

**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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**THE THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

**14 DECEMBER 2025**

# ORDER OF MASS

## PRELUDE

*Vigil* March upon Handel's *Lift Up Your Heads* from the Messiah  
10:30  
12:00  
9:00 Ricercare

Alexandre Guilmant  
(1837–1911)

Johann Froberger  
(1616–1667)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; Be - hold the
2. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
3. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
4. Come, Sav - ior, come with us a - bide; Our hearts to



King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is draw - ing  
rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and hap - py  
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
you we o - pen wide: Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
homes To whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
on, Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

### GREETING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
Assembly: And with your spirit.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Assembly: I confess to almighty God,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Assembly: Amen.

The musical notation is arranged in three rows, each with two staves. The first staff of each row is for the Cantor, and the second is for the Assembly. The music is in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Cantor:* Lord, have mer - cy. *Assembly:* Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

(Choir) *Mass of Saint Louis*  
Kyrie eleison

Frank Speller  
(1938–2017)

## COLLECT

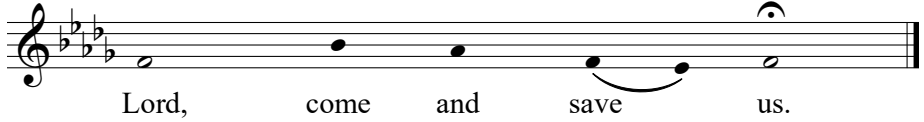
# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## READING I

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

## PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10

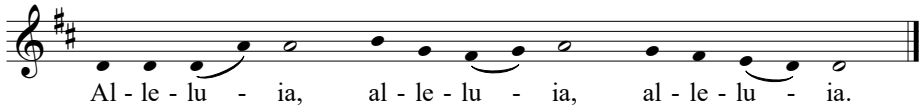


## READING II

James 5:7–10

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 61:1



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

## HOMILY

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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,

*(All bow during these two lines.)*

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

#### GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

#### THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS



1. Come, O long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, Born to set your  
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, You, the hope of  
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and  
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our



peo - ple free: From our fears and sins re - lease us;  
all the earth, Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion.  
yet a king! Born to reign in us for ev - er.  
hearts a - lone: By your all suf - fi - cient mer - it



Free us from cap - tiv - i - ty.  
Come, and save us by your birth.  
Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.  
Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

(Choir) *Radix Jesse*

Jacob Handl  
(1550–1591)

*Radix Jesse,  
qui exurget judicare gentes:  
in eum gentes sperabunt.  
Et erit nomen eius benedictum  
in sæcula sæculorum.*

The root of Jesse,  
who will rise up to judge the nations:  
in him the Gentiles will hope.  
And his name shall be blessed  
for ever and ever.

*(Responsory at Matins for the Third Sunday of Advent)*

PREFACE DIALOGUE

PREFACE ACCLAMATION

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, hea-ven and  
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

GREAT AMEN

A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

COMMUNION RITE

LORD’S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION**

### **For Catholics**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

### **For Our Fellow Christians**

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

### **For Non-Christians**

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

### **For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion**

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1996

## LITANY AT THE BREAKING OF BREAD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

(Choir) *Mass of Saint Louis*  
Agnus Dei

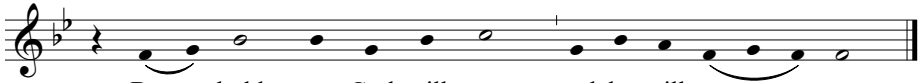
Frank Speller  
(1938–2017)

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

(Isaiah 35:4)

## COMMUNION PROCESSION



Be - hold, our God will come, and he will save us.

(Choir) *Lord, We Beseech Thee*

Adrian Batten  
(1591–1637)

Lord, we beseech thee, give ear unto our prayers,  
and by thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts,  
by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Choir) *Rejoice in the Lord alway*

Anonymous  
(16th century)

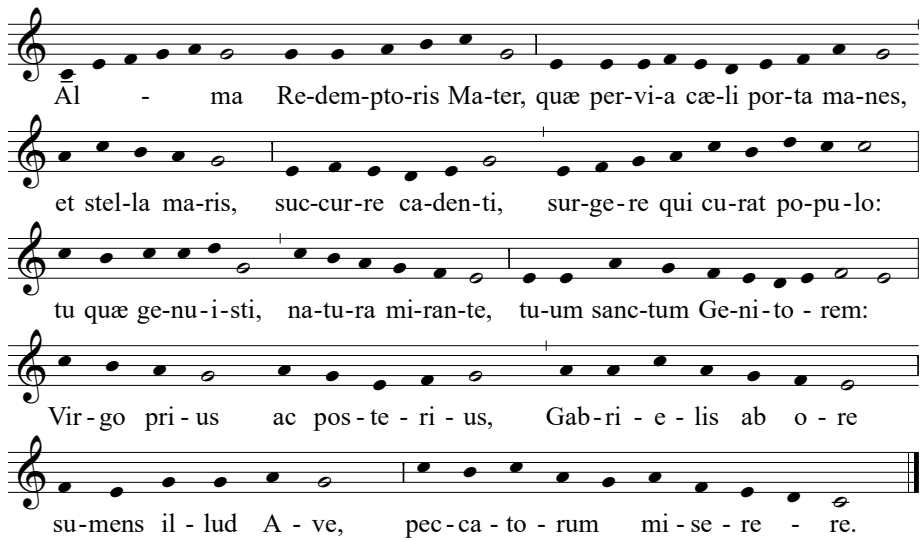
Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.  
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,  
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

(Philippians 4:4–7,  
*Introit for the Third Sunday of Advent*)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

## MARIAN ANTIPHON (at Noon Mass)

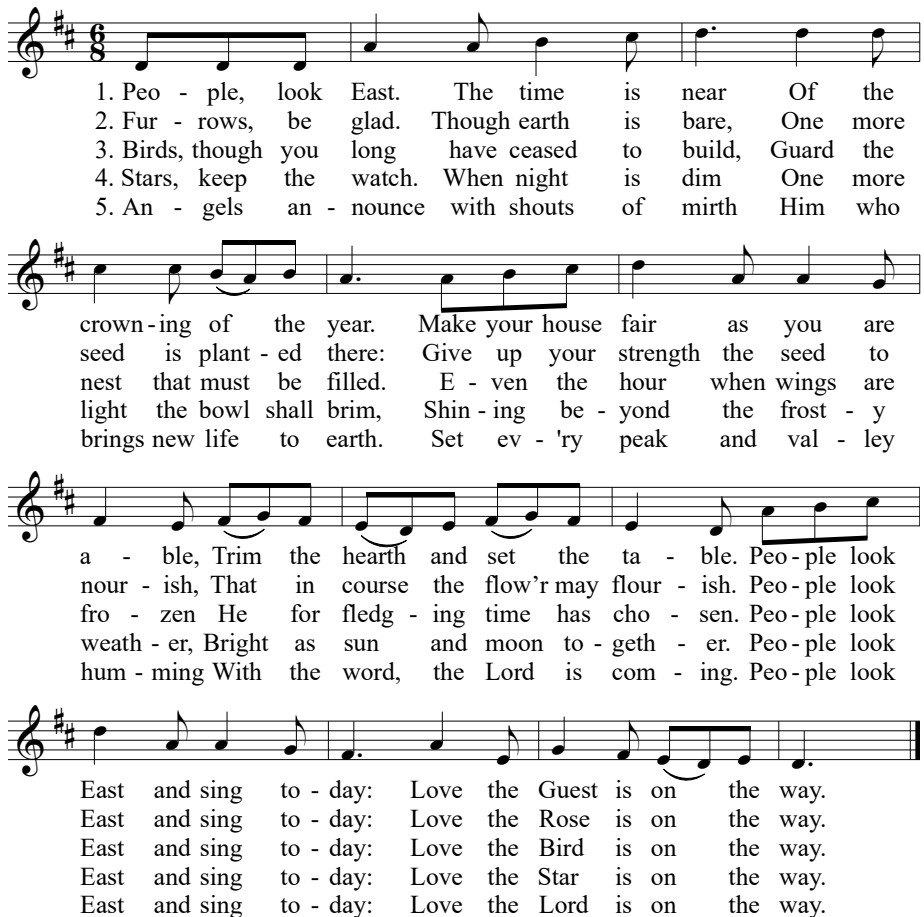


Al - ma Re-dem-pto-ris Ma-ter, quæ per-vi-a cæ-li por-ta ma-nes,  
 et stel-la ma-ris, suc-cur-re ca-den-ti, sur-ge-re qui cu-rat po-pu-lo:  
 tu quæ ge-nu-i-sti, na-tu-ra mi-ran-te, tu-um sanc-tum Ge-ni-to - rem:  
 Vir-go pri-us ac pos-te - ri - us, Gab-ri - e - lis ab o - re  
 su-mens il - lud A - ve, pec-ca - to - rum mi - se - re - re.

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gate by which we mortals enter heaven,  
 and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise: You who gave birth,  
 amazing nature, to your sacred Creator: Virgin prior and following,  
 taking from the mouth of Gabriel that Hail! have mercy on our sins.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*We ask you to respect our custom of standing in place  
 and singing the complete Recessional Hymn.*



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more  
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth Him who  
 crown-ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there: Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley  
 a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look  
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple look  
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple look  
 weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple look  
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple look  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Rose is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Star is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

**SUNG VESPERS AT THE BASILICA**  
*We invite you to join us in celebrating Sung Vespers*  
**Sundays in Advent at 4:00 P.M.**  
4:30 P.M. Mass following

December 14, 21  
Great Upper Church

*All are welcome to this special celebration of  
Evening Prayer during the Season of Advent*



**RORATE MASS**  
December 19, 2025 ♦ 7:00 A.M.

**REVEREND MONSIGNOR WALTER R. ROSSI**  
Rector of the Basilica  
*Celebrant and Homilist*  
Crypt Church

*All are welcome to the celebration of the ancient and beloved  
Advent tradition of the Rorate Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother*



**IN CONCERT**  
***Follow the Star: Choral Music for the Christmas Season***  
Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
Peter Latona, *conductor*

**December 20, 2025 ♦ 6:00 P.M.**  
Great Upper Church  
*Free and open to the public*



**BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI**

On Sunday, December 21, following the 4:30 p.m. Mass, the Basilica will hold the “Blessing of the Bambinelli” and the Blessing and Lighting of the Christmas Tree in the Hall of American Saints on the lower level. We invite you to bring the Baby Jesus from your Nativity Scene to be blessed in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.



**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
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Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi  
*Rector of the Basilica*

Rev. Msgr. Vito A. Buonanno  
Rev. Ismael N. Ayala  
Rev. Raymond A. Lebrun, O.M.I.  
*Priests of the Basilica*

Deacon Joseph Pak  
Deacon Timothy Wolfkill  
Deacon Yannick Allepot  
*Deacons*

Peter Latona, D.M.A., *Director of Music*  
Benjamin J. LaPrairie, M.M., *Associate Director of Music*  
Adam S. Chlebek, M.M., *Assistant Director of Music*  
Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine

Liturgical Ministers of the Basilica of the National Shrine  
Knights of Columbus, Ushers of the Basilica of the National Shrine  
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Sacristans of the Basilica of the National Shrine

*We ask that you help us to preserve a reverent atmosphere  
by turning off all pagers, cellular phones and  
other electronic devices while at the Basilica.*

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are located at the front entrances on the lower level next to the Cafeteria.

To make a secure contact-free donation online in support of the National Shrine,  
please scan the following QR code using the camera on your smartphone or device:



Thank you for your generosity and support of Mary's Shrine!

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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