



DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter

JUNE 1, 2019 ■ 3:00PM

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the City of Harrison, Ohio
Of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati



INTRODUCTORY RITES



CALL TO WORSHIP

“My house shall be a house of prayer, says the Lord: in that house, everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Alleluia”

Cf. Mt. 21:13; Lk 11:10

Chant Setting by Columba Kelly, O.S.B. (1930-2018)

GREETING

May grace and peace be with you all in the holy Church of God.
R/. **And with your spirit.**

PRESENTATION OF THE CHURCH TO THE ARCHBISHOP

Kevin Stuckwisch (Entheos Architects), Ryan Strotman (Maxwell Construction), and Thomas Gruber (Future Home Committee) present the building to Archbishop Schnurr on behalf of the parish.

The Archbishop calls upon Father Kemper to open the door and invites the gathered community to enter the new church. As you enter the Church, please follow the direction of the hospitality ministers into the pews and remain standing.

PROCESSIONAL

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

GATHERING SONG

The God of All Grace

Refrain:

The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of cre -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

Verses 1-3 (Choir)

1. God of power and might, come into our presence this day. Strengthen us now with a spirit of faith; we gather in your name. *(to refrain)*
2. God of mercy and truth, who brings us from night into day, nourish our lives with a spirit of hope and shield us from all fear. *(to refrain)*

(Verses 3 & 4 on next page)

3. God of wondrous love, compassion and glory are yours. Come fill our hearts with a spirit of love: the joy we find in you. *(to refrain)*

Verse 4

(Choir)

The God of salvation has been revealed to the world forever! The ends of the earth now join in praise!

(All)

4. All the gifts of the Lord shall flow from the
glo-ry of God. Let us pro-claim all the won-ders we've
seen: give thanks, re-joice and sing! *(to refrain)*

Text & Music for *The God of All Grace* by Ricky Manalo, CSP, b. 1956, © 1996, Ricky Manalo, CSP. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

Sweet Refreshment

The Archbishop blesses the water and sprinkles the people, who are the spiritual temple, then the walls of the church and finally the Altar.

Refrain:

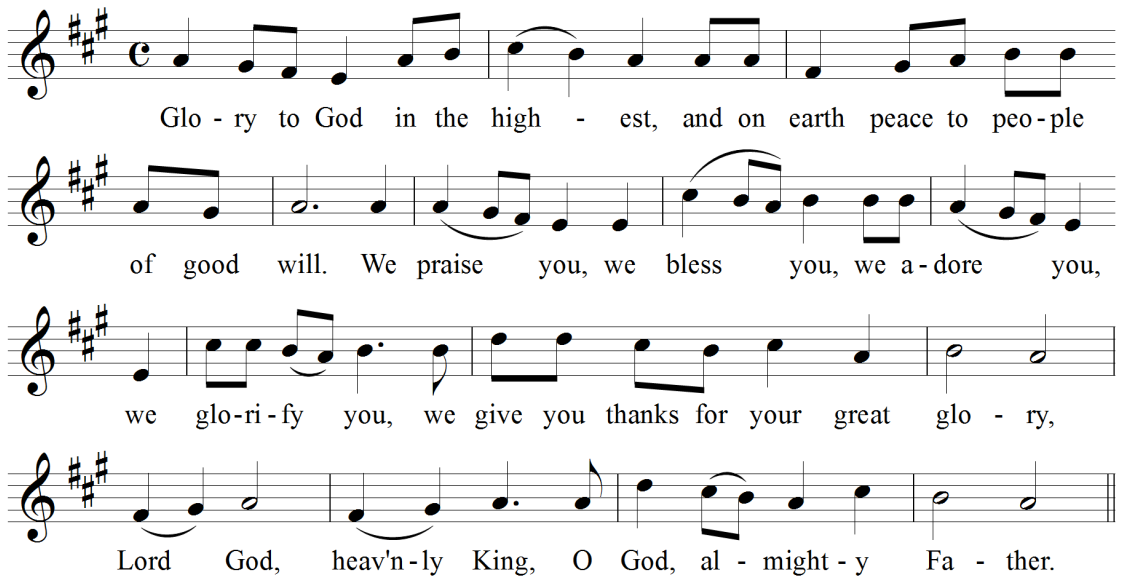
Cantor: Come to the wa-ter. *All:* Come to the wa-ter. *Cantor:* Drink of it free-ly.
All: Drink of it free-ly. *Cantor:* Taste God's own Spir-it. *All:* Taste God's own
Cantor: Spir-it. *All:* Sweet re-fresh-ment. Sweet re-fresh-ment.

