

# Welcome to St. Mary's! Merry Christmas!

This pamphlet will be used for our Christmas Celebrations on Midnight and on Christmas Day. Please follow along by the information below.

Page 1-4 – Announcements

Page 5-10 – Midnight Mass

Page 11-15 – Christmas Day Mass

## St. Mary's

Polish National Catholic Church

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## The Solemnity of our Lord's Nativity



Christmas Day

December 25, 2016

TO OUR VISITORS – We welcome you to St. Mary's today. Please consider joining us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. We hope you enjoyed your time with us and plan on worshipping with us again.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SATURDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>– Christmas Eve

11:30pm – Choir Concert of Carols

Midnight – Pasterka – Shepherd's Mass (Contemporary Mass)

Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14

Lector – Natalie Soltysiak

Greeters – Martha Repede

Collectors – Anyone Available

### SUNDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup>– Christmas Day

10am – Holy Mass of Christmas Day (Traditional Mass)

Readings: Isaiah 62:11-2, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-14

Lector – Bob Samelson

Greeters – Anyone Available

Collectors – Bob Samelson

### MONDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Stephen's Day

9am – St. Stephen's Day Mass

### TUESDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup> – St. John's Day

10am – St. John's Day Holy Mass

- The traditional blessing and distribution of wine

### WEDNESDAY, December 28<sup>th</sup>

9am – Mass for the Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

### THURSDAY, December 29<sup>th</sup>

6-8pm – Women's AA meets

### FRIDAY, December 30<sup>th</sup>

### SATURDAY, December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve

9am – Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Family

5pm – Litany and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

### SUNDAY, January 1<sup>st</sup> – Solemnity of the Circumcision of Jesus

9am Contemporary Rite

11am: dla parafia

Readings: Genesis 17:9-14, Galatians 5:3-6, Luke 2:21

Lector – TBA

Greeters – Ron Ference & Claire Hunek

Collectors – John Kobalka & John Kasperczyk

- Coffee Hour follows 9am Holy Mass

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** – Humble thanks to everyone who kept us in your prayers this Christmas holiday. It is a blessing to be here with you celebrating the birth of our Savior; your cards, gifts, and kindness were truly a blessing to both of us. *Fr. Jason & Natalie*

**PTO NEWS** – Thank you to everyone who supported last Sunday's PTO Christmas Party.

The donuts, bagels and etc. were delicious, the company was wonderful, and the prizes were fun! Also, thank you to the members of the PTO who worked for months to prepare for this day – your phone calls, diligence, and work to provide for your fellow parishioners echoes that true Christmas Spirit.

**CHOIR CONCERT** – Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's Choir Concert at St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church. We had a nice delegation of parishioners support our singers and instrumentalists. Pictures have been posted to our website and Facebook page, and videos were recorded and posted live as well.

**CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES!** – Please make sure to check your mail pouches, as many Christmas Cards are still waiting to be delivered.

**THANK YOU**– To all who participated in the Love of God Sodality cookie exchange. An enjoyable night of refreshments, games, music, and, of course, cookies, was shared by a number of Sodality members and supporters.

**WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE** – The United YMSofR is calling for all parishes in the PNCC to have a winter clothing drive. Branch #29 would like to make sure we participate! Please see the flyers posted about how we can provide in this church-wide event. A bin has been placed in the Fellowship Hall, awaiting your donations.

**THIS MONTH**– Parishioner Gene Stepanik gave a presentation on Cuyahoga Valley National Park. 18 people were in attendance. Thanks to all who entered, but especially to Gene, who was well-prepared and gave an insightful and professional presentation.

**WYSTAWIENIE/BENEDICTION** – This Saturday, on New Year's Eve, we will have a Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament as well as Benediction/Exposition to close out our services of 2016. As we will be doing this to close the year we will forgo this on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>. Please come to honor Christ present in the Sacrament at this afternoon service or on New Year's Day, as we celebrate our normal Sunday Mass schedule

### **UPCOMING**

Dec 27 –Parish Comm. Mtg  
Jan 6 – Epiphany  
Jan 8 – Officer Installation  
Jan 8 – Bowling Sunday  
Jan 8 – Hall Rental  
Jan 22 – Bowling Sunday  
Jan 29 – Annual Meeting

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**– Congratulations to all elected to parish positions at the Election of Officers meeting this past Sunday. We will have a formal installation service at 9am Mass on Sunday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHEDULING MASSES** – As the New Year approaches, please be aware that Masses are open to be scheduled for 2017. Some dates have been filled, so if there is a date you normally keep, please make sure to inform Fr. Jason in person, via email, or by phone. Thanks!

## **Prayer List**

### **Please pray for these St. Mary's parishioners:**

Barbara Baranowski	Len Pryer	John Spilka
Bill & Joan Kastak	Marty Bengela	Ralph & June Zaun
Stan Dobrowski	Anna Dawidziuk	Frank Dominik
Craig & Judy Atherton	Mary Ann Loschelder	Alison Jambor
Chester & Helen Budney	Floyd & Elaine Rzonca	Amy Dreger
Chester & Ann Warzala	Hilda Grabowski	Louise Cygan
Pat Glatzer	Tom Petrie	

### **Please pray for family and friends of St. Mary's:**

Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill	Michael Cosevin
Helen Cummings	Jane Hunter	Baby Emma
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar	David Vaden
Joemel Rollen	Anne Komorowski	Jennifer Knitt
Laina Dachtal	Bp. Stanley Bilinski	Bp. John Mack
Cherise Pacanovsky	Bp. John Swantek	Cecelia Hall
Fr. Gus Sicard	Sandra Kazinetz	Chris Minch
Elsa Vogl de Gomez	Edna Samelson	Jason Dreger
Wanda Heffner	Bryson Dzuroff	Donna Micka
Chet Nezelkewicz	Rich Dombrowski	Greg Soucie
Coleen Howard	Bp. Thomas Gnat	George Pofok
Mark & Kim Andreas	Caroline O'Connor	Barbara Thome
Jeannie Bartko Muran	Marcus Vaughn Jr.	Doris Repede
Stephanie Milla	John Clark Sr.	Johanna Markiewicz
Abby Sobolewski	Al Tomasello	Muffie B.
Dan Colwell	Shannon Alberino	Brian Sidle
Mike Curran		

### **Also those who are in nursing homes or assisted living:**

Shirley Paulus	Gene Mora	Polly Gajda
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ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY NEEDING HEALING  
ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

**Lord, bring all service personnel safely home!!!**

**Bless them, O Lord.**

**Poblogoslaw im, O Boze**

## MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE SHEPHERDS – PASTERKA

December 25

*Prior to the beginning of Mass, assistants will come up to the edge of each aisle, bringing the lit flame to the candles you were handed upon your arrival. This is the Light of Christ, which will symbolically be brought from the Congregation to the Christ Candle on the altar. Please, everyone leave your candles lit until after the Christ Candle has been lighted.*



PROCESSION TO MANGER – “*Sliczna Panienska*”

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The celebrant, together with his assistants approach the crèche. The statue of the infant Christ is placed within the manger.*

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**R: Who made heaven and earth.**

C: Lord hear our prayer. **R: And let our cry come to you.**

C: The Lord be with you. **R: And also with you.**

C: Let Us Pray...Almighty God, Who on that wondrous night sent forth Your salvation, manifested in the person of Your Son, Jesus Christ, look upon Your faithful people gathered in Your church, commemorating the Nativity of our Lord in the stable in Bethlehem. Grant, we ask You, that the Savior of the World might be born again in the hearts and souls of all people. To You we sing and give praise, honor, and glory; and we ask You to instill in us godliness and holy love; strengthen our faith and grant us Your true peace – that peace which we can only find in You. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **R. AMEN.**

## CANDLE-LIGHTING HYMN

Candle, candle burning bright shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Light the Christmas candles now; sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;  
Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.

