

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2025

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A Thrill of Hope



Martin von Feuerstein
Whom You O Virgin Gave Birth To



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

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From the Pastor's Desk

A Christmas Prayer: Right Worship

Merry Christmas!

I pray that each of you and your families are blessed with the grace and joy of this holy season!

There is always a unique excitement whenever a baby is born. Many of you have felt that excitement recently with the birth of your own children while others experienced it years ago. All of us, in one way or another, have known the wonder that surrounds a newborn - whether as parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, or friends. When a baby is brought into a room, attention naturally turns toward the child. We soften our voices, make silly faces, and freely offer gestures of happiness. In the presence of an infant, our hearts open, and we don't worry about how we appear, because the child draws something tender, joyful, and innocent out of us.

When we think about the Christmas story, we remember the shepherds keeping watch in the night. They were the first to hear the announcement of Christ's birth. On that hillside they joined the chorus of angels proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:13-14).

We recall the Magi who journeyed from distant lands to honor the Christ-child and to lay before Him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And we picture Mary and Joseph on that first holy night - quiet, weary, yet filled with awe. We can imagine Mary cradling Jesus with a mother's tenderness, and Joseph keeping close watch as the Child rested in the manger. Their posture, their nearness, their reverence speak of a love deeper than words.

There was something different about the infant born that night - something different about the way people responded to Him. They did not simply look at Him; they paid Him homage. That word - homage - holds two important meanings: to show proper respect and honor, and to express that respect and honor publicly.

Every time we gather for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we join the shepherds, the Magi, and even Mary and Joseph. We pay homage to the Lord Jesus Christ. We give Him the honor that is due, lifting our voices and hearts in public worship as the community of faith gathered around the Eucharist - Christ truly present under the appearances of bread and wine.



It is essential that we avail ourselves of grace - the very life of God. We do this each time we come to the altar, confident that Christ is present and gives Himself to us in Holy Communion. My prayer for all of us - especially for those who have fallen out of the habit of attending Mass regularly - is that this season may be a moment of return. I encourage you not only to join us now, but to honor every Sunday as the Lord's Day, week after week. Whether here at St. Martha, at another parish nearby, or at your home parish when you return from Christmas travels, make worship a central part of your life. Allow God, who poured Himself out for us, to draw you into His life, His grace, and His saving love.

A merry and blessed Christmas to you all!

Fr. Ryan

PRELUDES

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS |
Text: 86 86 76 86; |
Phillips Brooks,
1835-1893 |
Music: Lewis H Redner,
1831-1908



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
2. While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
4. Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



1. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light:
2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
4. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



1. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
2. And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
3. Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
4. O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Away in a Manger

MUELLER |
Text: 11 11 11 11;
verses 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, ca 1885; |
verse 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892, alt |
Music: attr to
James R Murray,
1841-1905



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The
2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I
3. by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless



1. stars in the sky — looked down where he lay, The
2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And
3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
 2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,
 3. Righ-teous-ness! Light and life to all he brings,

1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
 2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -
 2. God-head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as
 3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to

1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Glory to
 the newborn
 King!

What Child Is This

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



Verses

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to

1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let

Refrain

1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the
2. si - lent Word is plead - ing.
3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste,
haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Ma - ry.

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT |
Text: 88 44 6 with refrain;
based on Matthew 2:1-11 |
Text and music: Carols,
Hymns and Songs,
1863; John H Hopkins, Jr,
1820-1891, alt



Verses

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and

1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"

Refrain

1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.

star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward
lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT |
Text: 76 76 with refrain;
fr *American Negro Songs
and Spirituals*, 1940; |
John W Work, Jr,
1872-1925, alt |
Music: *Spiritual*



Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry -
where; Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.

Verses

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When high a - bove the earth
3. And lo, when they had heard it, They all bowed down and prayed;
4. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

1. Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
3. They trav - eled on to - geth - er To where the Babe was laid.
4. And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Christmas Hymn

Paul A Tate |
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1. Son of God and Vir - gin Moth-er, Word made
2. Un - to us a child is giv - en, un - to
3. Kings and proph - ets, seers and sa - ges, vis - i -

1. flesh, Em - man - u - el, Son of Man, our ver - y
2. us a child is born. Lord of earth and Lord of
3. tors from near and far praise the gift of end - less

4. All the earth,
proclaim the glory,
ev'ry nation,
ev'ry town!
Let all people
sing the story
of the night that
Love came down.
Sound the trumpet,
raise your voices,
brother, sister,
stranger, friend!
Hail the Christ,
our Lord and
Savior,
source of grace
that has no end.