Text: Based on Blessing of Water, Easter Vigil, adapt. by Bob Moore, b. 1962
Tune: Bob Moore, b. 1962
© 1999, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

GLORY TO GOD

A New Mass for Congregations

Assembly & Choir:

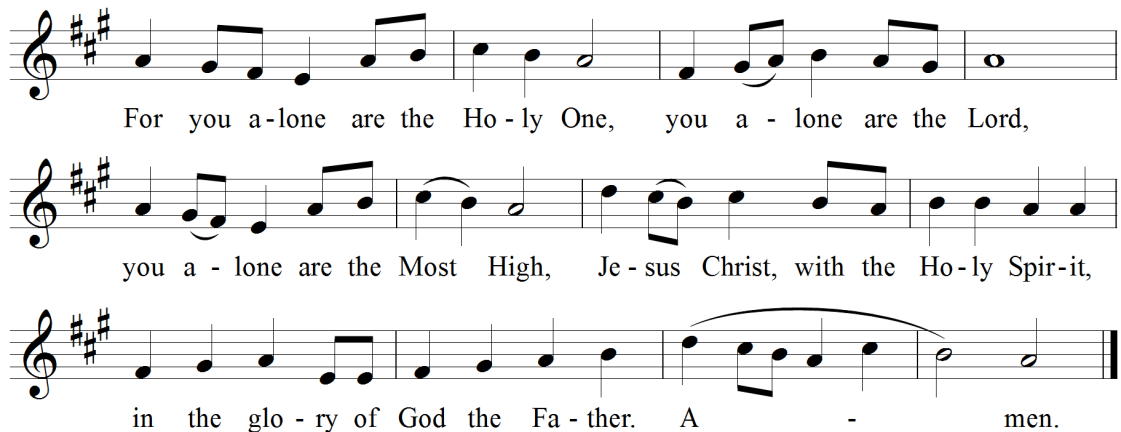


Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo - ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you,
we glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry,
Lord God, heav'n - ly King, O God, al - might - y Fa - ther.

Choir Section:

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Assembly & Choir:



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.

Text from *The Roman Missal: Third Edition*, © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music by Carroll T. Andrews, setting by James Biery, © 1970, 2000, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)



LITURGY OF THE WORD



The two readers and the psalmist approach the Archbishop who presents the Lectionary to the first reader.

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it.

The word of the Lord.

R/. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19: Your Words, O Lord, Are Spirit and Life

Refrain:

Your words, O Lord, are spir - it and life.

Antiphon Text © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL)
Music by James J. Chepponis, © 1995, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2: 4-9

As living stones, you will be built into a spiritual temple.

The word of the Lord.

R/. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Festival Alleluia

Refrain:

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia!

Music by James J. Chepponis, © 1999, MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

GOSPEL DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

R/. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R/. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING

John 4:19-34

True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

(Please remain standing)



PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THE ANOINTINGS



INVITATION TO PRAYER

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

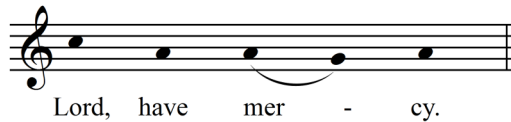
Chant/arr. Anthony J. DiCello

Through this ancient prayer of the Church all assembled join their prayers with those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints. During the Easter Season, all remain standing for the litany.

Cantors:

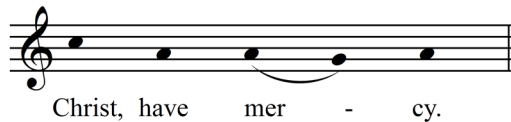
Assembly:

Lord, have mercy...



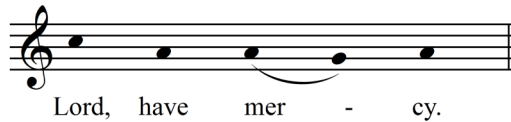
Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mercy...



Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mercy...

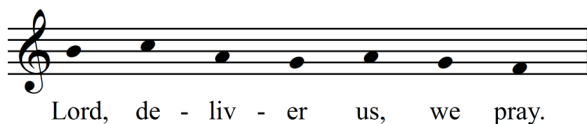


Lord, have mer - cy.

