



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

BRIDGEPORT • PENNSYLVANIA



The Most Rev'd Steven J Lopes
Bishop

The Rev'd Samuel Keyes
Pastor

The Rev'd Mr. Roger Converse
Deacon

The Rev'd Herman Majkrzak
Choirmaster

William Gatens, D. Phil
Organist

The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas
February 2, 2025



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



All common prayers and responses can be found in the “Order of Mass” booklets in your pew.

Welcome, families! A nursery with a live video feed is available in the lower church for parents and children who need a break. To find it, exit either of the rear stairwells or ask an usher for help.

If you have brought candles from home to be blessed, place them on the table just inside the communion rail along with the other liturgical candles before the blessing and procession begin. Please remember to collect your personal candles at the end of Mass.

As a note, the candle that you will receive for the procession will be blessed. It is a sacramental and should be taken home with you. We ask that you return the candle holder to the baskets at the end of Mass but keep the candle for yourself.

THE BLESSING & PROCESSION

Voluntary: “In peace and joy I now depart” (BWV 616)

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Blessing of Candles

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost. R. **Amen.**

V. The Lord be with you. R. **And with thy spirit.**

The Priest blesses the candles, sprinkles them with holy water, and censes them. While the Priest distributes candles to the other clergy and servers, the congregation comes forward, kneeling at the altar rail to receive a blessed candle. Please be cognizant of the melting wax. As the candles are distributed to the congregation, the choir sings the Canticle Nunc dimittis with the following:

Antiphon: *Lumen ad revelationem*

Luke 2:32

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people, Israel.

Towards the end of the distribution, the servers light the candles of the Ministers, the candles of the congregation, and the candles on the altar.

The Procession

After the Priest makes a prayer of intercession, the servers order themselves for the procession.

The Deacon turns to face the people and says:

V. Let us go forth in peace. R. **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

All hold their lighted candles during the procession. Those who wish to walk in the procession outdoors may follow behind the choir. All begin the following hymn:

Hymn 115: "Hail to the Lord who comes"

Old 120th

Hymn 116: "O Sion, open wide thy gates"

Bedford

As you re-enter the church from the procession, please extinguish your candles.

SOLEMN MASS

Introit: *Suscepimus*

Psalm 48:8-9, 1

We have waited, O God, for thy loving-kindness in the midst of thy temple; according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the world's end: thy right hand is full of righteousness. (Psalm) Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. *Gloria Patri*. We have ...

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years."

Gradual: *Suscepimus*

Psalm 48:8-9, 7

We have waited, O God, for thy loving-kindness in the midst of thy temple: according to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the world's end. *V.* Like as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of our God: even upon his holy hill.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia: *Senex puerum*

Alleluia, alleluia. V. The old man carried the Child: but the Child governed the old man. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."

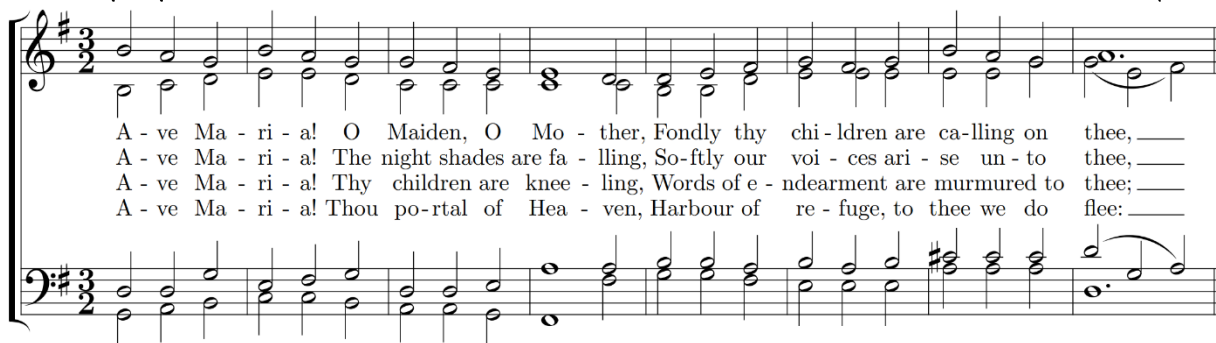
Offertory Antiphon: *Diffusa est gratia*

Psalm 45:2b

Full of grace are thy lips: because God hath blessed thee for ever.

Offertory Hymn: "Ave Maria! O Maiden, O Mother" Westminster

Hymnal



A - ve Ma - ri - a! O Maiden, O Mo - ther, Fondly thy chi - ldren are ca - lling on thee, —
A - ve Ma - ri - a! The night shades are fa - lling, So - ftly our voi - ces ari - se un - to thee, —
A - ve Ma - ri - a! Thy children are knee - ling, Words of e - ndearment are murmured to thee; —
A - ve Ma - ri - a! Thou po - rtal of Hea - ven, Harbour of re - fuge, to thee we do flee: —



Thine are the gra - ces unclaimed by a - no - ther, Si - nless and beau - ti - ful Star of the Sea!
Earth's lonely ex - iles for su - ccour are ca - lling, Si - nless and beau - ti - ful Star of the Sea!
So - ftly thy spi - rit up - on us is stea - ling Si - nless and beau - ti - ful Star of the Sea!
Lost in the darkness, by sto - rmy winds dri - ven, Shine on our pathway, fair Star of the Sea!

Ma-ter A - ma - bilis, o - ra pro no - bis! Pray for thy children who call upon thee; A -

Ma-ter A - ma - bi - lis, o - ra pro no - bis! Pray for thy children who call up - on thee;

- ve Sa - ncti - ssi - ma, — pu - ri - ssi - ma! Si - nless and beau - ti - ful Star of the Sea!

A - ve Sa - ncti - ssima! A - ve pu - ri - ssi - ma! Si - nless and beau - ti - ful Star of the Sea!

Communion Antiphon: *Responsit accepit Simeon*

Luke 2:26

It was revealed unto Simeon by the Holy Spirit: that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Anointed.

Ablutions Hymn 462: "Jesus, the very thought of thee"

Windsor

Final Hymn 353: "Majestic sweetness sits enthroned"

Caithness

Voluntary: Prelude in G (BWV 658)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Cover: *The Presentation in the Temple*, c.1470, oil on panel, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.
Artist unknown.

*If you would like a personal blessing for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.,
or would like sacramentals blessed, please approach the communion rail after the closing hymn.*