



**Reflection:** The Church is a light shining in the darkness of the world. How much more brightly would that light shine "If" we who are Christians were really like Christ? The First Reading exhorts all virtues of Christian living – not merely in a spiritual sense, but to allow the spiritual disposition to manifest in the physical expression of our faith. In our kindness & charity to others, we become witnesses of compassion to others. It is the face of Jesus we bring to others. And that is the light of hope – the Light of Christ. What good is a Christian if he is unable to be a witness of the light of Christ to others?

**Entrance:** 585 Praise To The Lord

**Entrance Ant.:** *O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.*

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

**Psalm:** *The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.*

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

**Offertory:** 641 O Christ, Our Teacher

**Communion Ant.:** *Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.*

**Communion:** 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord

**Recessional:** 594 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Marian Anthem:** Ave Regina Caelorum

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:  
Organist:**

**On Leave:**

**New Songs:**



**Reflection:** The law of Christ is unlike any human law; it contains the hidden wisdom of God. To follow God's law – as did the Pharisees – is merely following the letter of the law. But in the Gospel's fulfillment of the First Reading, we see that Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but to perfect it. Ecclesiasticus reminds us that God, as the law, will judge all of man's OUTWARD actions. Jesus reminds us that even our intentions shall be judged: for in our intentions present the truth behind our actions. Hence do not be as like the Pharisees who focus on a show of their obedience. Rather, obey God's laws in your hearts.

**Entrance:** 567 God We Praise You

**Entrance Ant.:** *Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

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

**Psalm:** *They are happy who follow God's law!*

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

**Offertory:** 647 Lord of All Hopefulness

**Communion Ant.:** *They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.*

**Communion:** 808 Shepherd of Souls

**Recessional:** 594 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Marian Anthem:** Ave Regina Caelorum

**Conductor:**

**Cantor:  
Organist:**

**On Leave:**

**New Songs:**

# January 2017 Year A

## Sts. Peter & Paul Choir

LITURGY BITS

REFLECTIONS

MASS PLANNER

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### Understanding Church Documents

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

Pius XII also states clearly that liturgical music must have "dignity," reflecting the awesome fact that the Mass is a participation in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

34. It is easy to infer from what has just been said that the dignity and force of sacred music are greater the closer sacred music itself approaches to the supreme act of Christian worship, the Eucharistic sacrifice of the altar. There can be nothing more exalted or sublime than its function of accompanying with beautiful sound the voice of the priest offering up the Divine Victim, answering him joyfully with the people who are present and enhancing the whole liturgical ceremony with its noble art.

Pius XII allowed traditional vernacular hymns to be used in the liturgy, but only if they could not be prudently removed from the practice of a particular diocese:

47. Where, according to old or immemorial custom, some popular hymns are sung in the language of the people after the sacred words of the liturgy have been sung in Latin during the solemn Eucharistic sacrifice, local Ordinaries can allow this to be done "if, in the light of the circumstances of the locality and the people, they believe that (custom) cannot prudently be removed." [Footnote 21: "Code of Canon Law, Can. 5."] The law by which it is forbidden to sing the liturgical words themselves in the language of the people remains in force, according to what has been said.

Three years later, the Sacred Congregation of Rites would issue an implementing document for *Musicae Sacrae*, which would clarify that traditional vernacular hymns could only be used in isolated parts of the liturgy, and could not be used for the actual words of the liturgy. This fits well with the principle laid down by Pope St. Pius X: that the appropriateness of a musical form for use in the liturgy is determined by its similarity to Gregorian Chant.

## Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** Kenneth  
**Cantor:** Ann  
**Organist:** Jacq Lim  
**On Leave:**  
**New Songs:**

## Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Reflection:** We celebrate the Servant of God who came to do the Father's will in perfect obedience. Yet he was more than a servant. John the Baptist calls him the Lamb, the chosen one of God. It seems that the same message is repeated over the last 2 weeks: that Jesus was revealed by the Father as the plan of salvation for all nations. The imagery that accompanies the Lamb of God is often that of a sacrifice on the altar – Jesus on the cross. While the celebrations of Christmas are still fresh in our minds, let us not forget the purpose Jesus came into the world. To be the sacrifice that saves.



**Entrance:** 585 Praise to the Lord

**Entrance Ant.:** *All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

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

**Psalm:** *Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.*

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

**Offertory:** 641 O Christ, Our Teacher

**Communion Ant.:** *You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

**Communion:** 572 Blessed By Your Sacrifice

**Recessional:** 578 All Creatures Of Our God & King

**Marian Anthem:** 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:** Ben  
**Cantor:** Kenneth  
**Organist:** Kenneth  
**On Leave:** Chris  
**New Songs:**

## Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Reflection:** The Good News we have heard is like a beacon light which draws men irresistibly to Christ. We must not be content with lesser lights. There must have been something about Jesus that draws people to Him - just as Peter, Andrew, James and John left their fishing business and their families to follow Him. Can you imagine what was going through their minds at that time? Doubts? Difficulty to leave behind a life they were familiar and comfortable with living? Yet when Jesus presented Himself and calls, their response was to follow Him. What would be YOUR response?



**Entrance:** 567 God We Praise You

**Entrance Ant.:** *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.*

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

**Psalm:** *The Lord is my light and my help.*

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

**Offertory:** 647 Lord of All Hopefulness

**Communion Ant.:** *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

**Communion:** 572 Blessed By Your Sacrifice

**Recessional:** 603 Now Thank We All Our God

**Marian Anthem:** 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:** Chris  
**Cantor:** Chris  
**Organist:** David  
**On Leave:**  
**New Songs:**

## Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Chinese New Year)

**Reflection:** We celebrate our nothingness in the eyes of the world, because God has looked on our humility and lowliness and given us the wisdom, virtue and holiness of Christ. He alone is our boast. The word "Beatitudes" mean "happiness" in Latin. When we pour ourselves out and are able to embrace the various facets of suffering that life brings, Jesus assures that He will be the one who comforts and shelters us. When we can look beyond our earthly pain, and find God in our suffering, perhaps, it would give us a glimpse of the "happiness" in the Beatitudes.



**Entrance:** 570 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

**Entrance Ant.:** *Save us, O Lord, our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.*

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

**Psalm:** *How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

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

**Offertory:** 699 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

**Communion Ant.:** *Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.*

**Communion:** 454 Draw Near & Take the Body of the Lord

**Recessional:** 603 Now Thank We All Our God

**Marian Anthem:** 471 Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Conductor:** Kenneth  
**Cantor:** Denyse  
**Organist:** Jacq  
**On Leave:** Ann, David  
**New Songs:**