

Saturday, 31st December: Mary Mother of God

Reflection: Mary, through whom the world would be blessed. We too bless God for Mary, who bore for us the Child she names Jesus, the Saviour.

Entrance: Organ prelude (484 O Sanctissima)

Entrance Ant.: *Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *O God, be gracious and bless us.*

Gospel Acc.: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)*

Offertory: 325 God of Eve & God of Mary

Communion Ant.: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.*

Communion: 591 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Recessional: 308 Angels We Have Heard On High

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor: Ben
Cantor: Helen
Organist: Vincent

On Leave: Ann

New Songs:
332 Angels From the
Realms of Glory

Saturday, 7th January: Epiphany

Reflection: The Father has sent Jesus as Light of the world so that all nations may be saved. Jesus' light is a light which the darkness will never overcome (John 1:5). It is man's innate reflex to move towards areas of brightness and light. But in our shame, weakness and guilt, sometimes we prefer to hide in the habit of darkness. Since the Light of Christ has been revealed to us, choose to bask in His light, and take up the challenge to also be the light of the world for others. Arise and shine out, for your light has come.



Entrance: 332 Angels From the Realms of Glory (*new)

Entrance Ant.: *Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun*

Ordinaries: *Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII*

Psalm: *All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)*

Offertory: 330 What Child Is This

Communion Ant.: *The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.*

Communion: 591 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Recessional: 333 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor:
Cantor:
Organist:
On Leave:
New Songs:

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December 2016 Year A

Sts. Peter & Paul Choir

LITURGY BITS

REFLECTIONS

MASS PLANNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Understanding Church Documents

Summary of Musicae Sacrae (Pope St. Pius XII, 1955)

The most extensive papal letter on sacred music is the encyclical *Musicae sacrae* (On Sacred Music), issued by Pope Pius XII in 1955. *Musicae sacrae* again refers to Pius X's *Tra le sollecitudini*, and upholds the principles it contains. It also repeats the Church's prohibition of secular styles of music in the Sacred Liturgy:

42. It must be holy. It must not allow within itself anything that savors of the profane nor allow any such thing to slip into the melodies in which it is expressed. The Gregorian chant which has been used in the Church over the course of so many centuries, and which may be called, as it were, its patrimony, is gloriously outstanding for this holiness.

Pope Pius XII makes it clear that, although the Church doesn't lay down "technical rules" or "laws of aesthetics," liturgical music must obey certain "laws" that apply to all forms of religious art. He calls the use of inappropriate music in the liturgy "deplorable conduct":

21. Certainly no one will be astonished that the Church is so vigilant and careful about sacred music. It is not a case of drawing up laws of aesthetics or technical rules that apply to the subject of music. It is the intention of the Church, however, to protect sacred music against anything that might lessen its dignity, since it is called upon to take part in something as important as divine worship.

22. On this score sacred music obeys laws and rules which are no different from those prescribed for all religious art and, indeed, for art in general. Now we are aware of the fact that during recent years some artists, gravely offending against Christian piety, have dared to bring into churches works devoid of any religious inspiration and completely at variance with the right rules of art. They try to justify this deplorable conduct by plausible-looking arguments which they claim are based on the nature and character of art itself. They go on to say that artistic inspiration is free and that it is wrong to impose upon it laws and standards extraneous to art, whether they are religious or moral, since such rules seriously hurt the dignity of art and place bonds and shackles on the activity of an inspired artist. ... (to be continued)

Saturday, 3rd December: 2nd Sunday of Advent
The Gloria is omitted.

Reflection: John the Baptist's message is for everyone to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord. Back then it was for the child Jesus – but now, are we to be like the Jews still awaiting for a messianic sign to come? Jesus – God and Spirit – is present in the world, though not physically, we can still see Him if we seek Him. And as He calls for us and invites us, only the heart that is ready and prepared to receive Him will hear Him in the midst of the world's busyness. Ready your heart, cleanse it from all that blocks you from hearing God's voice... prepare yourself to receive His goodness.



Entrance: 298 Wake O Wake & Sleep No Longer

Entrance Ant.: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Gospel Acc.: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)

Offertory: 278 On Jordan's Bank

Communion Ant.: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Communion: 840 Adoro Te Devote

Recessional: 279 O Come, Divine Messiah

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor: Kenneth

Cantor: Ann
Organist: NIL

On Leave: Chris

New Songs:

Saturday, 10th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent
The Gloria is omitted.

Reflection: At His coming, Christ fulfilled the expectations of the prophets. He made the blind see, the lame walk, and the lepers clean. We must not lose heart in face of all the evils of the world, for we too have a glorious expectation. John the Baptist had his faith tested when he sent his disciples to ask if Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus' answer is to give John and the people hope, to strengthen their trust in God. Have you been dejected and disappointed? Seek a friend who has a testimony to share with you about how God has been faithful in his/her life, and be encouraged that God is near you.



Entrance: Organ prelude (298 Wake O Wake & Sleep No Longer)

Entrance Ant.: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *Come, Lord, and save us.*

Gospel Acc.: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)

Offertory: 278 On Jordan's Bank

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

Communion: 572 Blessed By Your Sacrifice

Recessional: 279 O Come, Divine Messiah

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor: Kenneth

Cantor: Ann
Organist: David

On Leave: Denyse, Ben, Jacq Lim

New Songs:

Saturday, 17th December: 4th Sunday of Advent

Reflection: God's choice rested on the House of David which was to bring forth the Emmanuel, the God-with-us. But Mary's Child was to belong to the world. And by God's call, we too belong to Jesus Christ. See that God sends His revelation through various ways – prophecy, dreams, the Bible, songs, daily events, messages and conversations with people, and in our own prayer life. When things do not seem to make sense, or when it seems it has failed worldly values, look to God and see the signs He gives to you – just as He gave Mary, Joseph and Israel. God indeed is truly "With Us" – the Emmanuel



Entrance: 287 The Advent of Our King

Entrance Ant.: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

Gospel Acc.: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)

Offertory: 274 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Communion Ant.: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Communion: 650 Christ Be Beside Me

Recessional: 279 O Come, Divine Messiah

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor: Kenneth

Cantor: Denyse
Organist: NIL

On Leave: Ben, Jacq Lim

New Songs: 332 Angels From the Realms of Glory

Sunday, 25th December: The Nativity of Our Lord

Reflection: For us, the Word of God is no longer the message spoken by prophets, but the messenger of God in person, the eternal Word begotten of the Father before time began. St. Paul writes it beautifully with the letter addressed to the Hebrews when he tells us that Jesus is far greater than all the prophets and all the angels. His glory shall fill the whole earth and bring hope to where there is desolation. He will bring joy to those in sorrow. He will give peace to those in anxiety. For the love of God is no more just a story embedded in scripture, but a promise made present in Jesus.



Entrance: Organ prelude (300 O Come All Ye Faithful)

Entrance Ant.: *The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

Ordinaries: Kyrie Mass XVI, Sanctus & Agnus Dei Mass XVIII

Psalm: *Today a savior has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

Gospel Acc.: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (Jubilate Deo)

Offertory: 325 God of Eve and God of Mary

Communion Ant.: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Communion: 591 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Recessional: 303 Joy to the World

Marian Anthem: 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

Conductor: Chris

Cantor: Denyse
Organist: Kenneth

On Leave:

New Songs: