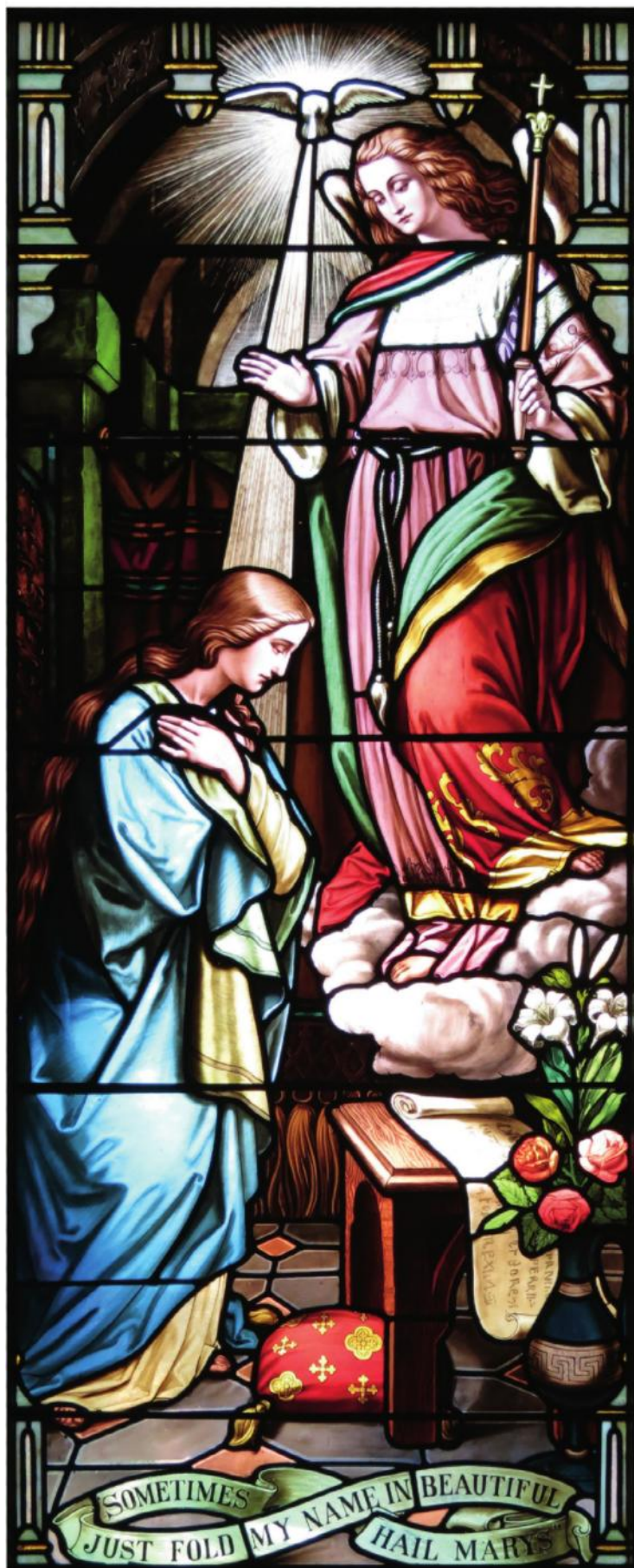


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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

The Annunciation Window at St. Mary's Church

"The angel went on to say to her: 'Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name of Jesus.'"

This window was placed in 1907 and
dedicated March 15, 1908.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

INTRODUCTORY RITES

*The Mass begins with the Processional Hymn.
The celebrant and other ministers enter in procession and reverence the altar with a kiss.
The altar is a symbol of Christ at the heart of the assembly and so deserves this special reverence.*
STAND

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Savior of the Nations, Come* Hymn 237

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(10:30 am only)* Pew Missal, page 62

✠. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. R. **Amen.**

✠. The Lord be with you. R. **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT Pew Missal, page 4

*The Penitential Act follows the greeting. At the very beginning of the Mass,
the faithful recall their sins and place their trust in God's abiding mercy.*

KYRIE *Greek* Pew Missal, page 22

*The Act of Penitence includes the Kyrie Eleison,
a Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy."*

COLLECT

*The Introductory Rites conclude with the Opening Prayer, also called the Collect.
The celebrant invites the gathered assembly to pray and, after a brief silence,
proclaims the prayer of the day. The Opening Prayer gives a context for the celebration.*

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

SIT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

*In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word.
The Scriptures are the word of God, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
In the Scriptures, God speaks to us, leading us along the path to salvation.*

READINGS Pew Missal, page 62

HOMILY

STAND

NICENE CREED Pew Missal, page 9

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL ✠. Let us pray to the Lord. R. **Lord hear our prayer.**

*The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Prayer of the Faithful.
The gathered assembly intercedes with God on behalf of the Church,
the world, and themselves, entrusting their needs to the faithful and loving God.*

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS Pew Missal, back page

SIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar.
As the ministers prepare the altar,
representatives of the people bring forward the bread and wine that will become the Body and
Blood of Christ. The celebrant blesses and praises God for these gifts and places them on the altar.*

OFFERTORY HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Hymn 256
STAND

ORATE FRATRES Pew Missal, page 11

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE DIALOGUE Pew Missal, page 11

*After a brief introductory dialogue, the celebrant begins the Preface.
The Preface tells of the wonderful actions of God, both throughout history and in our lives,
giving thanks to God for all these things.*