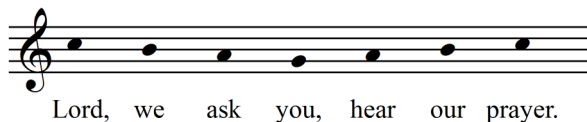
Holy Mary, Mother of God, ...
... All holy men and women,
Saints of God,



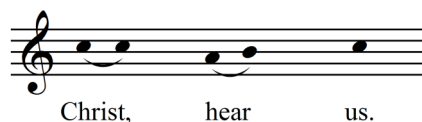
Lord, be merciful ...
... By the outpouring of the
Holy Spirit,



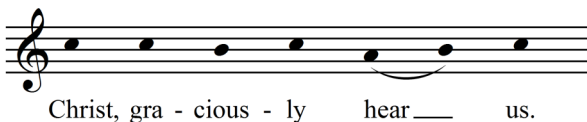
Be merciful to us sinners ...
... Jesus, Son of the
Living God,



Christ, hear us ...

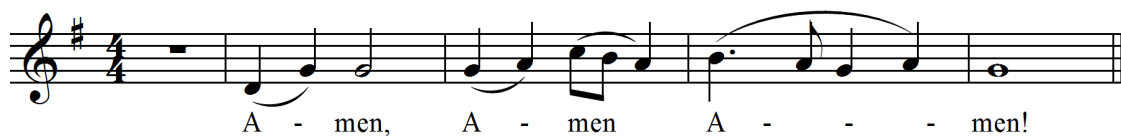


Christ graciously hear us ...



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

At the conclusion of the prayer the following Amen is sung and then all are seated.



Music for *Jubilation Mass* by James J. Chepponis, © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

ANOINTING OF THE ALTAR AND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

The altar, a symbol of Christ, the Anointed One, is now anointed with Sacred Chrism. The Archbishop pours a cross of Chrism in the center and on the four corners of the altar reminding all that the Gospel is to be proclaimed to the four corners of the earth. The Sacred Chrism is then rubbed into the altar.

After the altar is anointed, the walls of the church are then anointed. This anointing of the church signifies that it is given over to Christian worship. These anointings symbolize that the church is an image of the holy city of Jerusalem.

Choral: *Behold the Dwelling Place of God*

Tobias Colgan, O.S.B.

Behold the dwelling place of God, no building made of stone, but formed instead of mortal flesh in which the dream was sown. See gathered here in Jesus' name the greatest and the least, the weak, the strong, the rich and poor — all welcome to the feast. Within these hearts a covenant of wondrous love is cast. Upon these lips an ancient song of generations past: "O God, our rock and fortress strong, before whom nations bow, lead us from darkness into light. Be here among us now!"

Refrain:

How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, Lord, might-y God!

How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, Lord might-y God!

Antiphon Text © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL)
Music by Brian Bisig, © 2009, World Library Publications, Inc. All rights reserved

INCENSATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE CHURCH

Incense is burned on the altar to symbolize that the Eucharistic sacrifice, which will be celebrated upon this altar, rises up to God as a fragrant offering. As the incense rises, so do our prayers, rising up pleasing and acceptable, until they reach the throne of God. As the incense burns on the altar, the people of God are also incensed, for they are the living temple of the Holy Spirit. The walls of the church are likewise incensed, dedicating it as a house of prayer.

When it is time for the assembly to be incensed, the thurifer (server) will gesture for all to stand. As a mark of reverence the assembly and the thurifer make a profound bow to each other. Following the incensing, the thurifer and assembly again make a profound bow to one another and all are seated.

Psalm 138: The Fragrance of Christ

David Haas

Refrain:

Lord, may our prayer rise like in-cense in your sight, may this

place be filled with the fra-grance of Christ.

Text: Based on Psalm 138, David Haas
Music: David Haas
© 1989, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.



Ostinato Refrain:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
 when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 © 1982, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

COVERING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is wiped clean of chrism, then covered with a white cloth signifying that the Christian altar is the altar of the Eucharistic sacrifice and the table of the Lord. Around this altar, Christ's priests and people will celebrate the memorial of His death and resurrection and partake in the Lord's supper. This white cloth reminds us that it is the Lord's table at which all God's people joyously meet to be refreshed with the Body and Blood of Christ sacrificed.



LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR AND CHURCH

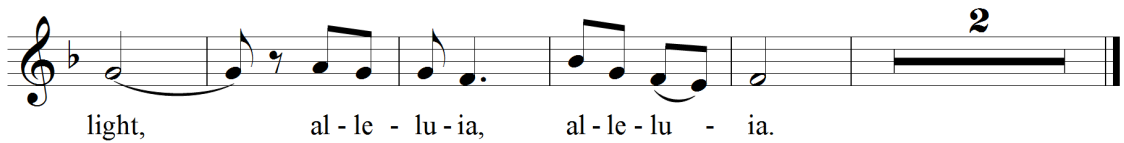
The Archbishop gives the deacon a lighted candle. For the first time, candles are lit in the church, reminding us that Christ is our light.

Your Light Will Come, Jerusalem

Bob Hurd

Refrain:

Your light will come, Je - ru - sa - lem; for on you will dawn the
 glo - ry of the Lord, and all na - tions will walk in your



Text: Refrain based on Isaiah 60:1, 3. English translation refrain text © 1978, ICEL, Verse text by Bob Hurd
 © 2002, 2003, Bob Hurd, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.
 Music: Bob Hurd, © 2002, 2003, Bob Hurd, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Locus Iste

Philip J. Stopford (b. 1977)

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,
 inaestimabile sacramentum,
 irreprehensibilis est.*

This is the Lord's house, which He hath
 made. Profoundly sacred,
 it is beyond reproof.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Pray Brothers & Sisters... the almighty Father.

**R/. 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 DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

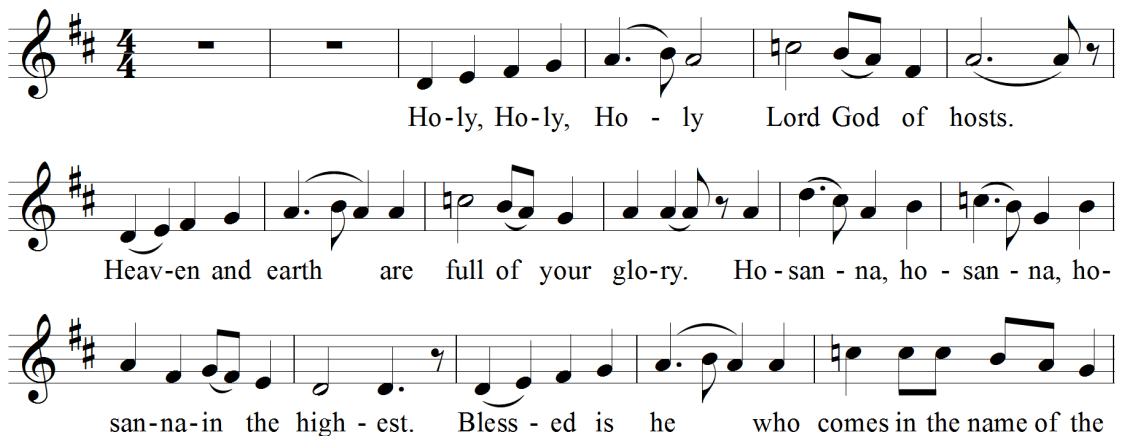
R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Mass for the City



(Continued on next page)

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

 **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** 

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Mass for the City

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

GREAT AMEN

Mass for the City

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

Music for *Mass for the City* by Richard Proulx, 1937-2010,
© 1991, 1995, 2010, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

 **COMMUNION RITE** 

OUR FATHER

SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R/. **And with your spirit.**

LAMB OF GOD

Cantor:

1. γ A - gnus De - i, γ A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta
2. Cor - de - ro de Dios, Cor - de - ro de Dios, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta

All:

1. *mun - di:* Have mer-cy on us, A - gnus De - i. Have
 2. *mun - di:* Have mer-cy on us, Cor - de - ro de Dios. Have

1. mer-cy on us, A - gnus De - i.
 2. mer-cy on us, Cor - de - ro de Dios.

Cantor:

3. *A - gnus De - i, Lamb of God, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di:*

All:

3. Grant us peace, Lamb of God. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Music by Rufino Zaragoza, OFM, © 2006, 2008, Rufino Zaragoza, OFM. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God... Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

