



Saint Thomas More
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

DECEMBER 24, 2023 AT 4:30 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

@StThomasMoreStPaul



Scan the QR code and sign up for our weekly newsletter to receive parish news and happenings right in your inbox!

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

The Lord delights in you.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89



Text: *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

Paul bears witness to Christ, the Son of David.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Mass for John Carroll



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

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25

The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David.

Response before the Gospel:

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

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

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

Response after the Gospel:

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Rev. R.J. Fichtinger, S.J.

Blessing of the Creché

“Away in a Manger”



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus! Look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: St. 1, 2, anonymous; st. 3, John T. McFarland, 1851–1913
Tune: MUELLER, 11 11 11 11; James R. Murray, 1841–1905

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.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

“Lullaby for a King”

by J. Edmund Hughes & Mary Ellen Loose

Text by J. Edmund Hughes & Joseph Mohr (1818)

Lullaby, Lullaby, Sleep my baby.
Lullaby, Lullaby, Close your eyes.
Angels are watching,
Keep you from harm.
Sleep my dear one,
Rest in my arms.
Lullaby, Lullaby, Sleep my baby.
Lullaby, Lullaby, Baby, “Good night.”

Lullaby, Lullaby, Infant holy.
Lullaby, Lullaby, Child divine.
Christ our Savior, Heavenly King,
“Alleluias” to Him we sing.
Lullaby, Lullaby, Christ the Baby,
Lullaby, Lullaby, Lord of all.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
Silent night, holy night, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant, tender and mild,
Silent night, holy night, sleep in peace.
Silent night, holy night, heavenly peace.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice 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 -

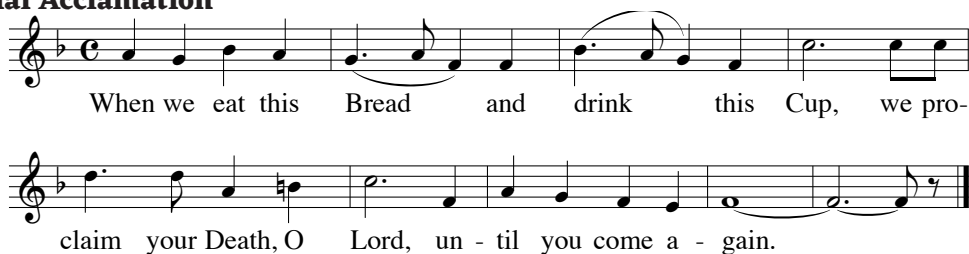
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, GIA Publications, Inc.

Memorial Acclamation

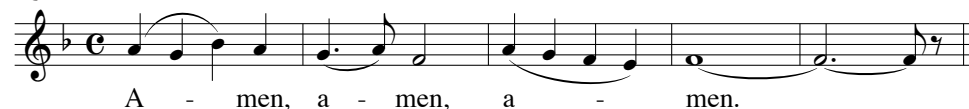


When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

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

Great Amen

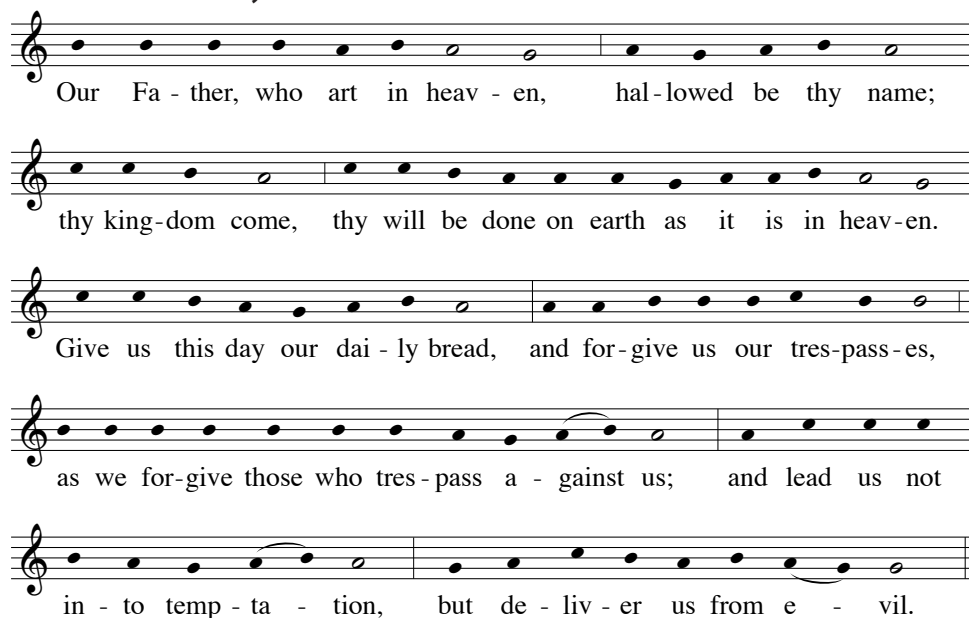


A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

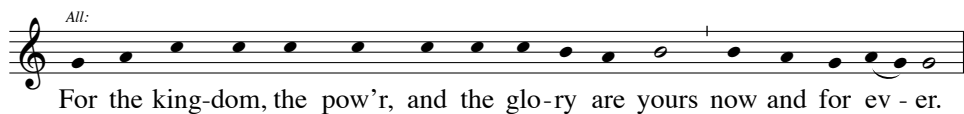
The Lord's Prayer

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.

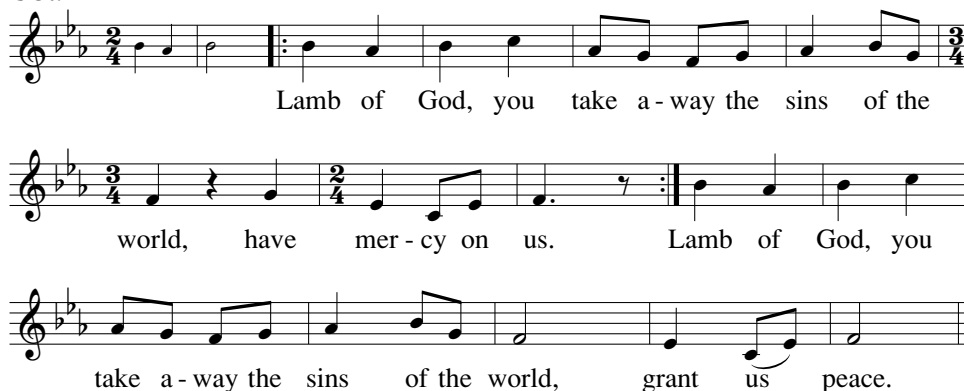


Sign of Peace

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

All: **And with your spirit.**

Lamb of God



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 glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see the salvation which comes from our God.
Cf. Isaiah 40:5

Communion Song

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y And,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
 gath - ered all a - bove While mor - tals sleep, the
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts to
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in the dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing Light. The hopes and fears of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing to
 in this world of sin, Where meek souls will re -
 great glad tid - ings tell; O come to us, a -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King, And peace to all on earth!
 ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Tune: ST. LOUIS, 8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6; Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Reflection

“I Saw Three Ships”

Traditional English carol arranged by Craig Curry

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
and what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Savior, Christ, and his Lady, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
our Savior, Christ, and his Lady, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
and all the angels in heav’n shall sing,
and all the souls on earth shall sing,
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day!

Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day in the morning!

Prayer after Communion

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

All: **Amen.**

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.