



*Follow the Star*

THE CHOIR OF THE  
BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025  
6:00 P.M.



**O**ur Lord Jesus Christ received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration was borne to him from the Majestic Glory: *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”* We ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. This confirms the message of the Prophets more fully for us. You would do well to pay close attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the *Morning Star* rises in your heart.

— *The Second Epistle of Saint Peter 1:17–19*



# Follow the Star

## CHORAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine  
of the Immaculate Conception

Peter Latona, *conductor*  
Benjamin LaPrarie and Adam Chlebek, *organists*  
Hunter Chase, *carillonneur*

### ORGAN PRELUDE

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223  
(*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*)

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(c. 1637–1707)



### OF A ROSE

Cecilia McDowall  
(b. 1951)

Listen, lordlings, old and young,  
How this rose began to spring;  
Such a rose to mine liking  
In all this world ne know I non. Alleluia.

*In all this world I know not one.*

The aungel came fro heavene tour  
To greet Mary with gret honour,  
Said she should bear the flour  
That should breke the fiendes bond. Alleluia.

*The angel came from heaven's tower  
great honor  
flow'r  
break the fiend's bond*

The flower spring in high Bethlem,  
That is both bright and schen:  
The rose is Mary, hevене queen,  
Out of her the blosme sprong. Alleluia.

*shining  
heaven's  
blossom sprung*

The ferste braunche is full of might, That sprong on Christmas night, The sterre shone over Bethlem bright That is bothe brod and long. Alleluia.	<i>first branch sprung star both broad</i>
The secunde braunche sprong to helle, The fiendes power down to felle: Therein might non soul dwelle; Blyss'd be the time that rose sprong! Alleluia.	<i>second branch sprung to hell fiend's power down to fell no soul dwell Blest ... sprung</i>
The thredde braunche is good and swote, It sprang to hevене, crop and rote, There to dwell and ben our bote; Ev'ry day it schewit in prystes hond. Alleluia.	<i>third branch is good and sweet heaven, stem and root, bring our salvation it is shown in priest's hand</i>

*(15th century English)*

BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE, ISABELLA

Peter Latona  
*(b. 1968)*

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, bring a torch to the cradle, run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born and Mary's calling:  
*Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother! Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Child!*

It is wrong while the Child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud,  
Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus:  
*Hush! Hush! See how fast he slumbers! Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps!*

Through the doorway softly filing, to his manger bed we come,  
Torches glowing the Babe discloses fair as snow with cheeks like roses!  
*Soft! Soft! See how the infant slumbers! Soft! Soft! Watch the infant sleep.*

Skies are glowing, the heavens are cloudless, brighten the path to the manger bed,  
Hasten all who would see the Child Jesus, shining bright as yonder star.  
*Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother! Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Child!*

*(Recueil de Noël en langue Provençal, 1856,  
st. 1–2, tr. Edward Cuthbert Nunn, 1868–1914,  
st. 3–4, tr. Stephen Charman, b. 1950)*

NO SMALL WONDER

Paul Edwards  
(b. 1955)

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
but stable and manger for God – no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense, the myrrh to adore;  
but God gives his life on a cross – no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
the power, the glory, the light of his face;  
but all to redeem my poor heart – no small wonder!

(Paul Wigmore, b. 1925)

QUEM VIDISTIS PASTORES, DICITE

Francis Poulenc  
(1899–1963)

*Quem vidistis pastores, dicite:  
annuntiate nobis in terris quis apparuit.  
Natum vidimus et chorus angelorum collaudantes Dominum.  
Dicite quidnam vidistis et annuntiate Christi nativitatem.*

Whom did you see, shepherds, speak to us!  
Tell us who has appeared upon the earth.  
We say the Newborn, and the choirs of angels together praising God.  
Tell us what you saw and announce the birth of Christ.

(Antiphon I, Lauds of Christmas Day)

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at his blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth he came  
That we with him might dwell.

*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*(Frederick Herman Martens, 1874–1932)*

*Corbin Phillips, baritone*

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Traditional English Carol  
arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightaway this blessed babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Traditional English Carol  
arr. Walford Davies (1869–1941)

The holly and the ivy  
When they are both full grown;  
Of all the trees that are in the wood  
The holly bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom  
As white as any flower;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Savior.

The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.

SEEK HIM THAT MAKETH THE SEVEN STARS

Jonathan Dove  
(b. 1959)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion  
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.  
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,  
the night is light about me. Amen.

*(Amos 5:8; Psalm 139)*

PUER NATUS IN BETHLEHEM

Medieval Latin Christmas hymn  
arr. P. Latona

Puer natus in Bethlehem, alleluia,  
Unde gaudet Jerusalem,  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia.  
Exult with joy, Jerusalem,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

In cordis jubilo,  
Christum natum adoremus.  
Cum novo cantico.

*New songs of joy we sing!*  
*Christ is born: O come adore him.*  
*Bring praises to your King.*

*Assumpsit carnem Filius, alleluia,*  
*Dei Patris altissimus,*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

The Father's Word on high did take, alleluia,  
Exult with joy, Jerusalem,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*In carne nobis similis, alleluia,*  
*Peccato sed dissimilis,*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Our feeble flesh and his the same, alleluia.  
Our sinless brother he became,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Hic iacet in præsepio, alleluia,*  
*Qui regnat sine termino,*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Lo, he who reigns above the skies, alleluia,  
There in a lowly manger lies,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*In hoc natali gaudio, alleluia,*  
*Benedicamus Domino,*  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Rejoicing in the holy birth, alleluia,  
We praise our God who came to earth,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

GREENSLEEVES  
*Traditional English song*

What Child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

*(William Chatterton Dix, 1837–1898)*

A STAR SHALL RISE  
*from Christus, Op. 97*

Felix Mendelssohn  
*(1809–1847)*

A star shall rise up out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall come out of Israel.  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.  
A star shall rise up out of Jacob.  
As bright the morning gleams.  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
of light and consolation!  
Thy Word, O Lord, Radiance darting,  
Truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!

*(Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9, Christian Charles Josias von Bunsen, 1791–1860,  
adapt. Don H. Razej, 1924–1979)*

*Noël!*

This night there is a child y-born,  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn,  
We must sing and say therefor:

*Verbum caro factum est.*

Christmas!

The Word was made flesh.

Jesus is the childes name,  
And Mary mild is his dame,  
All sorrow is turned to game:

*Verbum caro factum est.*

The Word was made flesh.

It fell upon the high midnight,  
The stars they shone both fair and bright,  
The angels sang with all their might:

*Verbum caro factum est.*

The Word was made flesh.

Now kneel we down upon our knee  
and pray we to the Trinity,  
our help, our succor for to be:

*Verbum caro factum est.*

The Word was made flesh.

*Noël!*

Christmas!

*(15th-century English carol)*

*Zachary Wilson, tambour*

ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING

Medieval Latin song  
arr. P. Latona

On this day earth shall ring,  
With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.

*Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Therefore: glory to God in the highest!

His the doom, ours the mirth;  
when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
ox and ass beside him  
from the cold would hide him.

God's bright star, o'er his head,  
Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

*Personent hodie  
Voces puerulae  
Laudantes iucunde  
Qui nobis est natus,  
Summo Deo datus,  
Et de virgineo  
Ventre procreates.*

On this day earth shall ring,  
With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.  
He was born unto us  
of a lowly virgin.

On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*(Piae Cantiones, 1582, tr. Jane M. Joseph, 1894–1929)*

MARY'S LULLABY (SILENT NIGHT)

Fredrik Sixten (*b.* 1962) /  
Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

Sleep, my star, sleep, my child,  
Sleep, my little flower, sleep, little bird above in the sky.  
All is calm, the sky is alight.  
Sleep, my star, hush, my child, sleep, my star bird flower.

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*(Marias vaggvisa, Bo Setterlind, 1923–1991, tr. Fredrik Gildea;  
Stille nacht, Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, tr. John Freeman Young, 1820–1885)*

*Amanda Densmoor, soprano*

THE SHEPHERD'S CAROL

Bob Chilcott  
(*b.* 1955)

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,  
Watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,  
Silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,  
Larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then  
Telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,  
Our love, our hopes, ourselves, we give to your son.

*(Clive Sansom, 1910–1981)*

WE THREE KINGS

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891)  
arr. Martin Neary (b. 1940)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*(Assembly)* Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:  
Heav'n sings alleluya, Alleluya the Earth replies.

JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH  
George Frederick Handel (1685–1748)

*(Assembly)* Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.

