st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



the boly family 28 becember 2025

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.



Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

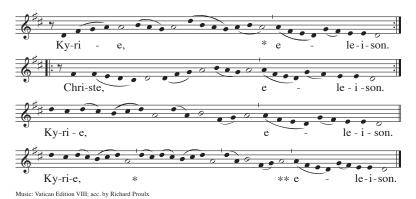
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

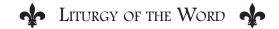
Kyrie











First Reading

Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins - a house raised in justice to you.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**



Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

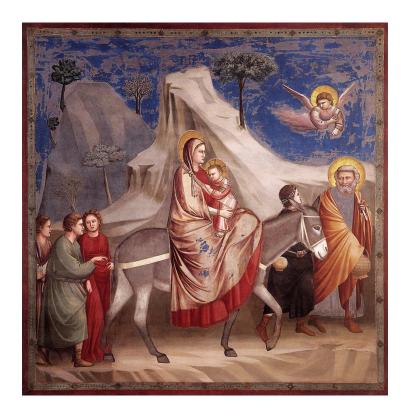
Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation



Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Response*.

Gospel

Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **People: And with your spirit.**

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, *Out of Egypt I called my son*.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean*.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Profession of Faith (spoken slowly and reverently)

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,

Bow profoundly during these 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.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish and for the Church in Africa.

Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.

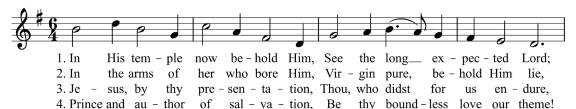
Offertory Antiphon

Psalm 30.15, 16

In you, O Lord, I have placed my hope; I said, You are my God, my times are in your hands.

Offertory Hymn

In His Temple Now Behold Him





An - cient pro-phets have fore-told Him, God has now ful filled His word. hope they While his ag - ed saints a - dore Him Ere in faith and die. Make us sal - va - tion, Seal with thy pro - mise sure. see our great us thee the world thou Je - sus, praise to be giv - en Bydidst re - deem.



Now to praise Him, His re-deem - ed Shall break forth with ac - cord. one Hal - le - lu - jah! Ha - le - lu - jah! Lo. th'in - car - nate God most high. pre – sent thy glo - ry To Fa - ther, cleansed and pure. And us in thy With the Fa - ther and the Spir - it, Lord of ma - jes su - preme!

Text: Verses 1-3 Henry J. Pye (1825-1903); verse 4 William Cooke (1821-1894) Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell (d. 1695)



Offertory Anthem

A Spotless Rose Ola Gjeilo

A Spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit; its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter, and in the dark midnight. Alleluia. The Rose which I am singing, where of Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid; through God's great love and might the Blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night. Alleluia.



Priest Pray, brethren,

that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

People May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands

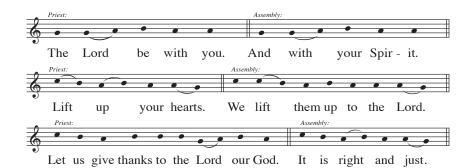
for the praise and glory of his name,

for our good

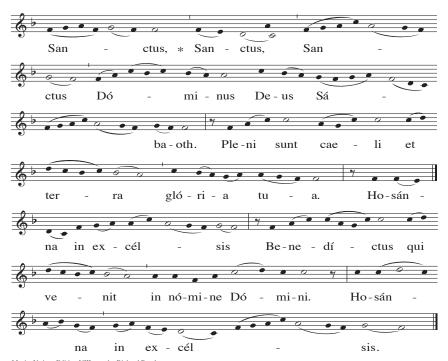
and the good of all his holy Church.

Eucharistic Prayer

Preface Dialogue



Sanctus



Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

Communion Rite

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

People Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest Lord Jesus Christ,

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,

look not on our sins,

but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.

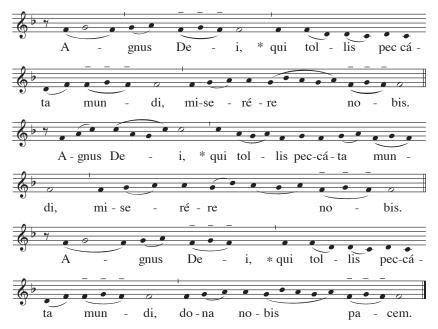
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And with your spirit.

