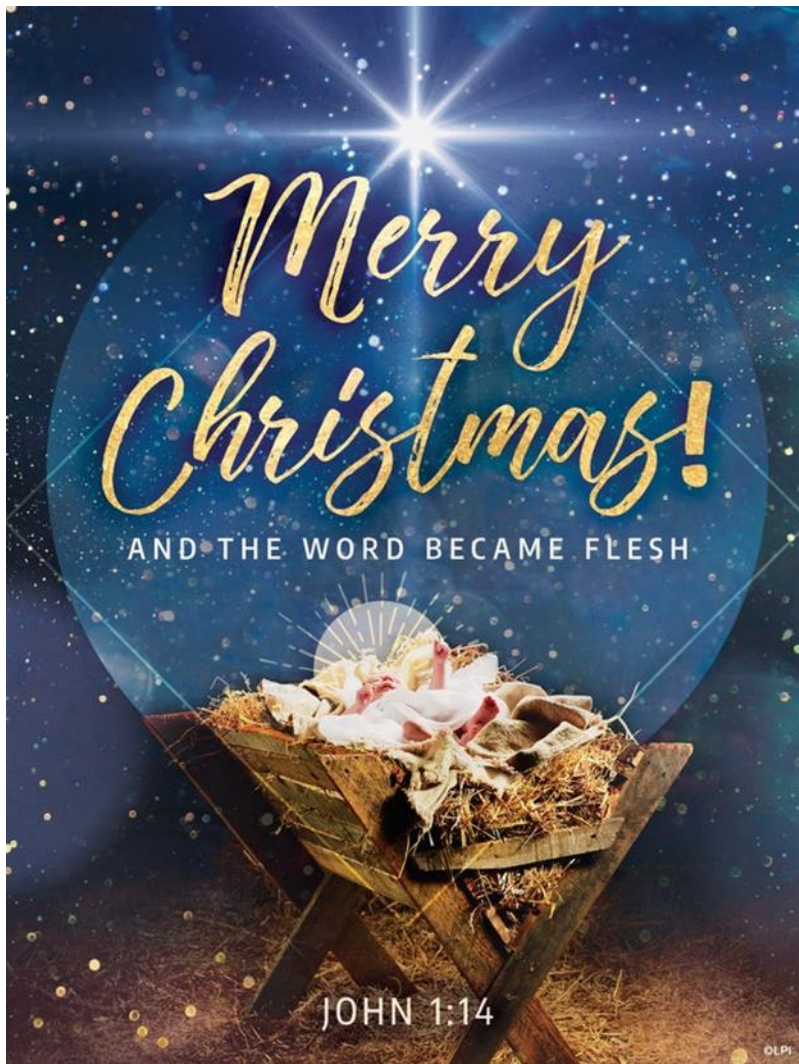


Celebration of the Eucharist
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
3:00 PM and 5:00 PM VIGIL MASS

December 24th, 2024
Great Hall



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH

INTRODUCTORY RITES

From our individual lives and situations, we gather as one family.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest

*"O Come All Ye Faithful" words and music by C. Frederick Oakeley and John Francis Wade
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GREETING

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

All: Amen

PENITENTIAL ACT

During the Penitential Act, we acknowledge the sin that affects our relationship with God, ourselves, others, and the world around us. We seek Christ's healing love and forgiveness in order that we might be transformed.

Presider: Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you are the eternal Word of God, in unapproachable light:

Deacon : Lord, have mercy.

All : Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you took flesh in the womb of the Virgin:

Deacon: Christ have mercy.

All : Christ have mercy.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you reconcile us to the Father and to one another:

Deacon: Lord, have mercy.

All : Lord, have mercy.

Presider: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen.