**Chr:** Candle, candle burning bright shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*The Christ Candle is then lit at the center of the Christmas Wreath  
Candles may now be extinguished in the pews*

### BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

C: Lord, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy. Lord Have mercy.**

C: **Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be...**

C: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**R: Christ is born today, glory to God in the highest.**

C: The Lord be with you. **R: And also with you.**

C: Let Us Pray...O Lord, Jesus Christ, true light that enlightens everyone; O holy Christ child, Who today will come into the hearts of all who sincerely love You; grant that we may be able to understand the message of Your enlightening Word, and that by following Your example and teachings in our daily lives, we may attain the Eternal Light of Heaven. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

*The celebrant then blesses the crèche with Holy Water and then with incense.*

*After, the celebrant leaves to change vestments. A hymn accompanies this.*

### HYMN BEFORE MASS

“*Birthday Of A King*”

### OPENING HYMN

O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant, Oh come ye O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him born the King of angels!  
Oh come let us adore Him, Oh 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 in the highest! Oh come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ The Lord

CONTEMPORARY RITE HOLY MASS  
PAGE 63 IN THE TAN MASS BOOK

HYMN AT INCENSING OF THE ALTARS

*Instrumental duet / Matthew Moritz-cello  
"The Mission/How Great Thou Art"*

THE INTROIT (*Psalm 96:103*)

C: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless His name; announce His salvation, day after day.

**R: Tell God's glory among the nations; among all peoples, God's marvelous deeds.** C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE GLORIA

THE OPENING PRAYER

LET US PRAY....Heavenly Father, You make this holy night radiant with the splendor of Jesus Christ, our light. We welcome Him as Lord, the true Light of the world. Bring us to eternal joy in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 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 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 Wonderful-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!

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**



THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Psalm 96:1-2,2-3,11-12,13*)

R/ (Lk 2:11) **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R/ **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R/ **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

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!

Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

R/ **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.

R/ **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

THE SECOND LESSON *-the letter of St. Paul to 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.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*(Please Stand)* THE ALLELUIA (*Psalm 2:7*)

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** C: I will proclaim the decree of the Lord, Who said to me, "You are My Son, today I am your Father." **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **THE GOSPEL-** *according to St. Luke (Lk 2:1-14)*

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. 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 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."

*This is the gospel of the Lord.* **R. PRAISE BE TO YOU...**

### **THE HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Songs of the angels sound from Heav'n on high! Come join the chorus praise and magnify! Glory, laud to God on High –to the Lord of earth and sky, Peace on earth below.

Wsrod Nocnej Ciszy glos sei rozchodzi; Wstancie pasterze, Bog sie wam rodzi. Czemu przedzej sie wibierajcie do Betlejem posopieszajcie, przywi tac Pana

### **THE HOMILY - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL** R: Lord, hear our prayer!

### **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

#### **THE OFFERTORY VERSE** (*Psalm 95:11, 13*)

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice before the Lord, Who comes, Who comes to govern the earth, to govern the world with justice and the peoples with faithfulness.

### **OFFERTORY HYMN** "*Pacem*"

#### **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord our God, accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation. By our communion with God-made-man, may we become more like Him, who joins our lives to You. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

#### **THE CHRISTMAS PREFACE AND THE SANCTUS (Sung)** **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #5, PAGE 92**

#### **COMMUNION HYMN** - *Choir Selection*

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*We remind everyone that our Church believes in the True Presence of the Body & Blood of Jesus Christ. Communion is received in both species: Christ's Body in the form of a wafer dipped into His Blood, the wine, and placed directly on the communicant's tongue.*

#### **POSTCOMMUNION HYMN** *Choir Selection: "Tryumfy"*

#### **THE COMMUNION VERSE** (*Psalm 110:3b*)

C: In holy splendor, before the daystar, **R: like the dew I begot you.**

#### **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**LET US PRAY...**God our Father, in receiving this Holy Eucharist we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. May we share His life completely by living as He taught. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

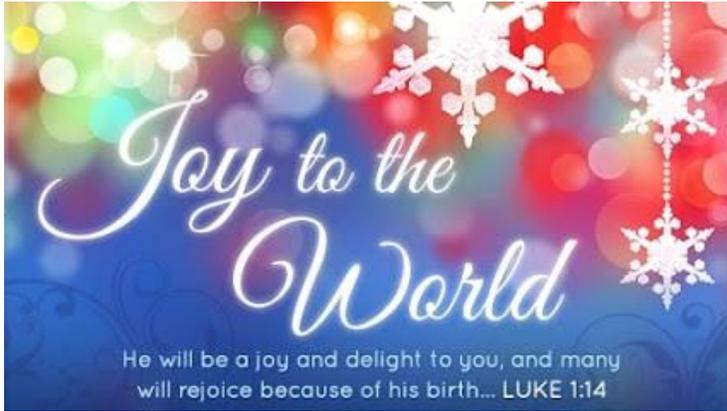
#### **DISMISSAL- SOLEMN BLESSING** (*please kneel*)

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room and Heav'n and nature sing, and Heav'n and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven 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, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love!

