



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
DECEMBER 15 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 14, 2024

8:00 a.m. Carole Bilesimo (Chuck & Kathi)

4:30 p.m. Dennis Clipper (Lois)

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:00 a.m. Lynnette McHugh (Cindy)

10:00 a.m. James Armstong
(Marge & Family)

11:30 a.m. John & Theresa Carrera (Family)

Monday, December 16, 2024

7:45 a.m. Hedy Dezorzi (Family)

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:45 a.m. Our Parish Family

No Adoration or 6:30 p.m. Mass

6:30 p.m. Penance Service

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

7:45 a.m. Elaine Baker (Family)

Thursday, December 19, 2024

7:45 a.m. Esther Wurzell (Family)

Friday, December 20, 2024

7:45 a.m. Jud Shiffler (Family)

Saturday, December 21, 2024

8:00 a.m. Jeff Cole (Family)

4:30 p.m. Bob Gutwald (Family)

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:00 a.m. Robert Fichtner (Family)

10:00 a.m. David Salopek (Family)

11:30 a.m. Alec Patterson (Carol)

Queen of Angels Catholic School

Jennifer Filak, Principal

jfilak@queenofangelssch.org

www.queenofangelssch.org

724-978-0144

Diocese of Greensburg

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

HELP LINES

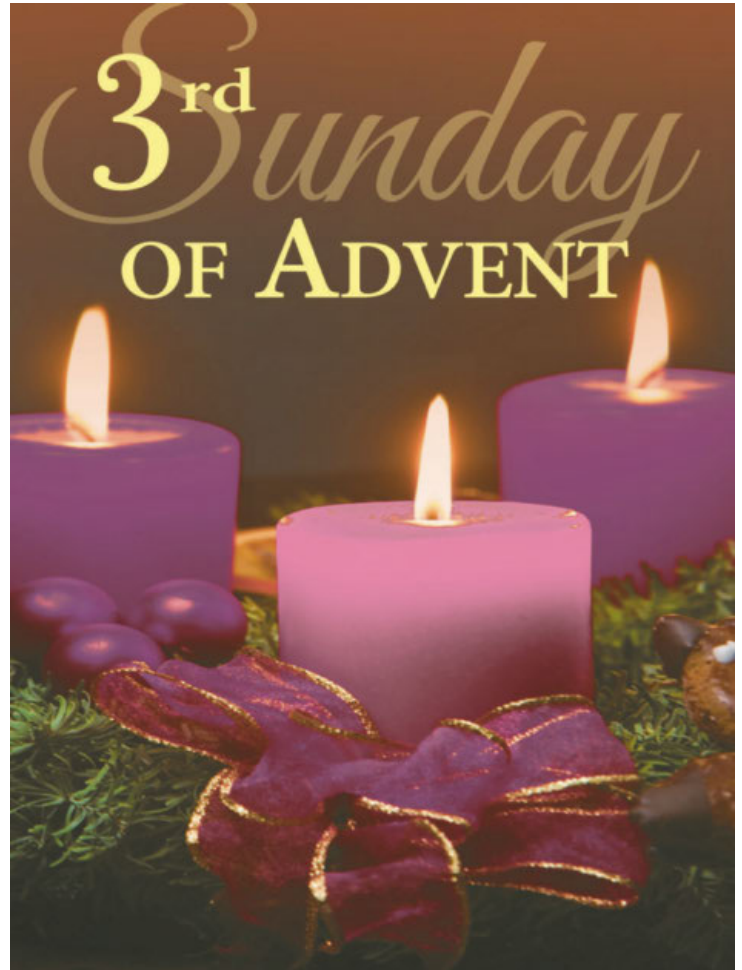
St. Vincent DePaul

www.svdpgreensburg.org - 724-691-3711

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg

724-837-1840

www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org



Rev. Michael Crookston, Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Louiegene Arnold Valdez, Parochial Vicar
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Courtney Ruby, Business Manager
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Susan Cheplic, Director of Faith Formation
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Katelyn Waterhouse, Regional Director of Youth Ministry
kwaterhouse@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Immaculate Conception Parish Office
308 Second Street
Irwin, Pa 15642

Parish Office: 724-863-9550

PASTOR'S NOTES

Gaudete...Rejoice!

