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CHURCH OF SAINT AGNES  
CHRISTMAS • DECEMBER 25, 2023

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## PASTOR'S COLUMN



### Merry Christmas!

On behalf of all clergy and staff of the Church of Saint Agnes and Saint Agnes School, I wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and offer you our prayers for a fruitful New Year!

### Welcome to All Visitors

Welcome to all visitors in this Christmas Season. Whether you are here for the first time, an occasional attendee or a regular guest, I hope your attendance at our liturgies will bring you closer to the Christ Child. If you have been attending Saint Agnes regularly, please consider officially registering as a parishioner. You can do so by visiting our website, calling the Parish Office at 651.925.8800 or stopping in to the Parish Office during regular business hours.

### Perfecting the Mystery of Jesus' Incarnation and Nativity WITHIN US!

As we joyfully gather at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the Feast of the Nativity, we are not simply celebrating an event over and done with two millennia ago. The Nativity of our Lord is meant to be ongoing in a very personal way for each of us.

St. John Eudes, a French priest from the 1600's, beautifully reflected on the continuing significance of the incarnation: "This is the plan by which the Son of God completes and fulfills in us all the various stages and mysteries. He desires us to perfect the mystery of his incarnation and birth by forming himself in us and being reborn in our souls through the blessed sacraments of baptism and the eucharist. He fulfills his interior life in us, hidden with him in God." I am for putting Christ and the Mass back into Christmas! But the ultimate goal is to get Christ into us! To have His thoughts, words and actions take flesh in us! To have Jesus born into the our modern world and visible in us! Welcome Christ into your hearts anew, especially through the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. Allow His love to transform your love, His eternal truth to transform your understanding, His mercy to transform your receiving and giving of mercy, His healing to transform your ability to offer help to others, His comfort to transform your comfort for others, His peace to transform your ability to be a peacemaker!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Rev. Mark Moriarty

## CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA NOTES

### Midnight Mass

#### **Coronation Mass, K 317 by W.A. Mozart (1779)**

*The music for this Mass is sponsored by Charles Nelson, PhD, in memory of his parents, Robert and Elizabeth Nelson, for whom this Mass is offered.*

Mozart composed his *Coronation Mass* for the shrine of Maria Plain, a pilgrimage place on a hill overlooking the city of Salzburg, where an icon of the Blessed Mother and Child was crowned in 1751, indicating that it had been the place where a miracle had been performed through the intercession of the Mother of God.

The Twin Cities Catholic Chorale is a non-profit organization that depends solely on the generosity of its patrons. Programs are available at the church entrances and are posted on the Chorale website at [www.catholicchorale.org](http://www.catholicchorale.org). **Next Sunday the Chorale and Orchestra will present *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert.**

#### **Upcoming Chorale and Orchestra Masses**

Sunday, January 7, 10:30 am Joseph Haydn's

*Theresienmesse*

Sunday, January 14, 10:30 am Franz Schubert's

*Mass in C*

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 am Charles Gounod's

*Messe Solennelle (Saint Cecilia)*

Sunday, January 28, 10:30 am W. A. Mozart's

*Piccolomini Mass, K 258*

### Octave of Christmas Mass Schedule

#### **Feast of St. Stephen ~ Tuesday, December 26**

5:15 pm ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

#### **Feast of St. John the Evangelist ~ Wednesday,**

**December 27**

5:15 pm ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

#### **Feast of the Holy Innocents ~ Thursday, December 28**

5:15 pm ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

#### **Feast of St. Thomas Becket ~ Friday, December 29**

5:15 pm ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

#### **Feast of the Holy Family ~ Saturday, December 30**

8:00 am ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

5:15 pm ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

#### **7th Day of the Octave of Christmas ~ Sunday,**

**December 31**

7:00 am ~ English Low Mass

8:00 am ~ EF Latin Low Mass

9:00 am ~ English Mass with Hymns

10:30 am ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

12:30 pm ~ English Mass with Hymns

#### **Mary, Mother of God ~ Monday, January 1**

7:00 am ~ English Low Mass

8:00 am ~ EF Latin Low Mass

9:00 am ~ English Mass with Hymns

10:30 am ~ Latin Sung Mass with Schola

12:30 pm ~ English Mass with Hymns