Haynor, june.haynor@dor.org

Maintenance Technician

Craig Murray, craig.murray@dor.org

Liturgical Music Consultant

Sherry Scanza, sherry.scanza@gmail.com

Regional Finance Office

315-252-7111

Please contact the Finance Office with any questions regarding contributions to the parish.

TRUSTEES

Bob Pochily, Mary Crosley

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Pastoral Council: Ted Skibinski, tedski27@gmail.com

Finance Council: Amanda Soule Shaw,

amanda.shaw@cornell.edu

Pastoral Council minutes available at stcathofsiena.org/pastoral-council-minutes

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our parish community! Registration forms are available on our website or through the Parish Office.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Clothing for the Needy

Clean used clothing in good condition accepted 24/7 at the shed adjacent to the parking lot.

Blue Mutual Aid Food Cabinet

We host a blue food cabinet in front of the church, which functions as a small food pantry that is available for all community members. Anyone is invited to donate or take food from the cabinet.

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard

St. Catherine's, as a member of Area Churches Together (ACT), supports the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard Food Pantry with food donated by parishioners and volunteer hours.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 and 11:30 a.m.

All Masses available to attend in person or via livestream; also archived and available anytime at www.tinyurl.com/StCatLivestream.

Accommodations: *Gluten-reduced hosts* are available; please go to the presiding priest during Communion.

Personal listening receivers are available in the Atrium.

Daily Mass Schedule

We offer daily Mass on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.; on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m.; and on the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. We also celebrate Mass at Kendal of Ithaca (2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m.); Bridges Cornell Heights (3rd Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.); and Brookdale Senior Living (4th Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.).

Church Hours

The church is open for prayer when the Parish Office is open: Monday 1–4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; and Friday 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is held in the church on Wednesday evenings from 7–8 p.m. Please enter through the east door.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation is available on Saturdays from 4–4:50 p.m. and by appointment.

Infant Baptisms

We're so happy about the new addition to your family. Parents participate in a preparation program prior to baptism. Please contact the office three months prior to the baptism. Please fill out the Baptism Registration Form on our website.

Marriage

Congratulations on your engagement! As with the other sacraments, prior preparation is necessary. Please contact the office **at least six months** before the wedding. If you do not live in New York State, you must do your preparation in your home state. Please fill out the Marriage Registration Form on our website.

Anointing of the Sick/Visitation

Please contact the office for arrangements for individual anointing or for a visitation to someone who is sick or homebound. For emergencies, please contact Fr. John directly at 607-302-0143. Please alert the Parish Office when family members are in the hospital. If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Corner, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.):

For information on becoming Catholic, or questions about the Catholic faith, contact Fr. John.

Holy Orders:

For information about vocations, contact the Diocesan Office of Vocation Awareness at 585-461-2890 or vocations@dor.org.

The collection numbers for December 10 will be included next week. Thank you for your patience.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Offertory Income – December 3, 2023

	<u>12/3/23</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Sunday Mass Envelope Collection:	\$2,671	\$280,471
Loose Collection:	\$425	\$68,315
Electronic Giving (Sunday Collection):	\$4,199	\$363,266
Holy Days:	\$0	\$6,727
Christmas:	\$120	\$8,920
Easter:	\$0	\$1,546
Collection to Support Schools:	\$0	\$2,560
Collection for Buildings and Grounds:	\$0	\$12,543
Christmas/Easter Flowers:	\$955	\$6,287
Votive Candles:	\$0	\$630
Memorials:	\$0	\$350
Total Collection for This Week:	\$8,370	\$675,688
Average Weekly Budgeted Operating Expenses:	\$14,071	
Surplus (Shortfall) for This Week and Year-to-Date:	(\$5,701)	

We anticipate an operating loss for this fiscal year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: DECEMBER 18–24

All liturgies are available both in person and via livestream. You can reach our livestream feed via the Boxcast link on St. Catherine's website (stcathofsiena.org) or at tinyurl.com/StCatLivestream.