SANCTUS *Latin* Pew Missal, page 26

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER Pew Missal, page 15 (Vigil) | page 11 (Day) KNEEL

*We have entered the most important part of the Mass. This sequence of prayers contains the
consecration which is the heart of the Mass. By the power of the Holy Spirit, through the words
and actions of these prayers, the priest accomplishes the great work of the Mass: bringing Christ
Himself down upon our altar, so that we may offer Him to God. Our gifts of bread and wine,
representing ourselves, are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Then the priest offers
Christ, and ourselves in union with Christ, to God.*

MEM. ACCLAMATION *ICEL Chant- Save us...* Pew Missal, page 39

STAND

COMMUNION RITE

*The Communion Rite begins with the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples when
they asked how to pray. In this prayer, the people join their voices to pray for the coming of God's
kingdom. We ask God to provide for our needs, forgive our sins, and bring us to the joy of heaven.*

OUR FATHER Pew Missal, page 17 | page 27 (*Latin - 10:30 am*)

THE PEACE Pew Missal, page 18

AGNUS DEI *Latin* Pew Missal, page 27

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD Pew Missal, page 18 KNEEL

Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion are inside the front cover of the Pew Missal.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Pew Missal, page 63

COMMUNION HYMN *Creator of the Stars of Night* Hymn 118

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

STAND
Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING & DISMISSAL Pew Missal, page 19

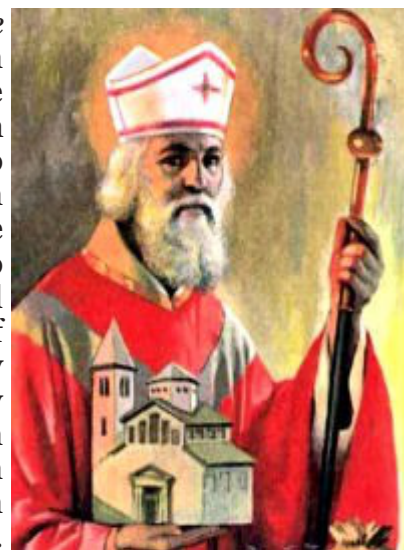
PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL Pew Missal, page 535

MARIAN ANTIPHON *Alma Redemptoris Mater* Hymn 85

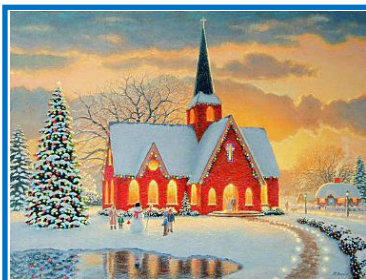
The Shape of the Liturgy

Savior of the Nations, Come

Our Processional hymn for this 4th Sunday of Advent, *Savior of the Nations, Come*, speaks to the time in which it was written and to our own time as well. It has its roots in the fourth century. As the story has come down to us, St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (340-397) was struggling with the Arian heresy which plagued the Church at that time. Arianism was so dangerous to the Faith because it denied the divinity of Jesus Christ. When the Byzantine Empress Justina, an Arian heretic herself, tried to invade one of St. Ambrose's church. He refused to hand over the house of God to those who believed this heresy. No doubt worried over military reprisal from the Empress, St. Ambrose gathered the flock into the Basilica of Portina in Milan, to sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as they turned to God, asking His help in their time of need. When the military entourage sent by the Empress arrived, the soldiers are said to have been so moved by the singing that they put down their weapons and joined in the singing themselves. This best-known hymn of St. Ambrose is based in part on John 1 and Luke 2. And so this hymn spoke to the time of St. Ambrose.



As to our own time, we too live in a time of heresy, a time which in many ways denies belief in God and in many ways is hostile to it. Most importantly, our modern society and culture have abandoned the Judeo-Christian principles on which our nation was built, and like a plant whose roots have been severed, we too are living through the consequences. The individual has become god, the only sin is inconvenience, a person's gender is decided day by day by the person, masculine and feminine pronouns are no longer acceptable, a biological man dressed in a woman's clothing goes into a woman's restroom, a reporter reports on Planned Parenthood selling fetal body parts and is persecuted himself to the extent of the law for his report. But enough of the "challenges" we live in, because like St. Ambrose before us, we too have hope. The Hope which came into our world in the Person, Jesus Christ, who is God with us and among us, and whose arrival which we will remember and celebrate now in a few days-time. And so most appropriately we sing today, *Savior of the Nations, Come*.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT 10:00 AM



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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
FORMS AT ENTRANCE OF CHURCH
DUE DECEMBER 21ST

St. Mary's Altar Society is accepting donations for Christmas flowers to decorate our beautiful church for the birth of Our Lord. Forms and envelopes for your donations are located on the back of the last pew at the entrance to our church. Instructions are contained on the forms, however, if you have any questions, please contact Georgia West 361-935-6701. Your donation must be received by Tuesday, December 21st in order to have your name and intentions published in our Christmas weekend bulletin for December 25th and 26th, 2021. Thank you for your generosity.



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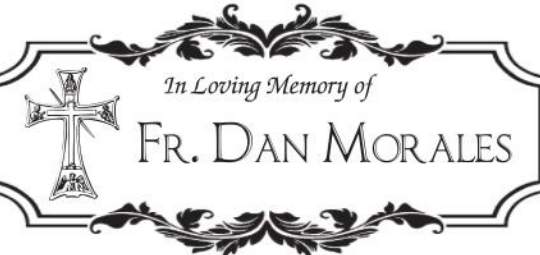
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