CHRISTMAS GLORIA

Ancient hymn by which the Church, gathered in Holy Spirit, glorifies, and entreats God the Father and the Lamb.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

COLLECT

Presider: O God, who gladden us year by year
As we wait in hope for our redemption,
Grant that, just as we joyfully welcome
your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,
we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All : Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Through the Scriptures, we receive teaching, correction, and training in righteousness. We are guided and instructed in faith and in how to live in right relationship with God, others, ourselves, and creation.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62: 1 - 5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89

Arranged by Chris Martin

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations. **R:**

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.
At your name they rejoice all the day,
and through your justice they are exalted. **R:**

He shall say of me, "You are my father,
my God, the rock, my savior."
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm. **R:**

SECOND READING

Acts of the Apostles 13: 16 - 17, 22 - 25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia and entered the synagogue, he stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Fellow Israelites and you others who are God-fearing, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt. With uplifted arm he led them out of it. Then he removed Saul and raised up David as king; of him he testified, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.' From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not him. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.'"

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION- ALLELUIA

GOSPEL

Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

For the nurturing of Christian life. An explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture taking into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The whole gathered people honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith by pronouncing the rule of faith before the celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist.

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

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. (Pause while all genuflect)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Petitions are offered for the holy Church, for those who govern in authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for the salvation of the whole world.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ instituted the Paschal Sacrifice and banquet, by which the Sacrifice of the Cross is continuously made present in the Church whenever the Priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord himself did and handed over to his disciples to be done in his memory.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS/OFFERTORY

The altar, or Lord's table, which is the center of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, is made ready.

We give thanks to God for our many blessings and bring gifts to the Altar. This is also the time of the Mass reserved to make our donation. For your convenience, you can scan the QR code provided here for our new online giving platform, PushPay. Thank you for your generosity.



Oh, Holy Night

O holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night
Of our dear Savior's birth

Long lay the world
In sin and error pining
'Til He appeared
And the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope
The weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks
A new and glorious morn

**Fall on your knees O hear the angel voices
O night divine O night when Christ was born**

O night divine O night O night divine

Truly He taught us
To love one another
His law is love
And His gospel is peace

Chains shall He break
For the slave is our brother
And in His name
All oppression shall cease

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

All: May the Lord accept the 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

Presider: As we look forward, O Lord,
To the coming festivities,
May we serve you all the more eagerly
For knowing that in them
You make manifest the beginnings of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The center and high point of the entire celebration begins. The whole congregation of the faithful join with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of the Sacrifice.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The congregation joins in song with the heavenly powers.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

Memorial Acclamation

All: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again

CONSECRATION

The Holy Spirit transforms the gifts on the altar into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Christ's sacrifice also enters our hearts as we participate in it, that we might come to know and model the love that is present in the sacrifice.

DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN

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.

All: Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The congregation praises the Father, prays for the coming of his Kingdom on earth, and recalls the need for reconciliation to God and others.

**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.**

THE RITE OF PEACE

The Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their unity and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament.

Presider: 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.

All: Amen.

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon or Priest: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: 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.

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

COMMUNION

The faithful are made one body by receiving Communion from the one Bread of Life, which is Christ, who for the salvation of the world died and rose again.

As Catholics, we recognize the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Those who are not Catholic or those Catholics who cannot now receive Communion, may come forward during the Communion Procession and receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest. This indicates to any Minister of Communion that you are receiving a blessing rather than Holy Communion.

God With Us

You've come to bring peace
To be love to be nearer to us
You've come to breathe life
To be light to shine brighter in us

Oh, Emmanuel God with us

**Our Deliverer
You are Savior
In Your presence
We find our strength
Over everything
Our redemption
God with us
You are God with us**

You've come to be hope
To this world
For Your honor and name
You've come to take sin
To bear shame
And to conquer the grave

You are here
You are holy
We are standing
In Your glory

*"God With Us" words and music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan © 2012 Integrity's Praise!
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THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Grant, O Lord, we pray,
That we may draw new vigor
From celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
By whose heavenly mystery we receive
Both food and drink,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we live out our baptismal consecration in the world. Renewed by the Eucharist, we are sent back into our daily lives to transform our communities and world. Mass is complete after the last Hymn is sung. Out of respect we ask you to remain in your pew until after the recessional is completed.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

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All included explanations are from the *Roman Missal* and/or UCSSB website.

“May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like Him, who at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.” (St. John Henry Newman)

Merry Christmas.

St Francis of Assisi - Priests, Deacons, and Pastoral Team