This week we celebrate the Third Sunday of the Advent Season which is traditionally referred to as *Gaudete* or "let us rejoice" Sunday. Our readings speak to us of life as it was meant to be lived, rejoicing! In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah is speaking to a liberated people who were living with many freedoms. After years of being persecuted and enslaved, the people had many things to rejoice about. He told the people that God has forgiven them and their future is one of bright promise and peace. Zephaniah indicated that the "Divine presence" is in their midst, reminding that people that there was no room for pride and arrogance.

St. Paul also speaks of such joy that can be found in the peace of Christ. The kind of joy that he speaks of can lead us to be unselfish, to overcome anxiety and to live with a peace that only God can give. He speaks of a peace that can bring "well-being" and be "life giving." It is no wonder that in the midst of this season of preparation that we stop and rejoice in the Lord's peace. This week we are all called to live lives of peace and justice. The crowds of people asked John "what should we do?" We need to ask ourselves that same question. What should we do to bring about that peace and sense of rejoicing that our liturgy speaks of today? If we listen to what we are being reminded of today, we are told that God changes not only our minds but also our hearts. If we find the love of God, no matter what is going on around us, we can rejoice. If we have that deep faith and trust in God we can rejoice and we are not afraid in life. Our faith calls us to be in relationship with one another. It calls us to break out of ourselves and live for others. During these weeks before Christmas it is easy for us to see the needs of others. During this season, people do tend to be very generous. But, once Christmas is over, we fall back into our routines of living and become blind to the wants and needs of others. If we are to take seriously the justice that Jesus calls us to live, we need to make an effort to become more aware of others. John the Baptist is telling us basically to live our lives being honest with who we are and what we have. Listen to the needs of others and help whenever we are able. There are so many ways that we can live out of Jesus' justice. If we rejoice in what we have and who we are in the way that we are asked to, we can't help but be people of peace; it is easy. This week look at what you have in life, and open yourself to sharing whatever you have with the less fortunate. Do not exploit people. Do not threaten people you are supposed to protect. Work to overcome the multiple injustices of our society. Do not abuse the position of authority which you might have. Advent is a time of conversion, as good a time as any to reflect on our lives and the ways in which we translate our faith into action. People need to know us by our actions and not by our pious assertions. When we know God, we will Rejoice!

- *Father Mike*

Children and Family Services Appeal

Please use your Children & Family Services envelope from your envelope packets.

We received a message from the Bishop regarding the second collection at Christmas:

Blessings to each of you in this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*As you are aware, every year a collection at all **Christmas Masses** has been for those people living within our own diocese who are less fortunate than we are. This collection is titled the "Children and Family Services Appeal."*

Jesus teaches us to put the needs of the poor ahead of our own. I pray that our needs will never be as desperate as those individuals and families who have little food, inadequate clothing or sufficient resources to endure the harsh winter weather and obtain all that is required to keep them and their families safe and warm. When we take care of the poor among us we serve Jesus Himself in a most personal way. Our charity should not have its origin in our pity but rather from our compassion which suggests a "suffering with the other" as Jesus himself did for us. The needs of the poor in our diocese are ever present and growing even as we speak. As your Bishop, it is one of my most important duties to call to mind our fundamental responsibility as Catholics to care for the needs of these often forgotten and marginalized children of God. Might I suggest that Christmas is the perfect opportunity to adjust our Christmas gift giving to include those, who like the Christ Child, could find no place to lay their heads, and for many, no food for their mouths. It is a fact that the first to experience the effects of a slow economy are often the poorest of the poor. Your support of this collection allows those touched by poverty, violence or brokenness to look beyond their present conditions and find the hope to work toward better circumstances.