1. broth-er, hope for all on earth who dwell.
2. heav-en, comes to us on Christ - mas morn.
3. a - ges sleep-ing 'neath the guid - ing star.

1. Light in dark - ness, prom - ised Sav - ior, shine in
2. Hope for all who dwell in sad - ness, love for
3. Ma - gi bear - ing gifts most pre - cious hum - bly

1. us for all to see; rule the world with
2. all who live in shame. Frag - ile babe yet
3. bow on bend - ed knee. Hail the new - born

1. peace and jus - tice, come to set your peo - ple free.
2. might - y Sav - ior, name a - bove all oth - er names!
3. King of glo - ry, wel - come heav - en's mys - ter - y.

A Highland Carol

Words and music by
Charles Wesley and
Christopher Wordsworth |
adapted by Tom Fettke |
Music by Michael W. Smith
| arr by Tom Fettke and
Thomas Grassi |
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Verse 1

Listen to the angels sing. Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Chorus

Joyful, joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the mighty angel host proclaim:
“Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem today!”

Verse 2

Hail, the heav’nborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings. Ris’n with healing in His wings.

Verse 3

Sing, O sing, this blessed morn. Unto us a Child is born,
God Himself comes down to earth, Born to give us second birth.



Bethlehem (House of Bread)

Words by Alan J
Hommerding |
Music by Ed Bolduc |
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Verse 1

Emmanuel, our God with us, will come in power glorious;
yet humble will he also be, to save us and to set us free.

Chorus

Bethlehem, Bethlehem! House of Bread, O Bethlehem!
You bring us Christ, our hearts are fed here in Bethlehem.

Verse 2

The King of Nations, our true joy, created life, our death destroyed;
now let all sinful discord cease, uniting hearts in holy peace.

Verse 3

A Radiant Dawn will come to shine; the Sun of Justice is its sign,
to clothe us all in ceaseless light, and walk in freedom from the night.

Verse 4

The Key of David, as we wait, unlocks and opens heaven’s gate;
the walls of death are broken down that we may share the royal crown.

Christmas Proclamation

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,
when ages beyond number had run their course
from the creation of the world,
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,
and formed man in his own likeness;
when century upon century had passed
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,
as a sign of covenant and peace;
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses
in the Exodus from Egypt;
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two
since the foundation of the City of Rome;
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,
the whole world being at peace,
JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and when nine months had passed since his conception,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,
and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**O Come,
All Ye Faithful**

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



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †
3. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †
4. Ad - é - ste fi - dé - les, lae - ti tri - um - phán - tes, Ve -



1. come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
3. Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry giv'n;
4. ní - te, ve - ní - te in Béth - le - hem.



1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
4. Na - tum vi - dé - te Re - gem an - ge - ló - rum.



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve -



come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!
ní - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mi - num.



GREETING

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

R: Amen.

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA
Mass for Saint Martha

Tony Andorfer |
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5 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We

10 praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy —

15 you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, —

20 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ,

24 On - ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of — God, Son of the

28 Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on

32 us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our

36 prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther,

40 have — mer-cy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

44 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

48 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

glo - ry — of God the — Fa - ther. A - men. —

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

At the end of the Collect, all respond: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 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!

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM

Psalm 96

Text: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 |

Psalm refrain text

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Paul Inwood |

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

1. Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his holy name.
2. Announce his salvation day after day. Tell his glory among all the nations; among all peoples, his marvelous deeds.
3. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them be joyful! Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice.
4. They shall rejoice before the Lord, who comes to govern the earth, to govern the world with justice and all the peoples with faithfulness.



SECOND READING

Titus 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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mass for Advent & Christmas

Tony Andorfer |

Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |

Marty Haugen 1983 GLA Publications

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! _____

I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
today is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

Deacon/Priest: The Lord be with you.