COMMUNION SONGS

Children's Choral: *Ubi Caritas*

Becki Slagle Mayo

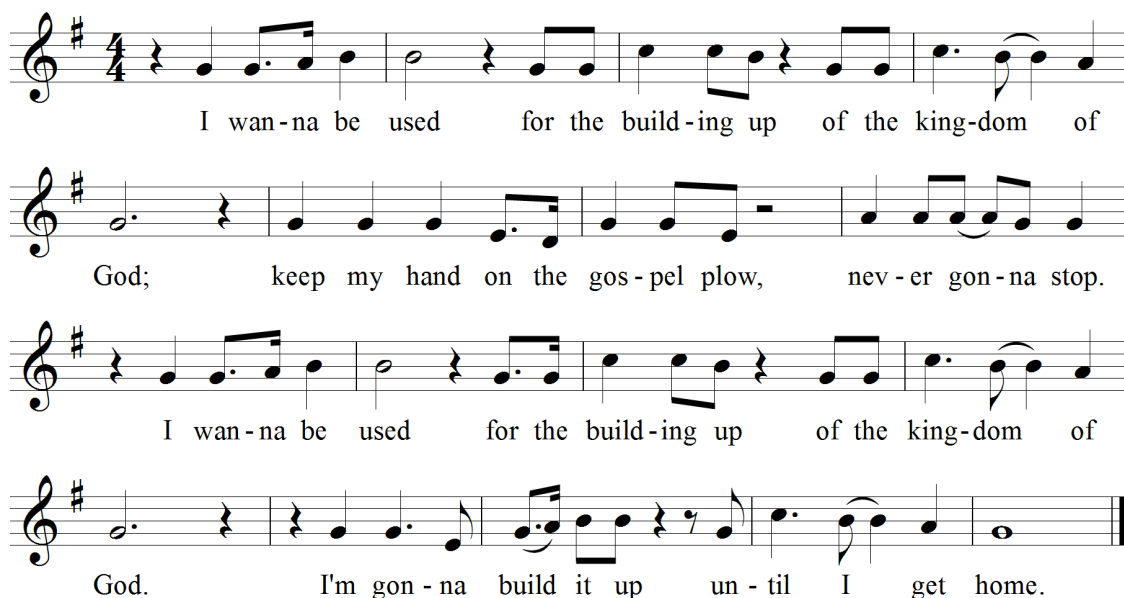
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est. Where there is charity and love, God is always there. We have gathered in this place, joining hearts in love and praise, giving thanks to God above, we go out to serve in love.



Verses are sung by the choir; Refrain sung by all.

1. My hands are your hands, to pray and to serve, to do works of justice, to heal where there is hurt, to touch the untouchable as God did in the flesh. Greater works you said we'll do, if in your name we'll ask.

Refrain:



I wan-na be used for the build-ing up of the king-dom of
 God; keep my hand on the gos-pel plow, nev-er gon-na stop.
 I wan-na be used for the build-ing up of the king-dom of
 God. I'm gon-na build it up un-til I get home.

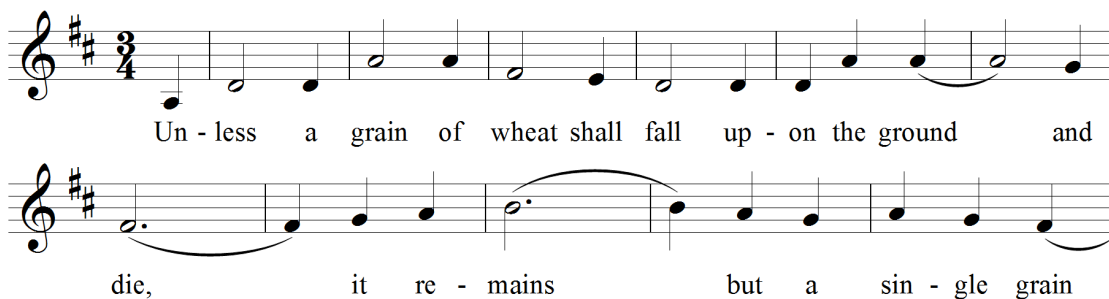
2. My feet are your feet, to go where you please, clothed in your righteousness with the gospel of peace. I'll run and not get weary, walk and not faint, strengthened by your Spirit to run this Christian race. *(to refrain)*
3. My tongue is your tongue, to speak your holy word, spreading the gospel, to bless and not curse, to sing with the angels, their song from above. I dedicate my life to you, an offering of love. *(to refrain)*

Text & Music by M. Roger Holland II, © 2014, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Unless a Grain of Wheat

Bernadette Farrell

Refrain:



Un-less a grain of wheat shall fall up-on the ground and
 die, it re-mains but a sin-gle grain

with no life.

Verses:

1. † If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
2. † If an - y - one serves me, then they must fol - low me;
3. † † Make your home in me as I make mine in you
4. † If you re - main in me and my word lives in you,
5. † † Those who love me are loved by my Fa - ther;
6. † † Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;

1. if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.
2. where - ev - er I am, my ser - vants will be.
3. those who re - main in me bear much fruit.
4. then you will be my dis - ci - ples.
5. we shall be with them and dwell in them.
6. peace which the world can - not give is my gift.

Text: John12:24; Berandette Farrell, b. 1957
 Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 © 1983, Bernadette Farrell, Published by OCP. All right reserved.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion of the prayer, please kneel as you are able.

INAUGURATION OF THE CHAPEL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

After Communion, the ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament is left on the altar. Following the Prayer after Communion, the Archbishop kneels in front of the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. A procession is formed in which the Blessed Sacrament is carried through the main body of the church to the chapel of reservation. The Archbishop reserves the ciborium in the tabernacle and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The door to the tabernacle is closed and the Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the first time.

Choral: *Ave Verum Corpus*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave verum corpus, natum
 de Maria Virgine,
 vere passum, immolatum
 in cruce pro homine,
 cuius latus perforatum
 unda fluxit et sanguine:
 esto nobis praegustatum
 in mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body, born
 of the Virgin Mary,
 who having truly suffered, was sacrificed
 on the cross for mankind,
 whose pierced side
 flowed with water and blood:
 May it be for us a foretaste
 in the trial of death.*

Refrain:



Text: © 1963, The Grail, England, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North America agent. All rights reserved.
Music: Steven C. Warner, © 2006, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

All stand when the Archbishop returns to the chair.



CONCLUDING RITES



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty Father, you have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous “Yes.”

Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to Your call with courage and zeal.

Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, and faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ’s love for His Church.

We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Archbishop: The Lord of earth and heaven has assembled you before him this day to dedicate this house of prayer. May he fill you with the blessings of heaven.

All: **Amen.**

Archbishop: God the Father wills that all his children scattered through the world become one family in his Son. May he make you his temple, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Archbishop: May God free you from every bond of sin, dwell within you and give you joy. May you live with him for ever in the company of all his saints.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

Go to the World!

1. Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth. Go preach the
2. Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place. Go live the
3. Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray. The nights of
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, For I am

cross where Christ re - news life's worth, bap -
Word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
tears give way to joy - ous day. As
with you till the age shall end, When

tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
ser - vant Church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
all the hosts of glo - ry cry — "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Tune: SINE NOMINE; Ralph Vaugh Williams, 1872-1958, arr. James J. Chepponis, © 2001, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

"Through his Death and Resurrection, Christ became the true and perfect temple of the New Covenant and gathered a people to be his own. Moreover, this holy people, made one by the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the Church, that is, the temple of God built of living stones, where the Father is worshiped in Spirit and in truth. Rightly, therefore, from ancient times the name 'church' has also been given to the building in which the Christian community is gathered to hear the Word of God, to pray together, to take part in the Sacraments, and to celebrate the Eucharist."

— The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar (ODCA), ch. II, no. 1



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY



Principal Celebrant

The Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Deacon

Donald J. Meyer

Concelebrating Priests

Rev. Jeffrey M. Kemper, *Pastor*
Rev. Edward Shine, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Jerry Byrd
Rev. Leonard Fecko
Rev. Clarence Heis
Rev. Tom DiFolco
Rev. George Kunkel
Rev. Raymond Larger
Rev. James Meade
Rev. Mike Savino
Rev. Rey Taylor
Rev. Bernard Weldishofer

Masters of Ceremonies

Rev. Jason Williams
Ms. Karen Kane
Mrs. Joy Gemperline
Mr. James Pera, *Music*

Lectors

Ms. Marianne Lienesch
Mr. Donald Kuntz

Servers

Ms. Kalene Dean,
Mr. Ben Knoop,
Mr. Luke Lohman,
Mr. Evan Roell,
Ms. Jessie Roell,
Mr. Luke Roesener,
Mr. Daniel Schutte,
Mr. Jacob Schutte,
Mr. Brody Witt

Placement of the Altar Cloth

Mrs. Jeanette Losekamp
Mrs. Georgia Enneking
Mr. Roy Barth
Mr. Daniel Losekamp
Mr. Michael Newton
Ms. Ruth Walter

Lighting of Candles at Dedication Crosses

Mr. Ronald Herrmann
Mrs. Laura Noyes
Mr. Gary Detmer
Mrs. Carrie Roesener

Gift Bearers

Josephine Ante
Mia Durante
Maxwell Land
Landon Spite

Ministers of Hospitality

Mr. Raymond Brun
Mr. Jerry Forester
Mr. Fred Fox
Mr. Douglas Hoffman
Mr. Thomas Losekamp
Mr. Tony Roark
Mr. Thomas Walter

**Additional gratitude to the young people of our parish and families who have assisted as ministers of hospitality this day.*

Music Ministers

Festival Choir of Adults & Children of
Parish Music Ministry

Additional Singers & Music Directors,
Parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Mr. Michael B. Johnson,

Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Blake Callahan, *Organist*

Mr. Jeremy Helmes, *Pianist*

Mr. Scott Batchelder, *Trumpet*

Mr. Christopher Rolfes, *Trumpet*

Mr. Christopher Van Hof, *Trombone*

Mr. Josiah Williams, *Trombone*

Mr. Scott Lang, *Percussion/Timpani*

Mr. Terry Stephens, *Guitar*

Mrs. Krisstina Monnig, *Flute*

Mrs. Jacquie Fennell, *Violin*

Mrs. Nancy Gruber, *Psalmist*

Mrs. Sharon Hulen, *Cantor*

Ms. Kylie Montgomery, *Cantor*

Mrs. Rosemary Zinser, *Cantor*

Mrs. Rose Abt, *Cantor*

Future Home Committee

Rev. Jeffrey M. Kemper, *Pastor*

Mr. Thomas Gruber, *Chairman*

Mr. Roy Barth

Mr. Joel Beck

Mr. Ronald Herrmann

Mr. Douglas Hoffman

Mr. Carl Koors

Mr. Daniel Losekamp

Mrs. Jeanette Losekamp

Mr. Michael Newton

Ms. Ruth Walter

*We gratefully acknowledge parishioners, professional consultants,
and artists who have shared their time and talent for the building
and dedication of our Church.*

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*.

© 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar*.

© 2014, 2018, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.

Music reproduced with permission under OneLicense.net License #A-722329.



THE FOUR CHURCHES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH



The earliest Catholic settlers came to Harrison in the 1830s, pursuing a dream to own farmland. They were primarily poor German immigrants. As they struggled to build their new lives in America, their hearts longed for a new spiritual home, but the settlement era was difficult, and they came here with so very little.

With dedication, great faith and much hard work, they finally built a small brick church on Elm Street in 1851. It was a home-made church, constructed with rough-hewn timber and faced with bricks the Germans baked themselves. The original St. John the Baptist Church cross was made of iron, pounded by the powerful hands of a blacksmith in the simplest style. The congregants raised that simple, solid cross with great pride and a community of faithful grew, with their lives centered around a tiny, treasured church, built with their own hands.

Waves of German immigration continued, and the parish grew. Franciscan priests from Austria and the Sisters' of Charity served the tiny community of Harrison faithful. In 1876, the second St. John the Baptist Church was built at Harrison Ave and Hill Street. After just 25 years as a parish, the congregation was able to build this new, much larger structure. It was a beautiful addition to the growing town of Harrison and the hardworking Catholics were very proud of it. The same congregation was responsible for building several schools, a rectory, and housing for the Sisters of Charity as well as developing the cemetery. In 1922, construction began on the third church. St. John the Baptist Parish was primarily a small agricultural community. Families were large and times were hard, but once again, the faithful donated their time and talent and labored to construct another beautiful place of worship.

“Like the beautiful churches built of old, this structure is our gift to God.”

Throughout these decades, St. John's has been blessed with the dedication of her founding families. Incredibly, many of those families remain active at St. John's to this day. We rejoice in their longevity and the rich history it gives us.

Today we dedicate St. John the Baptist's fourth beautiful place of worship. The land was purchased in 2003 and church construction began in 2017. Harrison has changed dramatically since the original St. John the Baptist Church was dedicated, and yet, what is integral remains the same. We are a community of faithful and we need the grounding of a spiritual home in an increasingly secular and challenging world. At the end of their lives, our immigrant founders left behind a faith story rich in struggle and sacrifice; a legacy of faith that withstood epidemics, poverty, world wars, natural disasters and economic depressions.

Theirs was a story of strength, love of God and selflessness that was reflected in their morals and priorities.

As we dedicate our beautiful new church to the glory of God, we recognize that this building is the compilation of our own faith, persistence, and sacrifice. This is part of our own legacy of faith that we will leave behind for those who will follow us. However, the rich tapestry of the St. John the Baptist faith story is visible not just in building structures, but more importantly, in building love of God and rooting it deep in all hearts so that as families and as a parish we might endure all trials and continue to grow in faith.

Like the beautiful churches built of old, this structure is our gift to God. Like the ancient places of worship, this one is layered in symbolism to teach and inspire us. It was also carefully designed to preserve our parish's faith story.