Monday, December 18

5:30 p.m. MASS: *Our Parishioners*

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council

Tuesday, December 19

9:00 a.m. MASS: *Peace in the Holy Land*

10:30 a.m. MASS AT BRIDGES CORNELL HEIGHTS

3:00 P.M. Advent/Christmas Decorating

5:00 p.m. Children's Choir

6:00 p.m. Adult Choir

6:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. MASS: *Our Parishioners*

9:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius

9:00 a.m. Meeting Christ in Prayer

7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 22

9:00 a.m. MASS: *Peace in the Holy Land*

Saturday, December 23

St. John of Kanty

9:00 a.m. AA

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 p.m. MASS: *Paul DeMarco by Deb Roe and Our Parishioners*

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. MASS: *Our Parishioners*

11:30 a.m. MASS: *Our Parishioners*

12:45 p.m. Church Decorating

4:00 p.m. MASS: *Evans, Leonard, and Leon Families by Valerie Evans*

7:30 p.m. MASS: *Lisa S. Topoleski and Leonard Topoleski by Jan Topoleski*

11:00 p.m. MASS: *Members of the Haynor and Johnson Families by June, Tammy, and Cali Michele*

Daily Readings

Mon., Dec. 18: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; MT 1:18-25

Tues., Dec. 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wed., Dec. 20: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thurs., Dec. 21: Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Fri., Dec. 22: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sat., Dec. 23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sun., Dec. 24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Parish Information

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve, December 24

4 p.m. Family Mass with Children's Choir

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Mass with
Cantor Elsbeth O'Toole

11 p.m. Midnight Mass with Choir

Christmas Day, December 25

10:30 a.m. Mass

*Caroling begins 15 minutes before
each Mass.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24, is the fourth Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas Eve. We will have our usual weekend Masses for the fourth Sunday of Advent (5 p.m. on Saturday the 23rd and 9 and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday the 24th). Then our Christmas Eve Masses begin at 4 p.m. on the 24th. All are encouraged to attend Mass for the fourth Sunday of Advent and then a separate Christmas Mass.

GIVING TREE

If you haven't yet returned your Giving Tree gifts, please bring them in as soon as possible. Please attach the tag from the tree to your gift or label it with the description listed on the website as well as your name and email. Thank you for your generosity!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please consider helping us finish decorating the church and Mahler Hall for Advent and Christmas. We need a small group of people to help us on **Tuesday, December 19, any time from 3-7 p.m.** to help with garlands, lights, bells, ribbons, and bows. "It's beginning to look a lot like Advent/Christmas" –but not without your help. If you can volunteer, please join us for a few hours on the 19th! If you have questions, reach out to DianeBradac@gmail.com.

WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURES

Just a reminder that if the Ithaca City School District closes due to inclement weather, the Parish Office will also be closed and there will be no daily Mass. You can check school closings on the district's website: ithacacityschools.org.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold in prayer those who are sick:

Michael Gifford, June Haynor, Caryl Funke, Paul Bates, Michael Luzzi, Susanne Lorbeer, Chloe Wetzel, Kathy Teeter, Ramona Forney, Donna Dutton, Emily O'Mara, Cindy Horner, Ruth Horner, Joan Dalbano, Stephanie Hawkins, Beth Hawkins, Burt Allen, Danny Palardy, Lee Miller, Ruthe Bruen, Dale Bathe, Jack Colangelo, Kathy Boice, Julian Kuczma, James Bilinski, Elizabeth Colangelo, Ron Ross, Dee Loreda, Cara Wynn, David Sirois, Lonnie Slape, Andrea Caraccilo, and Mary Mulvanerton.

YOUTH MINISTRY WREATH SALE

We still have some wreaths available from St. Catherine's Youth Ministry wreath sale! This fundraiser helps provide financial assistance for our youth ministry. We will be selling 22" wreaths for \$30 or 26" wreaths for \$38 in the Parish Center **this Sunday, December 17, only**. Cash or checks will be accepted; please make checks payable to St. Catherine of Siena Church. Thank you!