*(Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1674–1748)*

THE CHOIR OF THE BASILICA is the resident choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, D.C.). The choir is comprised of sixteen professional singers from the greater Washington metropolitan area and is dedicated to providing excellence in sacred choral music in the context of Liturgy throughout the Liturgical Year. The choir is engaged in almost one hundred performances each year, and prepares approximately three hundred works each season drawn from the wealth of the Roman Catholic sacred music tradition. In addition to performing choral literature from the vast treasury of sacred music, the choir champions newly composed works and has given numerous premieres including Henryk Górecki's *Pod Twoją Obronę* (North American premiere) and James MacMillan's *Tota pulchra es* (world premiere).

The choir maintains an active recording schedule and their performances have been broadcast throughout the world on the Eternal Word Television Network, NPR, WAOB Radio, Salt and Light Media, and the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. The choir has been featured at numerous festivals and conferences including the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome, the National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and the American Choral Directors Association.

The choir has performed for dignitaries and heads of states including during the apostolic visits of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis in 2008 and 2015 respectively.

Visit us at [www.nationalshrine.org](http://www.nationalshrine.org) and [www.facebook.com/nationalshrinemusic](http://www.facebook.com/nationalshrinemusic).



**Soprano**

Amanda Densmoor  
Katie Edelman  
Crossley Hawn  
Sara MacKimmie  
Grace Srinivasan

**Alto**

Janna Critz  
Stacey Holliday  
Amanda Palmeiro  
Charlotte Stewart

**Tenor**

Timothy Coombs  
John Mullan  
Geoffrey Silver  
John Logan Wood

**Bass**

Shreyas Patel  
Corbin Phillips  
Thomas Rust  
Carter Sligh

PETER LATONA (b. 1968) is the Music Director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the pre-eminent Marian shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Recognized as a conductor, composer, organist, improviser and teacher, he is dedicated to providing the highest standard in sacred music within the context of the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

An award-winning organist, Dr. Latona has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and the Holy Land, has presented workshops on improvisation, and has released a recording, *An Organ Pilgrimage*, on the Raven label, featuring all four pipe organs at the Basilica. In 2012 he performed to an audience of one thousand having been invited as a featured artist for the *Festspiele Europäische Wochen* in Passau, Germany.

As the conductor of the Choir of the Basilica, he has released numerous recordings of sacred choral music and presented concerts in the United States and abroad, performing nationally for the American Guild of Organists, National Pastoral Musicians Association, Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedrals, and Church Music Association of America, and internationally as a featured conductor in the *Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra*. Among his recently completed recording projects are *Tu es Petrus: A Papal Tribute in Music*, which commemorated the Papacy of Pope Benedict XVI and celebrated the Petrine ministry of Pope Francis, and *Te Deum: The Sacred Music of Peter Latona*, which was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and features many of the works composed by Dr. Latona for the National Shrine.

Dr. Latona's compositions are published by Morningstar Music Publishers as well as CanticaNOVA Publications and G.I.A. His music has been featured in various media productions including Bishop Barron's well-known series, *Catholicism*. He recently won first prize in a composition competition sponsored by the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians for his *Priests of God/Servants of God* and *Go into All the World*. He has received commissions from the Knights of Columbus and the Dioceses of Wheeling-Charleston and Helena, as well as by the Archdioceses of Washington, New York and Philadelphia. His music was performed during the Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the United States in 2008 and in each city visited by Pope Francis during his 2015 Apostolic Visit to the United States. In recognition of this accomplishment, Dr. Latona was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal by Pope Francis. Most recently, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians recognized Dr. Latona as the 2026 Pastoral Musician of the Year for his dedication to providing the highest standard in sacred music within the context of the Roman Catholic liturgy.

Dr. Latona has also served on the composition faculty of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Latona's teachers include Gerre Hancock, McNeil Robinson, Thomas Murray, and Jean Langlais; he is a graduate of Bucknell University (B. Mus.), the Yale School of Music (M. Mus.), and the Manhattan School of Music (D.M.A.).



BENJAMIN LAPRAIRIE (b. 1981) serves as Associate Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Since 2011, he has assisted in the leadership of the music department and has regularly accompanied daily, Sunday, and other special Masses throughout the year. Notable liturgies include the Canonization Mass of Saint Junípero Serra, celebrated by Pope Francis, and the Funeral Mass of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In May of 2019, Benjamin performed with the Choir of the Basilica in concerts and liturgies in Rome for the commemoration of 35 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. Previous posts include Principal Organist at Saint Dominic Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., and Director of Music at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Saint Charles, Illinois.

