



**Saint Thomas More**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

# **Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Mass During the Night)**

DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT 10 P.M.



## A Message from Our Pastor

Welcome to the beautiful feast day of Christmas at Saint Thomas More! On behalf of our community, I want to share my sincere gratitude for your presence at our liturgies this Christmas. Truly, your presence is your greatest gift to us.

Let the joy of this celebration fill your heart! Know that you are welcome at Saint Thomas More wherever you are on your faith journey. I encourage you to visit our website, subscribe to our weekly newsletter, and reach out to our staff for current opportunities to get involved.

Thank you to our faithful parishioners who bring these Christmas liturgies to life! We are forever grateful for the light you share with Saint Thomas More.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas season!



*Fr. R.J. Fichtinger, sj*  
Fr. R.J. Fichtinger, S.J.

[www.morecommunity.org](http://www.morecommunity.org)

@StThomasMoreStPaul



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## Carol Prelude

9:30 p.m.

“What Shall We Give”

Catalan Carol, arranged by Stephen Dean

What shall we give to the child in the manger?  
What shall we give him that he will enjoy?  
Milk and wild honey for this little stranger,  
food to give strength to a new little boy.

This child must grow to inherit a kingdom,  
blossom and ripen like fields of good corn,  
bearing a seed that will fall and lie buried,  
springing up new in the bright Easter morn.

What shall we give to the first born of Mary;  
things that will nourish a new life begun?  
Fruits of the forest and figs from the fig tree,  
nurtured in soil and ripened by sun.

What shall we give to the child in the manger?  
What shall we give him that he will enjoy?  
Give of the best to the one who will save us,  
food to give strength to this man still a boy.

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Please join the choir in song.**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria...

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise. Gloria...

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song. Gloria...

Text: Les anges dans nos campagnes; French, c. 18th C.; tr. from Crown of Jesus Music, London, 1862

“Personet Hodie”

Words and Melody from Piaie Cantiones (1582)  
Arranged by Don Hinshaw

Resound today, voices of children  
praising merrily he who is born to us,  
given by the supreme God and born of a Virgin’s womb.

He was born into the world wrapped in rags,  
The ruler of Heaven, placed in a manger, in a stable for animals.  
The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.

Three magi came seeking the little one.  
They went to Bethlehem following the star in complete adoration.  
They offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

All clerics with the children sing like the angels:  
“You have come into the world; I pour my praises out to you.”  
Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**Please join the choir in song.**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav’n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

“There is no rose of such virtue”

Music by John Joubert  
Words Medieval

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.  
For in this rose contained was  
Heav’n and earth in little space: Resmiranda. (Wondrous thing)  
By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in Persons Three: Pares forma. (Of equal form)  
Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. (Let us go.)

“Once in Royal David’s City”

**Please join the choir in song.**

Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild;  
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

For he is our childhood’s pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew.  
And he feels for all our sadness,  
And he shares in all our gladness.

He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav’n above.  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.

And through all his wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden  
In whose gentle arms he lay.  
Christian children all should be  
Kind, obedient, good as he.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

“Jesus Christ the apple tree”

Words from “Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs”  
compiled by Joshua Smith (New Hampshire, 1784)  
Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne’er can tell,  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
‘Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I’m weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

## The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Roman Martyrology

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,  
when ages beyond number had run their course  
from the creation of the world,  
when God in the beginning created heaven and earth,  
and formed man in his own likeness;  
when century upon century had passed  
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,  
as a sign of covenant and peace;  
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,  
came out of Ur of the Chaldees;  
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses  
in the Exodus from Egypt;  
around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;  
in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;  
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
in the year seven hundred and fifty-two  
since the foundation of the City of Rome;  
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus,  
the whole world being at peace,  
**JESUS CHRIST**, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence,  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and when nine months had passed since his conception,  
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,  
and was made man:  
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

**Processional**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Composer unknown (probably 18th century)

Arranged by David Willcocks

Translated by F. Oakeley, W.T. Brooke, and others

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!

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
    O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest;  
    O come...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
    O come...



## Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you. (or similar phrase)

All: **And with your spirit.**

## Penitential Act

Mass of Joy and Peace

*Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:*



(Invocation) Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

*Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:*



(Invocation) Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.

*Priest, deacon, or cantor, then all:*



(Invocation) Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

Music: *Mass of Joy and Peace*, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Glory to God

Mass of St. Benedict

*All:*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to  
peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-  
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your  
great glo-ry, Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y

The music is continued on the following page.