SIGN UP FOR ADORATION

During this year of Eucharistic Revival, we are planning for more opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration. Beginning Wednesday, December 6, we will have Adoration from **9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. every Wednesday**. Please sign up for an hour of Adoration on the signup sheet on our website (stcathofsiena.org) or through the Parish Office.

REFLECTION TABLE

In the lobby, there is an "Advent/Christmas Reflection" table. We invite you to join us in a private reflection throughout December. Please answer the questions and/or write your prayer intentions on the pieces of paper, fold them, and leave them in the glass vases so our community can support each other through prayer. Whether joyous or in need, your intentions will be offered up with our collective voices and/or blessed.

MASS ATTENDANCE, DECEMBER 9/10

	<i>In person</i>	<i>Virtual</i>
December 9, 5 p.m.	99	39
December 10, 9 a.m.:	137	38
December 10, 11:30 a.m.	99	39
Total:	335	116
Church capacity:	1,200	

FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council met recently with our regional finance office to review St. Catherine's financial statements for the first quarter of our fiscal year—July, August, and September. Through September 30, St. Catherine's had a net operating loss of approximately \$13,000. This result aligns with the finance office and Finance Council's expectation that St. Catherine's will have an operating loss this year unless we can improve our projections for support from parishioners, especially in regular collections. Over this period St. Catherine's was able to reduce its total operating expenses; however, that was not enough to mitigate reduced funds coming in, most notably from regular collections, which are down almost 20 percent compared with the same period last year.

As we come to the end of the calendar year, we ask that you prayerfully consider making an additional donation to St. Catherine's and that you consider your plans for regular giving in 2024. Regular giving can be made easier by using the Direct Payment Authorization Form found on our website (stcathofsiena.org) under "Forms and Links"; that form also allows you to plan for second collections for the entire year. Note that making your regular gifts via credit card and our online giving option incurs transaction fees, so we encourage those who can, to transition from online giving to direct transfers from your checking or savings account.

We also remind parishioners of the importance of the Catholic Ministries Appeal to support vital diocesan services and ministries, including Catholic Charities. Any shortfall for our CMA goal will have to be paid from parish operating funds.

The Finance Council will continue to speak about our shared financial stewardship of St. Catherine's in the new year so that we may continue to be, as our bulletin states on every page, "A vibrant Catholic Community where all are welcomed, challenged, and supported in their life's journey."

ST. CATHERINE'S BOOK CLUB

St. Catherine's Book Club will meet on **Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center to discuss *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. All are welcome to join us for good conversation and tasty treats!

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CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

So far, 100 donors have pledged \$29,987 toward our goal of \$63,000. That's 48 percent of our goal! Please prayerfully consider donating to the CMA.

TRIVIA NIGHT UPDATE

Please mark your calendars for our annual Trivia Night, coming up on **Saturday, January 27, at 7 p.m.** Trivia Night is open to anyone 16 and older. You can register as a team, or we can put together teams of people who register on their own. You are welcome to bring snacks for your table. The cost is \$10 per person (paid at the door); members of the winning teams win a \$25, \$15, or \$5 gift card. Come enjoy fellowship, fun, and dad jokes while testing your knowledge of useless information! Please watch the bulletin and our website for information about how to register.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BEYOND THE PLATE!

Beyond the Plate is a five-course gourmet dinner fundraiser featuring local expert chefs donating their time and artistry, with selected wine pairings, in support of the Ithaca MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children. The event will take place on **Sunday, February 4, from 5-9 p.m.** in Mahler Hall. Chefs include Jay Dietershagen, Crossroads Bar & Grille; Sam Epps, Gola Osteria; Jen Irwin & Stan Walton, formerly of Just a Taste, now with a new restaurant project, "here.", on Seneca Lake; Greg Norkus, Mercato Bar & Kitchen; and Serendipity Catering & Bar. Wine pairings by Karl Kernan, Tripphammer Wine & Spirits. Ann Marie Eckert will be our emcee for the evening! Tickets are \$120 each, on sale January 8, at stcathofsiena.org. Sponsorships (at varying levels) are available—please contact Judy Malys at 607-275-6767 or Lisa LiVigne at lmliVigne@hotmail.com or 607-342-5978 for more information.