As a composer, Benjamin's works have been performed by the Choir, Brass, and Orchestra of the Basilica, and have been recorded and broadcast worldwide on EWTN, Salt & Light Media, and CatholicTV. His setting of *Christus Vincit* was premiered upon the entrance of Pope Francis into the Great Upper Church of the National Shrine in September of 2015. Recent works include a setting of *Ye Sons and Daughters* for the Choir and Orchestra of the Basilica, and a setting of *Joy to the World* for the choirs and orchestra of The Catholic University of America. Upcoming commissions include a choral and brass setting of *ISTE CONFESSOR* for the Diocese of Orange, California. As an organist, Benjamin has performed throughout the United States and abroad, and has been featured as a soloist with the Pine Mountain Music Festival, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Eccles Organ Festival at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Sacra Liturgia Conference at Saint Patrick Seminary in San Francisco, California, the Cathedral Concert Series at Saint Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and the Festival Organistico Internazionale della città di Alba, Italy.

A native of Michigan, Benjamin is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance, where he studied organ with Robert Glasgow. He received a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied organ with John Walker, and was the recipient of the Bruce R. Eicher Prize in Organ. In the fall of 2019, Benjamin was appointed Lecturer in Organ at The Catholic University of America Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, and in the spring of 2024, he joined the music faculty of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. Since 2022, Benjamin has been a member of the board of the Catholic Sacred Music Project, under the patronage of Robert Cardinal Sarah.



**ADAM CHLEBEK** (b. 2000) serves as the Assistant Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A Polish American from Chicago, Illinois, he completed his Master of Music in Organ Performance at the Eastman School of Music in the studio of Nathan Laube. He earned second prize at the 2022 Taylor Organ Competition and was a finalist in the 2024 Elizabeth Stephens International Organ Competition. Adam has performed throughout the United States and Poland and has participated in masterclasses with organists Janette Fishell, William Porter, and Arvid Gast. In 2022, he served as the first Sacred Music Intern at the Basilica.

Adam is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he earned his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance with Jonathan Moyer; there, he also focused on choral singing and conducting. He sang in the Oberlin Musical Union, under the direction of Gregory Ristow, and Collegium Musicum, under the direction of Steven Plank; and studied choral conducting with Jodi Kerchner and Ben Johns. Adam likewise participated as a jazz pianist in Oberlin's Performance and Improvisation Ensemble, performing with Jamey Haddad, Jay Ashby, and Becca Stevens, among others.

As a Catholic musician, Adam previously served as the Director of Music at Saint Thomas More Parish in Rochester, New York, and at Saint James Parish in Lakewood, Ohio, and sang in the acclaimed Christ Church Schola Cantorum under the direction of Stephen Kennedy.



BASILICA *of the* NATIONAL SHRINE *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Peter J. Latona, D.M.A.  
*Director of Music*

Benjamin J. LaPrairie, M.M.  
*Associate Director of Music*

Adam Chlebek, M.M.  
*Assistant Director of Music*

Vincent Fung, M.M.  
*Administrative Assistant*

Crossley Hawn, M.M.  
*Choir Manager*

★ ★ ★

SUNG VESPERS AT THE BASILICA

*We invite you to join us in celebrating Sung Vespers*

**Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m.**

Great Upper Church

4:30 p.m. Mass following

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

★ ★ ★

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.

# CHRISTMAS AT THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 P.M. VIGIL MASS ♦ Great Upper Church

SOLEMN MASS AT 10:30 P.M.

*His Eminence*

**CHRISTOPHE CARDINAL PIERRE**

Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

*Principal Celebrant and Homilist*

Great Upper Church

*Broadcast live by the Eternal Word Television Network*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 A.M. ♦ Crypt Church

9:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M. & 4:30 P.M. ♦ Great Upper Church

SOLEMN MASS AT NOON

*His Eminence*

**ROBERT CARDINAL McELROY**

Archbishop of Washington

Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Great Upper Church

*Broadcast live by the Eternal Word Television Network*

MISA SOLEMNE (EN ESPAÑOL) A LAS 2:30 P.M.

*Su Excelencia*

**REVERENDÍSIMO EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA**

Obispo Auxiliar de Washington

*Celebrante Principal y Homilista*

Gran Iglesia Superior

*Transmitido en vivo por EWTN Español*

*(Please note: No Scheduled Confessions on Christmas Day)*

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★ ★ ★

**THIS CONCERT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF  
MRS. M. FRANCES WEINER IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND,  
BENJAMIN “BEN” WEINER (1927–2021).**

**BEN, A LONG-TIME FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR OF MARY’S SHRINE,  
ESPECIALLY LOVED THE SHRINE CHOIR.**

★ ★ ★

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