CANDLES

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory Rick Borland (Wife Carol)

Divine Mercy:

In Memory of Joe Balzer (Wife)

St. Peregrine Candle:

In Memory of Dennis Clipper (Lois)

Easter Flame Candle:

In Memory of Jessie Bianconi
(Nancy, Harry & Dian)

St. Joseph's Candle:

In Memory of Vincent Smith (Wife Nancy)

Altar Candles for the Month of December:

In Memory of Jud & Bill Shiffler Jr.
(Meg & Natalie)

Advent Candles:

In Memory of Joe, Jinny, Beverly, Mary Jo
& John Ott (Family)

If you would like to have a candle lit in memory of your loved one, please call the parish office. We will be glad to help you. 724-863-9550

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament is available during Confession hour and after each Mass per request.

Matrimony

Couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony must contact the parish office one year in advance of the Wedding.

Baptism

Families of our parish who wish to have their child baptized please email Susan Cheplic at skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org to register for Baptism Preparation.

Confession

Tuesday 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. & Saturday 9-10 a.m.
(except for the first Saturday of the month)

Divine Mercy

Join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet Monday through Friday at 3:00 pm in the church.



**No Eucharistic Adoration on
Tuesday December 17,
December 24, and
December 31.
Thank you!**



**Please pray for all of our
faithful departed.**

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and
let perpetual light shine upon them.*



**Prayer for the third week of Advent
Prayer with St. John the Baptist**

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community. Amen.

"How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?"



"Fleece Navidad!"



There are many ways to say "Merry Christmas," but each one is a wonderful blessing of the good news of Jesus come to earth as our savior.

**Sunday Offertory
December 1 - \$14,410.86**

**Online Giving
November 28 - December 1 - \$2,971.26**

Thank you for your generosity!

**Immaculate Conception Parish offers
Online Giving.**

- Scan QR Code on the new Pew Cards or QR Code below.
- Click Create a new account.
- Create an ID and password.
- Allow 2 minutes to complete the process.



If you decide to switch to online giving and would like to discontinue your envelopes please contact the parish office. Thank you!

HAPPENINGS ON THE CORNER & AROUND THE DIOCESE



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Please scan the QR code to complete the survey. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus St Jude Council 9019 - will have their monthly meeting on Monday December 16, 2024, at Resurrection Hall at St Agnes. The meeting starts at 7:15 with the Rosary. St Jude Council covers the parishes of IC, St Agnes, and St Elizabeth Ann Seton. If you are interested in joining the Knights, or would like to transfer to our Council, please contact Al Borgony at 724-864-3487 or email a.borgony@comcast.net, or you can check out our website at kofc.org and join online.

Oplatki are available in back of church. Suggested donation is \$3.00. Thank you!



Altar Candles are available for 2025. They are lit in memory of the person or family for a month. The cost is \$100. Please call the office at 724-863-9550 to schedule.



The Immaculate Conception Creation Care Team meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Children's Liturgy Room. The team's focus is to study the encyclical "*Laudato Si*, Care for Our Common Home" and to turn the Pope's vision into effective actions. For more information, Chris Peta at chris@syncrous.com



Tis the Season! We are looking for a few good men, women, teens to help the Decorating Committee for Christmas. We need help with lifting, climbing ladders, decorating trees, setup mangers etc., **Sunday, December 22, immediately following 11:30 Mass.** Please call the parish office (724-863-9550) by December 18th to sign up to volunteer. You must have up to date clearances on file at the parish office to volunteer.



We still have Masses available for 2025!

The 2025 Mass book is open. To schedule a Mass for your loved one, you can stop in or call the parish office during office hours. The suggested Mass stipend is \$10.00.

Parish Office Hours

Mon. Dec. 16th - Thurs. Dec. 19th : 8 am - 3 pm
Fri. Dec. 20th : 8 am - Noon

Mon. Dec. 23rd : 8 am - 3 pm
Tues. Dec. 24 - Fri. Dec. 27th : Closed

Mon. Dec. 30th : 8 am - 3pm
Tues. Dec. 31 - Jan. 1st : Closed

Thurs. Jan. 2 - Fri. Jan. 3rd : 8 am - 3 pm

Immaculate Conception Staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year.



There will be No Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday December 17, December 24, and December 31.

JOIN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FOR

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY DECEMBER, 15TH AT 6:00 PM

Featuring the Choirs of Immaculate Conception Parish



Christmas Mass Times

<u>Christmas Eve</u>	<u>Christmas Day</u>
4:00 PM	9:30 AM
6:00 PM	
8:00 PM	
Midnight	



North Huntingdon Parishes

Advent Penance Services

St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton
Monday,
December 16th
6:30 PM

Immaculate
Conception
Tuesday,
December 17th
6:30 PM

St. Agnes
Thursday,
December 19th
6:30 PM

As we await the birth of Christ,
prepare your heart for his coming
and join us for the sacrament of
reconciliation.



4:12 High School Ministry Presents:



All proceeds help to send 4:12 High School Ministry teens to Catholic Heart WorkCamp, Steubenville Conferences, Camp Damascus, and the National Catholic Youth Conference!

Saturday, February 22, 2025

***SNOW DATE... (March 1st)...Watch KDKA for cancellation information

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton — Mack Hall — 200 Leger Rd. N. Huntingdon, PA 15642
Doors Open 10:45 AM — "Early Bird" Bingo Starts 11:45 AM



Jackpot Payout — \$ 1,000.00

20 Games — \$ 100 Payout Each (18 cards)

Four Specials — \$50 / \$150 (6 cards)

Extra Packets \$6 (sold at door)

\$30 per Ticket

Lunch & Beverage Included



Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

of Tickets _____ Amount Paid _____

(Make checks payable to: St. Agnes Church)

Mail check & registration to:
St. Agnes Church
Re: Super Bingo
11400 St. Agnes Lane
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

OR

Purchase tickets at St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton, St. Agnes, or
Immaculate Conception church
offices.

For information, tickets, dietary restrictions and seating arrangements, please call Mary Frankhauser at 724-600-4894.

Remember our parish at Christmas



This Christmas, remember the gift of giving!
Support our parish and spread joy in our community!
Visit <https://www.icirwin.org> OR scan QR code below.
Thank you for your generosity!



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Time: 11am–Close

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- At checkout, enter code: **DOINGOOD**
 - A penny will be deducted from your total to allow us to track your order
- Checkout and pickup order at designated time



QUEEN OF ANGELS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS
LOOKING FOR A

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of interest and current resume to:
Jennifer Filak, Principal
jfilak@queenofangelssch.org
Phone: 724-978-0144
<https://www.queenofangelssch.org/>

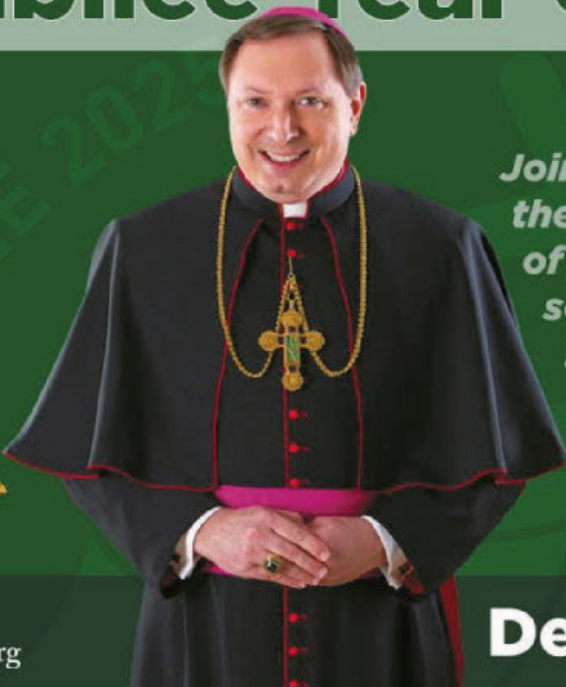


QUEEN OF ANGELS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS
LOOKING FOR A

PRESCHOOL AIDE

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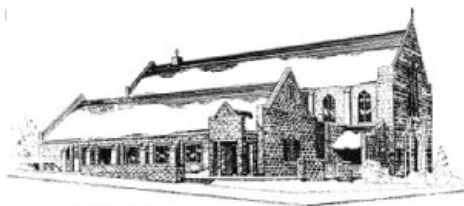
Jubilee Year Opening Mass



*Join Bishop Kulick for
the Solemn Opening Mass
of the Jubilee Year with a
solemn procession and
blessing of the Jubilee Cross
beginning at The Westmoreland
Museum of Art and processing
to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.*



December 29 • 3:00 PM



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania

Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024 - Order of the Mass

VOCATIONS PRAYER

Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage. Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love. Holy Mary, Model of vocations, pray for us. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn



1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, For
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When
4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing; His hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing!
qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light; Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



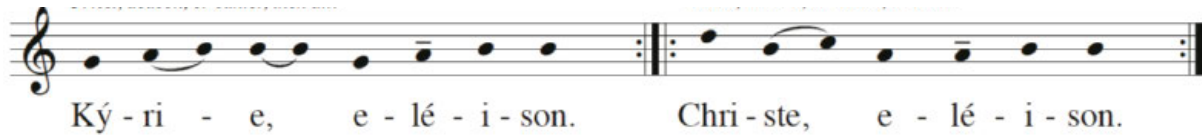
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer And love our end - less



geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To
won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And
sto - ry. May God fill ev - 'ry day we share And



lives now in - side us for ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.



(Then repeat the first Kyrie.)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isaiah 12

Donald Reagan

Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and holy one of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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, 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 life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



1. Wild and lone the proph - et's voice
2. "Bear the fruit re - pent - ance sows:
3. With such preach - ing stark and bold



Ech - oes through the des - ert still, Call - ing us to
Lives of jus - tice, truth, and love. Trust no oth - er
John pro - claimed sal - va - tion near, And his time - less



make a choice, Bid - ding us to do God's will:
claim than those; Set your heart on things a - bove.
warn - ings hold Words of hope to all who hear.



"Turn from sin and be bap - tized; Cleanse your heart and
Soon the Lord will come in pow'r, Burn - ing clean the
So we dare to jour - ney on, Led by faith through



mind and soul. Quit - ting all the sins you prized,
thresh - ing floor: Then will flames the chaff de - vour;
ways un - trod, Till we come at last like John



Yield your life to God's con - trol."
Wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
To be - hold the Lamb of God.



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

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We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come, un - til you come a - gain.

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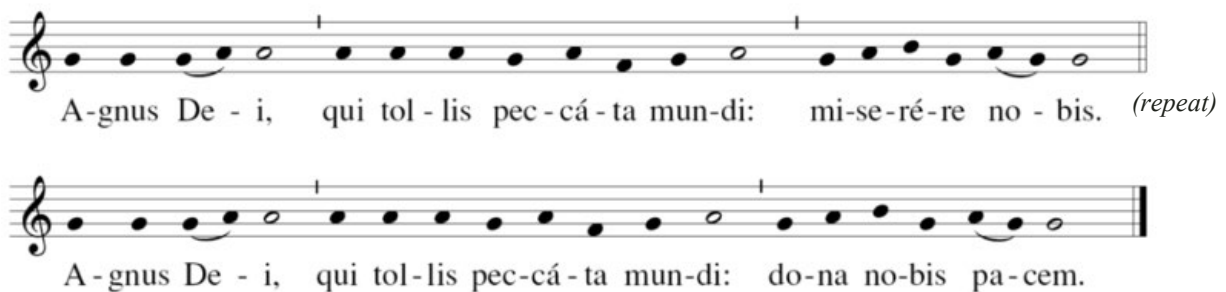


A - men, a - men, a - men.