APPRECIATION

Please take some time to extend a moment of appreciation to the parish staff, many volunteers, and especially to our liturgical, music, hospitality, and pastoral care ministries this time of year. We appreciate how much they do "behind the scenes" to make our Advent and Christmas season celebrations special and inspiring! Thank you all!



FR. JOHN'S HOMILY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For two weeks of Advent we have been preparing the way of the Lord, striving to level the mountains of our pride and fill in the valleys of our sloth. With Christmas Eve only a week away, the destination of our Advent journey is in sight, and we rejoice that the Lord is coming. The third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday," from the Latin word "Rejoice," the very last word of today's Mass. The entrance antiphon is "Rejoice, in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (cf:Phil4:4-5). We take a moment in our Advent journey to rejoice that the time is approaching.

We can compare the spirit of Advent with our approach to other situations of waiting and preparing. Families expecting a baby, for example, have about eight months to prepare for the new arrival. The preparations for such a big change in the family have physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects. The home itself may need some alteration; the family arranges rooms and beds to accommodate the new one. Parents look differently at the year ahead: when we are on our annual summer trip next year, we will have a baby with us! They pray together for a healthy pregnancy and safe birth. Often there is a party or a baby shower for family and friends to celebrate the baby even before he or she is born. There is an atmosphere of rejoicing!

In a similar way, our preparation for Christmas has many aspects. Physically, we prepare our homes by cleaning, decorating, and planning special meals. Spiritually, we follow the Advent liturgy, with special prayers and Mass readings, to prepare the way of the Lord. Today, seeing that the time is close at hand and the baby is almost here, we take a break from our work of preparation to celebrate what is to come—to rejoice!

We can take note of how often the word "rejoice" appears in the readings. Families with children may alert them before Mass to listen for this word and to count how many times they hear it. The first reading starts with a joyful message of hope. Isaiah prophesies that the one who is to come will heal, release, and bring glad tidings. In his prophecy we hear "rejoice" for the first time: "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, / in my God is the joy of my soul." These words will inspire Mary's Magnificat, which we pray in place of the responsorial psalm. When Mary proclaimed, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior," she had travelled a long way, perhaps 130 kilometers or more, to see her cousin Elizabeth and to help her. Elizabeth, prompted by the Holy Spirit and the "leaping" of the child in her womb, praised and honored Mary. Mary's response, ever humble, was to acknowledge that she truly is blessed, and to direct all the praise to God. On this Gaudete Sunday, the Church invites us to make Mary's joy in the Lord our own! We proclaim aloud and together—four times!—that "my soul rejoices in my God!"

The very first words of today's second reading are "Rejoice always." St. Paul is writing to the Church at Thessalonica, Greece. He is not telling the Christians to rejoice in hope for the coming of the Messiah, for Jesus had already come. Paul is reminding us all of the joy that is an essential part of the Christian life. We are to "rejoice always" because we know the Lord; we are to live in the joy of knowing that our Redeemer has come to save us and will come again. Joy, then, is part of being entirely ready, "spirit, soul, and body... preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

While the Gospel takes us back to John the Baptist, our Advent hero, sent to "prepare the way of the Lord." It is striking that the word "rejoice" does not appear in this reading, as if to alert us that our joy is not in John but in Jesus. John certainly knows the joy of the coming of the Lord. He leapt for joy in the womb when Mary first rushed into the hill country of Judea, carrying the unborn Jesus. John's own birth was an occasion for great rejoicing throughout the region. His name is very significant, having been chosen for him before he was even conceived (cf. Lk1:13). But when John is asked repeatedly, "Who are you?" he does not give his name—which is the usual reply to such a question. No. John refuses all efforts to focus on him, deflecting every question to turn everyone's attention to Jesus. He does not want anyone to confuse him with the one who is to come after him, the one who is the real source of all our joy. We learn from John that joy does not come from self-absorption or self-glorification, but always and only from the Lord.