*We invite everyone to come up to greet the clergy and assistants in front of the church and to make a visitation to the Manger.*



# Holy Mass of Christmas Day

## THE OPENING HYMN

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.

O pójdźcie, wy wierni, z pieśniami radości, Z weselem pospieszcie do Betlehem, Pana obaczcie i króla aniołów: O pójdźcie doń z pokłonem, O pojdźcie doń z pokłonem, O pojdźcie, to wasz Zbawca, to wasz Pan.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

## 10am Holy Mass - Traditional Rite- Page 15

### THE INTROIT (*Isaiah 9:2a, 6 [NRSV]; Psalm 118: 27a, 29b*)

C: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. \* **R: The Lord is God and has given us light, Whose love endures forever.** C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## THE GLORIA THE OPENING PRAYER

**LET US PRAY**....Almighty God, the Incarnation of Your only-begotten Son has banished the darkness of this world. Through His wondrous birth, drive the darkness of sin from us, and brighten our hearts with the glory of Your grace. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON - *the book of the prophet Isaiah (62:11-12)*

See, the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called "Frequented," a city that is not forsaken.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Psalm 97:1,6,11-12*)

**R/ A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;

let the many isles be glad.

The heavens proclaim his justice,

and all peoples see his glory.

**R/ A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

Light dawns for the just;

and gladness, for the upright of heart.

Be glad in the LORD, you just,

and give thanks to his holy name.

**R/ A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

### THE SECOND LESSON - *the Letter of St. Paul to Titus (3: 4-7)*

Beloved: When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

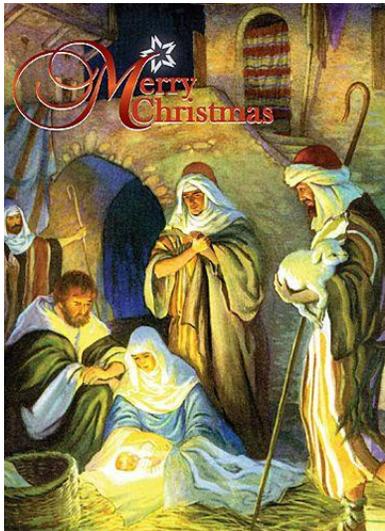
*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### THE ALLELUIA (*Psalm 97: 11*)

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** C: Light dawns for the just; gladness, for the honest of heart. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Luke (Lk 2:1-14)*  
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. 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 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.”

*This is the gospel of the Lord.* **R. PRAISE BE TO YOU...**

### THE HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (*Choir Selection*)

### THE HOMILY - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### THE OFFERTORY VERSE (*Isaiah 9:6 [NRSV]*)

For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who throned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim. Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

"As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; Angels singing peace on earth told us of the Saviour's birth". Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

#### THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Loving Father, may this offering prove worthy of this day's commemoration and be a source of peace for us. As Jesus, Who was born as man, also shared in the God-head, so may the partaking of these gifts fill us with that which is divine. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

#### THE SANCTUS (sung) and the Christmas Preface

#### THE CANON (PAGE 28)

**The Minor Elevation (31) Our Father (32) Lamb of God (33)**

## COMMUNION HYMN - *Choir Selection*

### POSTCOMMUNION HYMN

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold! Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heaven's all gracious King! The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing. And ever o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

For lo the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold, When, with the ever-circling years, shall come the Age of Gold; When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, And all the world give back the song, which now the angels sing.

### THE COMMUNION VERSE (*Zechariah 9:9a*)

C: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!

**R: See your King shall come to you, a just Savior is He.**

### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**LET US PRAY...**Lord our God, we have received the Holy Eucharist with faith and joy as we celebrate the birth of Your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches You have revealed in Him, Who is our Lord. We ask this through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

### CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