Agnus Dei



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



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.

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

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, I love you above all things.
How I long to receive you with my brothers
and sisters at the table you have prepared.
But since I cannot at this moment receive you in
the holy sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit
and nourish me with your holy presence.
I unite myself completely to you;
never permit me to be separated from your love.
Amen.

Communion Motets

Chorale from Cantata 142

JS Bach

A child has been born to us, a son has been given to us.

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the beginning was the Word. The Word, was with God. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. He came to his own, and his own received him not.



Communion Hymn

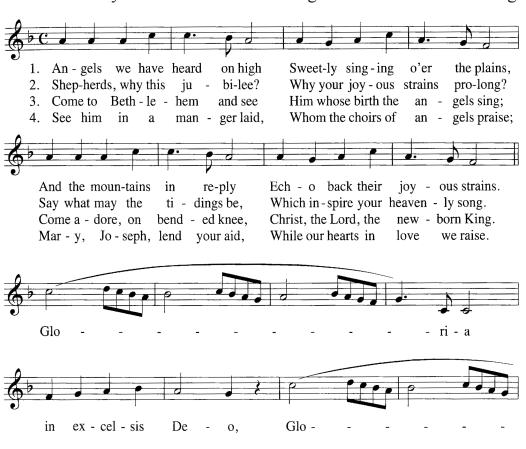
Angels We Have Heard on High

De

ο.

ex - cel - sis

in



Text: Les anges dans nos campagnes; French, c.18th C.;Tr. from Crown of Jesus Music, London, 1862 Tune: GLORIA, 7.7.7 with refrain; French Traditional

ri - a





Priest The Lord be with you.People And with your spirit.

Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Deacon Go in peace.

People Thanks be to God.

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page one: Tissot. The Return from Egypt. (18th century).

Page six: Giotto. Flight into Egypt. Arena-Scrovegni Chapel, Padua. (1304).

Page nine: Fra Angelico. San Domenico, Fiesole, Prado. (c. 1430).

Page ten: Bruno Piglhein. Star of Bethlehem (digitally edited). (19th century).

Page fourteen: Royal Bavarian Stained Glass Works, Munich, for Glasgow Cathedral. (c. 1860).

Page fifteen: Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Adoration of the Shepherds. (1650).

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from the office of readings for the holy family of Jesus, mary and Joseph

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing, some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplifying its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings; in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value—demanding yet redeeming—and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well being.

from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is a family? The answer may seem obvious, but given the present confusions and dislocations of our culture, nothing can be taken for granted, especially when many intellectuals and activists argue that there isn't even a fixed difference between men and women. So, what is a family?

A quick look at any dictionary will suggest several definitions of family: parents and children living together, a group of people related to each other by blood or marriage, and all the descendants of a common ancestor. We also customarily extend the meaning of family to include a group of friends or colleagues who are bound together by a shared commitment to a noble purpose. Our English word family comes from the Latin words famulus (which means servant) and familia (which means a group of servants of one household), and in these linguistic roots we begin to get at the heart of the question. A family is a group of people who serve one another in the bond of love.

The family is the most basic and essential form of human community, and the health and stability of every society rests in large measure upon the strength of families. When marriages are strong and parents share responsibility for their children, societies flourish. When marriages falter and families fracture, societies struggle. In the absence of strong and stable families, social maladies multiply and entire civilizations can be weakened to the point of collapse just as the largest and strongest man can be brought down by the smallest virus. These are among the many reasons why every nation should seek constantly to encourage its citizens to form and maintain healthy families rather than to live in isolated self-absorption, but public policy preferences pale in comparison to the supernatural purpose of family life revealed in today's beautiful feast.

The life of the Holy Family at Nazareth teaches us that every family is a school of the Lord's service in which we are lifted out of ourselves and learn to love and live for others as true servants. Even God the Son in his human nature required the care of his virgin mother and adoptive father, and his obedience and devotion to them was as essential part of his human growth to mature manhood. The unconditional love of God for each of his children is something we first begin to glimpse in our own families, especially when they are strong and healthy, and in that environment we gradually come to understand that the universe does not exist to amuse me and that we are not the cause of our own existence

One of the most important Christian witnesses we can offer our chaotic culture and our confused Church is the beauty of family life, built on the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and offered to God as a sacrifice of praise after the example of the Holy Family.

Father Newman