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AGNUS DEI

Chant, Mass XVIII



A-gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: mi - se - ré - re no - bis. *(repeat)*
A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

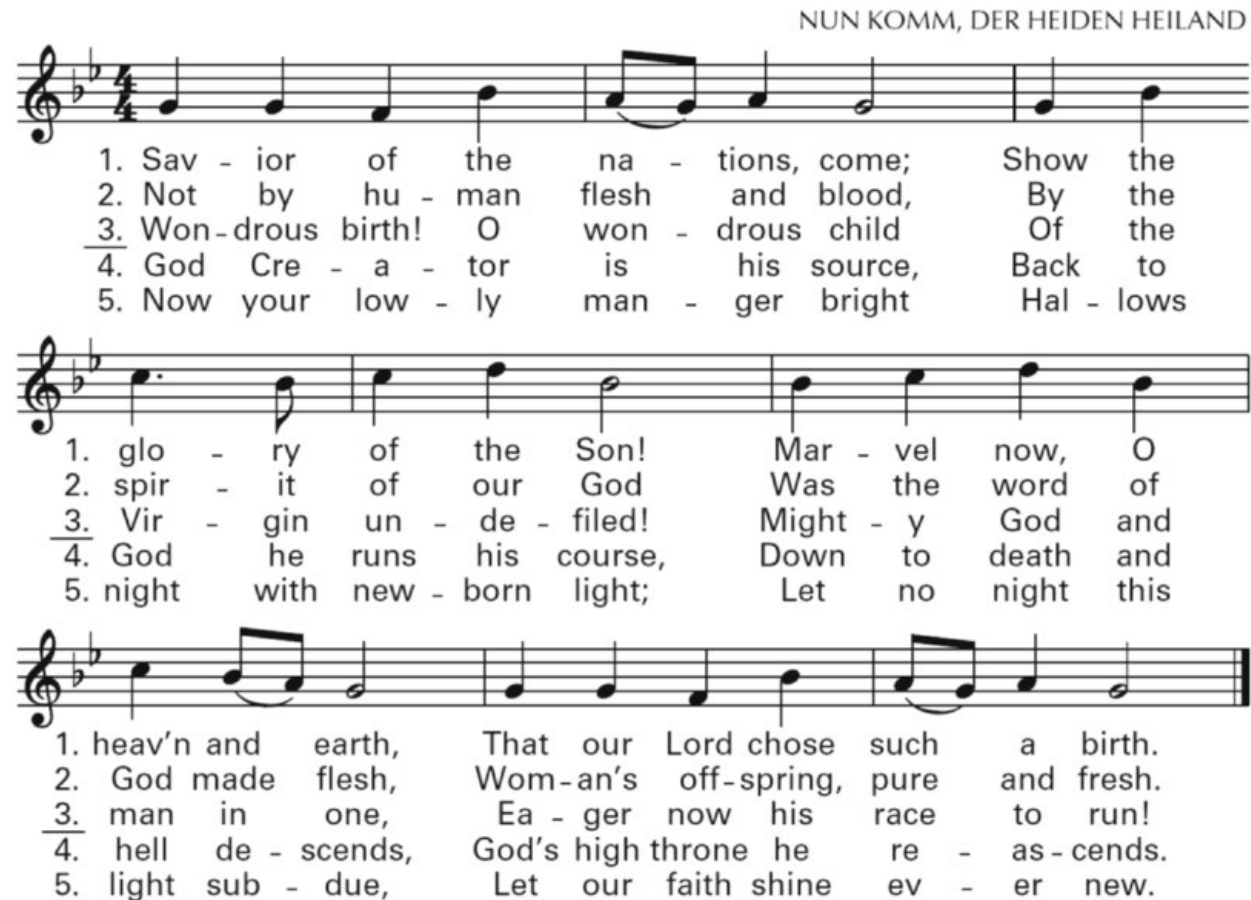
Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous child Of the
4. God Cre - a - tor is his source, Back to
5. Now your low - ly man - ger bright Hal - lows
1. glo - ry of the Son! Mar - vel now, O
2. spir - it of our God Was the word of
3. Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
4. God he runs his course, Down to death and
5. night with new - born light; Let no night this
1. heav'n and earth, That our Lord chose such a birth.
2. God made flesh, Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
3. man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
4. hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.
5. light sub - due, Let our faith shine ev - er new.

Text: 77 77; *Veni, Redemptor gentium*; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after St. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397;
Verses 1–3a tr. by William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876; Verses 3b–5 tr. by Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt.
Music: *Geystliche Gesangk Büchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

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