MUSIC, READINGS, AND PRAYERS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Our cantors are: Ashley Blank (5 p.m.), Tammy Johnson (9 a.m.), and Bob Talda (11:30 a.m.).

Prelude: *Creator of the Stars of Night*, verse 4 (Breaking Bread #68)

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3. When this old world drew on toward night,
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now pray,
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we
 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 You came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 Re - deem us for e - ter - nal day,
 And God the Spir - it, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 You came, O Sav - ior, to set free
 Not as a mon - arch, but the child
 All things on earth with one ac - cord,
 De - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

We pray you hear us when we call,
 Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
 Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 From all as - saults of our dread foe.
 From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: *Creator alme siderum*, Latin 9th C., revised 1632; tr. *The Hymnal* 1982, alt., © 1985, The Church Pension Fund. Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, LM, Mode IV, Sarum, 9th C.; acc. by Gerard Farrell, OSB, 1919-2009. All rights reserved. Used with permission of OneLicense #A-728114.

Processional Hymn: *Emmanuel* (Breaking Bread #58)

Refrain
 Come, come, Em - man - u - ell Son of God, ap - pear. Heav - en and
 earth, re - joice! Sal - va - tion is draw - ing near.

Verses
 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
 To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 3. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem;
 That trust your might - y pow'r to save,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind
 Make all our sad di - vi - sions cease,
 5. Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
 Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

(continued)

(to Refrain)
 1. And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2. Who or - dered all things might - i - ly;
 And teach us in her ways to go.
 3. From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 4. In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;
 And be for us the King of Peace.
 5. shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el. (Fine)

Text: Refrain, Steve Angrisano; verses based on Advent 'O' Antiphons. Music and refrain text © 2004, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Used with permission of OneLicense #A-728114.

Greeting

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act—*Mass of Quiet Waiting*

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Lord have mer - cy. Chri - ste e - le - i - son; Christ have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy.

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Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A vibrant Catholic Community where all are welcomed, challenged, and supported in their life's journey.

Responsorial Psalm

Refrain



Verses

1. Now I will hear what God proclaims, the Lord who speaks of peace.
Near to us now, God's saving love for those who believe.
2. Mercy and faithfulness shall meet, in justice and peace, embrace.
Truth shall blossom from the earth as the heavens rejoice.
3. Our God shall grant abundant gifts, the earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before our God and guide us to peace.

Text: Psalm 85; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL; verses by Mike Balhoff, Gary Daigle, Darryl Ducote, © 1978, 1993, Damean Music. Distributed by GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Mike Balhoff, Gary Daigle, Darryl Ducote, © 1978, 1993, Damean Music. Distributed by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission of OneLicense #A-728114.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — Mass of Quiet Waiting



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Gospel Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He

answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Universal Prayer

People's Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn: *Emmanuel* (Choir)

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Invitation to Prayer

Priest: Pray ... that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right and just.

Priest: ... we acclaim:

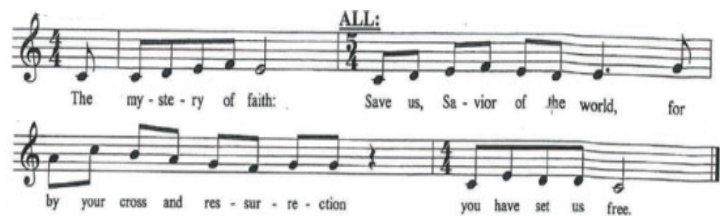
Holy, Holy, Holy — *Mass of Quiet Waiting*



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Priest: The mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation — *Mass of Quiet Waiting*



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Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

Great Amen — *Mass of Quiet Waiting*



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Priest: ... we dare to say:

The Lord's Prayer

People: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

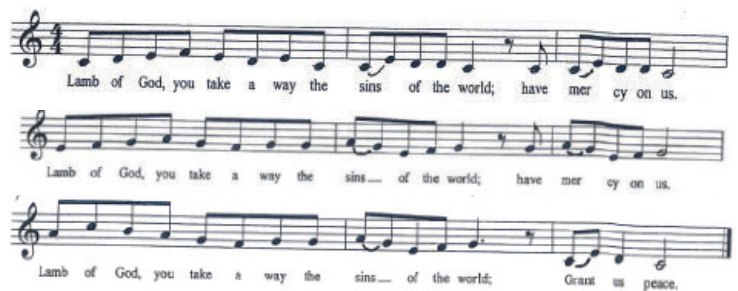
People: Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God — *Mass of Quiet Waiting*



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Invitation to Communion

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

Prayer of Spiritual Communion*(for those joining us virtually)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Jesus; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot physically receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I join myself spiritually to You and your Church.

Communion Hymn—Christ Circle Round Us (Breaking Bread #57)

Verses

1. Come, O Ra-diant Dawn, splen-dor of the morn-ing light.
 2. Come, O Flow'r of Love, ho-ly branch of Jes-se's tree.
 3. Come, O Word of Truth, font of know-ledge from on high.
 4. Come, O Gate of Hope, ho-ly door of heav-en's throne.
 5. Come, O Might-y Lord, mas-ter of the stars of night.
 6. Come, Em-man-u-el, cher-ished hope of Is-ra-el.
 7. Come, Lord Je-sus Christ, long a-wait-ed Prince of Peace.

1. Come, Sun of Jus-tice, turn a-way the pow'r of night.
 2. Come, Bough of Bless-ing, bloom for all the world to see.
 3. Come, Ho-ly Wis-dom, be our faith-ful friend and guide.
 4. Come, Key of Da-vid, o-pen wide the path-way home.
 5. Come, Strength of Pil-grims, keep us in your lov-ing sight.
 6. Come, live a-mong us, ev-er in our hearts to dwell.
 7. Come, Hope of Na-tions, ev-er make our love in-crease.

Refrain

Christ, cir-cle round us. Christ, may your light sur-
 round us. Shine in our liv-ing. Fill our hearts
 with great thanks-giv-ing.

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Prayer after Communion

Priest: Let us pray. ... Through Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Priest: Go in peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn—Thy Kingdom Come (Breaking Bread #53)

Verses

1. O you who taught the mud to dream,
 2. Like seed and rain your word goes out,
 3. From hearts of stone, O Lord, you drew,
 4. And ev-ery heart that's sick with sin,
 5. And when the skies you break at last,

1. And make the
 2. In gar-dens
 3. The sword of
 4. The Heal-er
 5. Your king-dom

1-5. Lord, thy king-dom come.

All

1. world with life to teem,
 2. of the heart to sprout.
 3. sin that ran them through.
 4. King has come to win.
 5. come to take at last.

O Lord, thy king-dom

Cantor

1. Did spin like tops the stars in space,
 2. The blooms that grow there shall re-main,
 3. And won your King-ship with that sword,
 4. The wound-ed spir-it he shall dress,
 5. Then shall there be a joy-ful noise:

O

All

1. Did guide their paths with
 2. Their scent the sign of your
 3. That cut you down, O
 4. With balms of love and
 5. Your king-dom praise you

1-5. Lord, thy king-dom come;

All

1. age-less grace.
 2. ho-ly reign.
 3. pre-cious Lord.
 4. ten-der-ness.
 5. with one voice.

O Lord, thy king-dom come.

Refrain

We wait in joy, we wait in joy, we wait in
 joy, like flow-ers wait the sun. We wait in joy,
 we wait in joy, we wait in joy and the spir-it,
 Lord, thy king-dom come!

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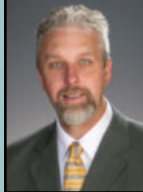
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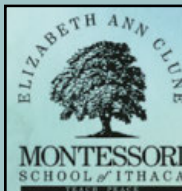
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