This sacred structure itself draws our eyes and our hearts upward, and here, our prayers and songs of praise will also rise, like incense.

The beautiful stained-glass windows were purchased for our third church, filling it with light for nearly 100 years. These windows were donated at great sacrifice by early families, some with connections to proud parishioners of today. Created by G. C. Riordan & Company of Cincinnati, they were beautifully restored by the same company, today's BeauVerre Riordan in Middletown. These old windows now fill our new church with light and color, lifting our spirits and reminding us of special saints and devotionals.

Our Stations of the Cross were created by the renowned Daprato Rigali Statues Company for our third church. After they were replaced during a church refurbishment in the 1980s, these stations were purchased at auction by Don Kocher, a descendant of the founding Kocher family. The stations were stored all these years and lovingly returned at last to where they truly belong. They were restored by the Trinity Church Supply Company.

Today, in the four corners of this beautiful church you will see four dedication crosses, each a copy of that very first St. John the Baptist Church cross: that simple, rock-solid piece of iron, pounded with hard work and crafted with strong hands, made to endure, tested in fire...a gift to God from a pure heart.

That first cross, treasured these many decades, clearly reminds us of all that we come from.

On this day, we are mindful of our history as we celebrate with joyful hearts. We know that we built this church on the foundation laid by previous generations of faith-filled people. May we feel today the presence of fathers and mothers, priests and sisters, teachers and faithful servants who turned the fertile fields of so many hearts. May we plant here only the finest seeds. May we nurture here roots that grow deep in faith and may we labor without ceasing to bring forth a harvest for the glory of God.

~ *Kathleene Maag Lang*



NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

It is hard to believe that we are dedicating our new church! We have waited years to get to this point, but the wait has paid off. We have opened our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and despite fits and starts, and delays and disappointments over the years, have come now to present to God this building where we may encounter Christ in word and sacrament, be nourished with divine life itself, and go forth to bring these very gifts to a world so sorely in need of them.

This church is truly your church. It has sprung forth from the earth because you as parishioners came together with openness to a vision, surrendering individual agendas for the common good, opening minds to see things differently, and willingly surrendering the security and familiarity of a beloved church we know and love to meet the needs of this era and future years. It is the work of so many parishioners who have given countless hours to plan, wrestle with issues, raise the funds, explain what has been happening, and discuss and re-discuss issues of liturgy and architecture for the best church we can afford. It is through the generosity of treasure surrendered to God by so many people that this dream has become reality. It is one thing to look and say that this beautiful church has come from such self-giving in imitation of Christ who for our sake surrendered his life for us, but I think we can also say that we, as individuals and a community of faith, have grown spiritually through this endeavor, and this is the greatest offering to God.

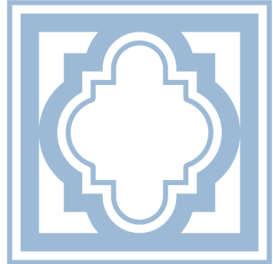
A pastor is the steward of all that God has given us in both the material and spiritual realms. This is a responsibility that weighs heavily upon pastors, for we are accountable to the Lord. The great work of our committees, your trust in them and in me, has lightened this burden; your support in so many ways has energized us, and your involvement and commitment has thrilled us.

All of us can be grateful to Archbishop Schnurr for his unflagging support, and to the various Archdiocesan Offices for their assistance, especially the Finance, Development, and Worship Offices and their committees. Their expertise, guidance, and trust in us have played such a significant role in our being in this church today. Our gratitude goes out also to our architects and contractors for work of their minds and hands that have taken brick, steel, wood, and glass and fashioned them to reveal the beauty of God and allow us to encounter Christ in word, in sacrament, in prayer, and in each other. To our civic officials and servants we also extend our gratitude, for they have worked closely with us, so that our city and township can benefit from the work of this parish, and bring us to faithfully do the mission of the Church. To our parish staff who, as they always do, have poured out their hearts to this work, we are so grateful.

This day of gratitude and rejoicing has value only if we allow this new building and the rites we celebrate in it to transform us into Christ himself, so that the words of St. Paul become a greater and greater reality, "It is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me." May this be a day of commitment as well as joy, so that one day, we may all, in the heavenly Jerusalem, worship our Lord and God face to face, in eternal joy and glory. Until that day, may every blessing be yours.

Sincerely,

Reverend Jeffrey M. Kemper, Pastor



10010 Carolina Trace Road
Harrison, Ohio 45030