*Cantor/Choir or All:*

Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you  
take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;  
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, have  
*All:*  
mer - cy on us. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,  
you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most- High,  
Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of  
God the Fa-ther. A - men, a - men, a - men.

*Text: The Roman Missal, © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.*

*Music: Mass in Honor of Saint Benedict, Robert LeBlanc, © 2010.*

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## Collect

Priest: ..God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

A son is given us.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96



To - day, to-day, to-day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL

Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

### Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared to all.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

Mass for John Carroll



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu-ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Music: *Mass for John Carroll*, Michael Joncas, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## **Gospel**

Luke 2:1-14

Today a Savior has been born for you.

**Response before the Gospel:**

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Response after the Gospel:**

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Homily**

Deacon Fish Fischer

## Profession of Faith

## The Nicene Creed

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,

**(KNEEL during the following 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.

## Universal Prayer

**R/.** Lord, hear our prayer.

St. Thomas More relies on the generosity of its beloved parishioners and many welcome guests. In addition to the collection basket, contributions may be made online by visiting [www.morecommunity.org/give](http://www.morecommunity.org/give).



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## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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### Preparation of the Gifts

“Bogoroditse Devo” from “All-Night Vigil” Op. 37  
by Sergei Rachmaninov, 1915

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,  
that my sacrifice and and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Preface

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right and just.**

## Holy, Holy, Holy

A Community Mass

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a quarter rest, the second with a half note, and the fifth with a quarter note and a repeat sign.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-  
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major and common time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a quarter note, and the second with a quarter note and a repeat sign.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1988, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Great Amen

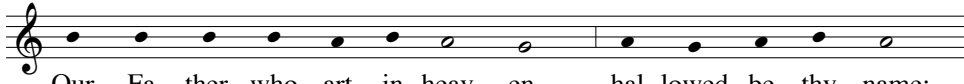
A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical score is written on one staff in G major and common time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The staff ends with a quarter note and a repeat sign.

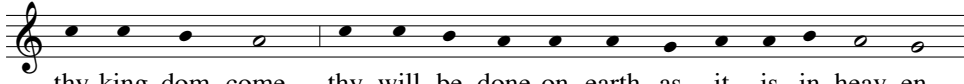
Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (adapt.), © 1971, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Lord's Prayer

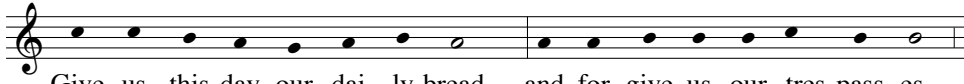
Priest: At the Savior's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:



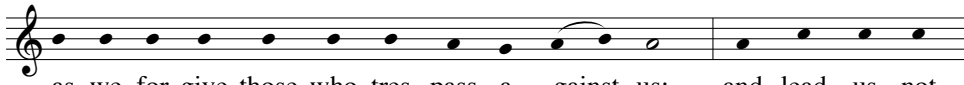
Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name;



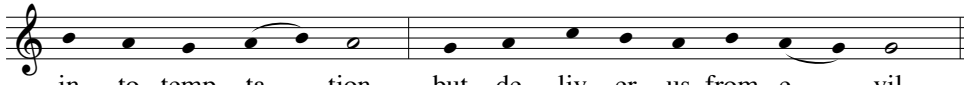
thy king-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en.



Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for-give us our tres-pass-es,



as we for-give those who tres-pass a - gainst us; and lead us not



in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

*Priest:* Deliver us, Lord...and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev - er.



## Sign of Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

## Lamb of God

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.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

## Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.  
John 1:14

## Communion Song

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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 all  
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 heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the heav’nly hymn have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And warring humankind hears not  
The tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

## Reflection

“Silent Night” by Franz Grüber (1787-1863)  
arranged by Bob Chilcott

### **Please join the choir in song.**

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,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

### **Sung by the choir alone:**

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds first saw the sight:  
Glories stream from heav’n afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing Alleluia:  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

### **Please join the choir in song.**

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love’s pure light;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Priest: ...Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

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## THE CONCLUDING RITES

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## **Blessing & Dismissal**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

Please respond "Amen," after each invocation.

Priest: ...and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: ...and make you heralds of his Gospel.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: ...and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace. (or similar phrase)

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Recessional**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

adapted by W.H. Cummings from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn

Descant and organ part by David Willcocks

Words by C. Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan, and others

The words may be found on the following page.

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Please as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.