Deacon/Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

✠ **And with your spirit.**

✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

Deacon/Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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,

*[at the words that follow, all genuflect, if able,
or bow until 'and became man']*

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 sin, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

To each petition, all respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the World Sing

Gloria

[4 PM Mass]

Bryan Brown | Jeremy Bose |
Sarah Hart |
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Company;
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Publishing; worshiptogether.com
songs |
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Verse 1: Quietly all the world is listening waiting for the skies to sing to us below;
Unafraid that something is about to change,
Knowing it's the very thing that we need most.
And so we wait and so we cry; Salvation fall this holy night.

Chorus: Let the world sing Gloria!
The light has come our death undone In wond'rous love.
Let the world sing Gloria!
The Kingdom comes to ev'ryone. Our God with us; we sing Gloria!

Verse 2: Hear the song rising from the hearts who long
To stand in wonder of the Son who comes to save.
See the night disappear in heaven's light.
Suddenly the world made right this perfect day.
And so we praise and so we rise; Beyond amazed by love divine.

Bridge: Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

OFFERTORY HYMN

Night of Miracles,

Night of Grace

[7 PM Mass]

Words and music by Cindy Berry |
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Chorus
Night of miracles, night of grace.
We behold the wonder in this tiny infant's face.
Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus is born, night of miracles, night of grace.

Verse 1
God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son
to offer salvation to all.
Prophecy of old is fulfilled tonight, in the birth of this infant so small.

Verse 2
Behold the glory of the Lord, this King of love and light.
This holy child of Bethlehem is born to us tonight, is born tonight.

Final Chorus
Night of miracles, night of grace.
We behold the wonder in this tiny infant's face.
Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus is born, night of glory, night of wonder.
Let the earth resound with praise,
on this holy night of miracles and grace, miracles and grace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Noel

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash,
Matt Redman
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Music; Worship Together Music;
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Verse 1
Love incarnate, love divine,
star and angels gave the sign.
Bow to babe on bended knee,
the Savior of humanity.
Unto us a Child is born;
He shall reign forevermore.

Verse 2
Son of God, and Son of man,
there before the world began,
Born to suffer, born to save,
born to raise us from the grave.
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus
Noel, Noel! Come and see what God has done!
Noel, Noel! The story of amazing love!
The light of the world given for us. Noel!

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

℟: **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 OFFERINGS

At the end of the prayer, all respond: **Amen.**

PREFACE DIALOGUE & PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

℟: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

℟: **It is right and just.**



SANCTUS

Mass for Advent &
Christmas

*Tony Andorfer |
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
Marty Hangen 1983 GLA
Publications*

5 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. —
9 Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est!
13 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na in the high - est! Ho-san - na in the High-est!

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Mass for Advent &
Christmas

*Tony Andorfer |
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
Marty Hangen 1983 GLA
Publications*

4 We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your res - sur-
rec - tion — un - til — you come a - gain

AMEN

Mass for Advent &
Christmas

*Tony Andorfer |
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
Marty Hangen 1983 GLA
Publications*

A - men — A - men, A - men

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



After the priest's prayer, all conclude:

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

AGNUS DEI

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Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta
Lamb - - - of God, you take a-way the sins of the

mun - di, 1, 2 mi - se - re - re no - - bis.
world, have mer - cy on us.
3. do - na no - bis pa - - cem.
grant us peace.

Priest:

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

R

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT |
Text: Irregular; Joseph Mohr,
1792-1848;
English tr by John F Young,
1820-1885 |
Music: Franz X Gruber,
1787-1863

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round you
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

1. Vir - gin Moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
2. stream from heav-en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia!
3. beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

1. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
2. Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born."
3. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

COMMUNION HYMN

Unto Us

*Text: Adapt from Is 9:5 by PAT |
Paul A Tate |
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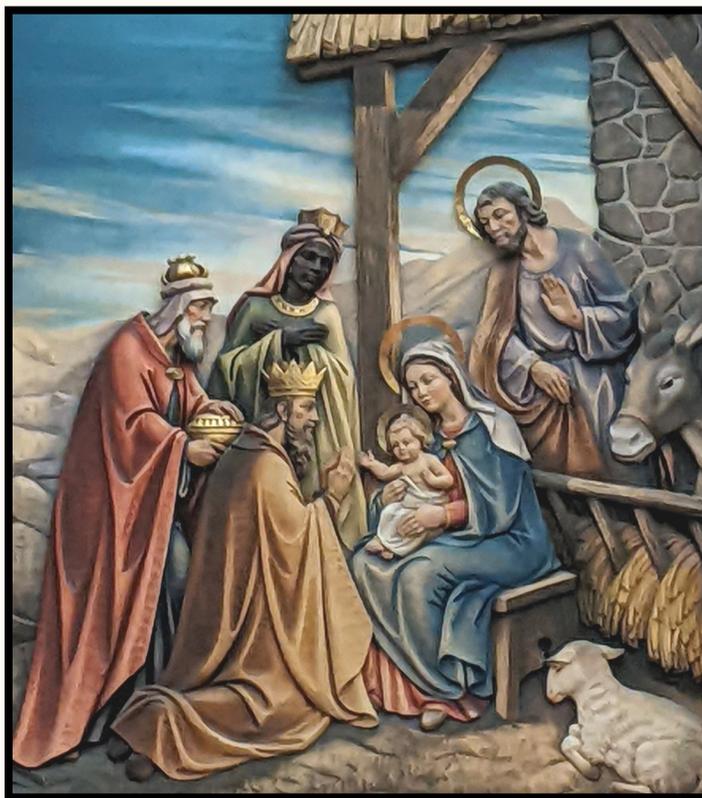
1. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone!

REFRAIN



Un-to us — a child is born, un-to us a Son is
giv - en: Might-y God — and Prince of Peace,
Sav - ior of the world! _____

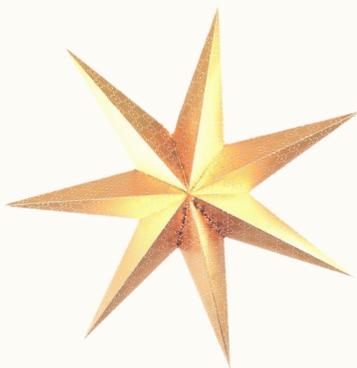
2. He comes with abundant joy, with everlasting peace.
Upon his shoulders dominion rests forevermore!
3. We await the blessed hope, the glory of our God,
who gives himself to deliver us from sin and death!
4. Announce his salvation day after day; bless God's holy name,
for today is born our Savior: Christ the Lord!



COMMUNION HYMN

O Holy Night

Text by Placide Clappeau (1847) |
Tran by John Sullivan Dwight
(1812-1893) |
Music: Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)



4 O ho-ly night! The stars are bright-ly shin - ing, it is the
7 night of the dear Sav - ior's birth! Long lay the
10 world in sin and er-ror pin - ing, Till he ap-peared, and the soul felt its
13 worth. A thrill of hope, the wea - ry world re-joic - es, For
16 **REFRAIN**
yon - der breaks the new and glo - rious morn! Fall on your
19 knees! O hear the an - gel voic - es!
22 night di - vine, O night, when Christ was
25 born! O night O ho - ly
28 night O night di - vine! Led by the
31 light of faith se-rene-ly beam - ing, with glow-ing hearts by his cra - dle we
34 stand. Led by a star a - bove them bright - ly
37 gleam - ing, ap-peared the wise men from far east-ern land. The
40 King of kings lay in a low - ly man - ger, to us this day is
TO REFRAIN
born to be our God.



CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

✠ And with your spirit.

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

✠ Amen.

Priest: The Mass is ended, go in peace.

✠ Thanks be to God.

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Joy to the World

ANTIOCH |
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



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



1. ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
3. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
3. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.



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A Christmas Message from St. Martha School

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, the students, faculty, and staff of St. Martha School extend heartfelt Christmas greetings to our beloved parish family. This holy season reminds us that Christ is our light, bringing hope, peace, and joy to all who welcome Him.

We are deeply grateful for the constant prayers, encouragement, and generosity you show our school. Your support strengthens our mission and allows us to form children in faith, virtue, and academic excellence. Because of you, our students grow each day in knowledge and in the love of Jesus.

Throughout Advent, our school community has prepared for Christmas through prayer, service to others, and acts of kindness that reflect the spirit of the season. We are blessed to share this journey with a parish that models such vibrant faith and compassionate stewardship.

Please be assured of our prayers for you and your families during this sacred season. May the peace of Bethlehem fill your homes, and may the joy of the newborn King remain with you throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas and God bless you from all of us at St. Martha School!



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation Mass Times
 December 31 ~ 6:00pm
 January 1 ~ 10:00am

Faith Formation

Even if you didn't start this fall, it's not too late to register!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

A Montessori approach to Faith Formation that offers many hands on lessons that focus on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We have two sessions of CGS to choose from: Level 1 for ages 3-6 offered on Sundays from 10 - 11 am and Level 2 for ages 6-8 offered on Sundays from 11:15 am - Noon.

Traditional Faith Formation Classes that include Whole Family for Grades 1-6

This is a traditional grade level class that meets three times a month in their classroom and then once a month the entire family meets as one large group in the Parish Hall for a Whole Family lesson. You can choose to enroll your child on either Sunday mornings from 9 - 9:50 am or Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7 pm.

Middle School & High School

Grades 7 & 8 are preparation classes that are meant to build up to Confirmation in 9th grade (and older). We are also adding a Post-Confirmation High School Class this year for our teens to just come, ask questions, and discuss how God, Jesus, and their Catholic Faith fit into life as a high school student. These classes meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6 - 8 pm.

For more information, contact Jackie Rosalez, Director of Faith Formation at jrosalez@st-martha.org or 517-349-1763



Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 10 | 10 am - 3:45 pm | Parish Hall
 Register online at www.redcrossblood.org/give (Sponsor code: StMarthasOkemos) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-in donors are also welcome.

SEEKING MEANING, TRUTH, AND COMMUNITY?
 You're not alone. Join others to explore Catholicism through OCIA.
 If you are interested in learning more, contact Dcn. Jim Collom at dcnjim@st-martha.org

Easy Electronic Giving
 Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, visit st-martha.org/giving or text "Give" to 517-200-3560



ST. MARTHA PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

Parish Mission Statement

Walking together in Word and Sacrament, the Catholic Community of Saint Martha shares the redeeming love of Christ through acts of faith, hope, and charity.

517-349-1763 | www.st-martha.org

  @st.martha.okemos

Parish Office

Phone 517-349-1763
Office Hours..... Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish & School Staff

Father Ryan Riley | Pastor frryan@st-martha.org
Father Mike Murray | In Residence frmike@st-martha.org
Deacon Jim Collom | Deacon, OCIA Coordinator dcnjim@st-martha.org
Deacon Dave Drayton | Deacon, Outreach Ministries ... dcndave@st-martha.org
Kimberly Keefe | Director of Parish Operations hcard@st-martha.org
Gregg Alchin | Facilities Manager galchin@st-martha.org
Andrea Patton | School Principal apatton@st-martha.org
Cynthia Farnsworth | School Secretary cfarnsworth@st-martha.org
Jackie Rosalez | Faith Formation Director jrosalez@st-martha.org
Tony Andorfer | Music and Liturgy Director tandorfer@st-martha.org
Joey DiMenno | Children's Choirs Director jdimenno@st-martha.org
Cheryl Olsen | Administrative Assistant colsen@st-martha.org
Monica Amoroso | Communications Assistant..... mamoroso@st-martha.org

St. Martha Parish School (Preschool - Grade 8)

Phone 517-349-3322
Office Hours..... 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Lansing Catholic High School (Grades 9-12)

Phone 517-267-2100
Website lansingcatholic.org

Daily Mass Opportunities

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday.....8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday8:20 am
Wednesday 6:00 pm
Thursday, Friday.....8:20 am
Saturday9:00 am
at St. Mary Church, Williamston

Reconciliation Opportunities

Monday, Tuesday after 8:20 am Mass
until all are heard
Wednesday 6:45 to 7:15 pm
Thursday, Friday..... after 8:20 am Mass
until all are heard
Saturday 3:00 to 4:30 pm
Other times by appointment

Prayer/Adoration Opportunities

Monday
International Rosary after 8:20 am Mass
Wednesday
Rosary for the Unborn..... 5:30 pm
Our Mother of Perpetual
Help Devotions 5:45 pm
Adoration..... after 6:00 pm Mass
until 7:20 pm Benediction

Thursday
Rosary for Peace and Those
Suffering From War after 8:20 am Mass

Friday
Rosary..... after 8:20 am Mass
Adoration after 8:20 am Mass
until 3:00 pm Benediction