### ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELLULAR PHONES.

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH CELEBRATION (Noon)

#### Respect Life Sunday

**PRELUDE** 

Karitas habundat (8:00) Retrové

St. Hildegard of Bingen/Snedecor Robertsbridge Codex, 1360

**ENTRANCE** 

THE CANTICLE OF BROTHER SUN All creatures of our God and King

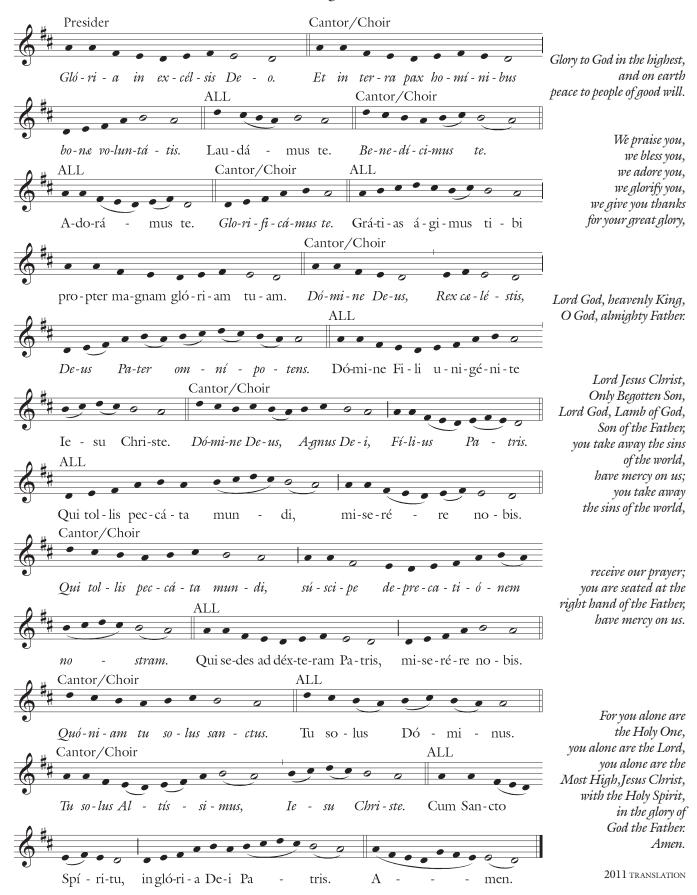
St. Francis of Assisi LASST UNS ERFREUEN



PENITENTIAL RITE

Missa de angelis

Have mer - cy on us.



#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS [Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43]

**PSALM RESPONSE** 

Psalm 80

Proulx

Sing, sing, sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing, sing, to the Lord a new song.

ALLELUIA No. 237

**HOMILY** 

Father Ignatius Ohno, SJ

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (10:00)

CREED No. 238

#### BLESSING OF CHILDREN (Noon)

INVITATION OF THE CHILDREN

All children, together with teachers and catechists, are invited to gather around the altar platform for the blessing.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

chant, Litany of Saints

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

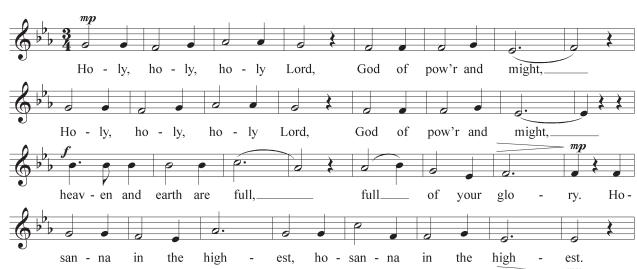
(10:00) O Miranda dei karitas (Noon) Nature's praises (Sunday Evening) O frondens

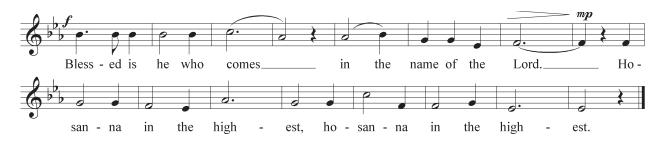
13th c. Dominic Braud, OSB St. Hildegard of Bingen

**SANCTUS** 

German Mass

Schubert







AMEN

German Mass

Schubert

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

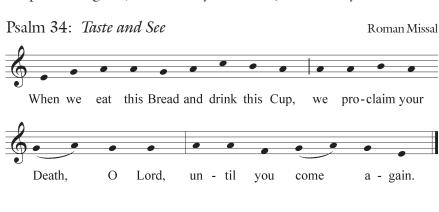
#### LORD'S PRAYER No. 246



#### **COMMUNION**

(10:00)

My soul aspires after your salvation; I hope in your word; when will you judge those who persecute me? The wicked are persecuting me; come to my assistance, O Lord my God.



Music from the time of St. Francis of Assisi

Ogne homo Florence

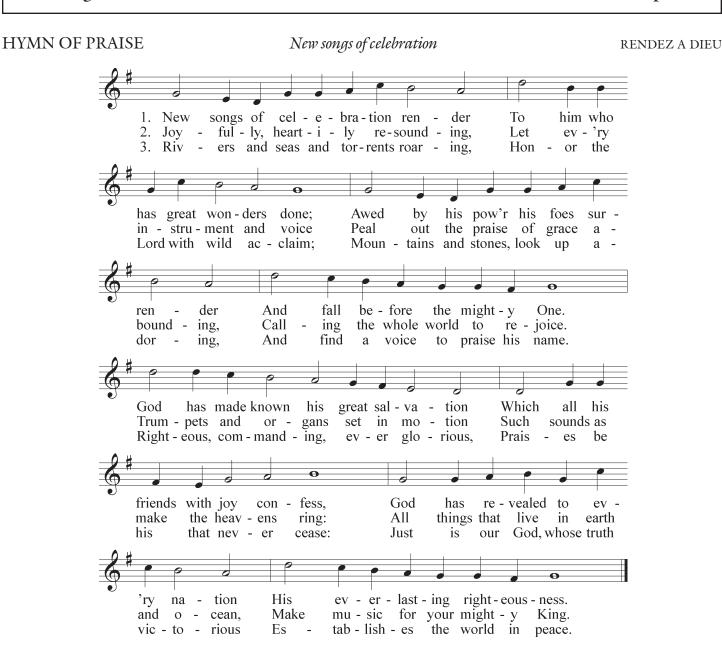
Christo Psallat

Procession of the Nunnery of Chester

Domino fidelium/Domino School of Notre-Dame

When you return to your seat after receiving Holy Communion, please kneel or be seated. This is the norm for large assemblies in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we thank you for following our practice.

Low-gluten hosts are available at the credence table near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



#### ANTIPHON IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (10:00, Noon, Sunday Evening)

Please, no applause following this choral prayer.

(10:00) O frondens St. Hildegard of Bingen
(Noon) Thou that art so fair and bright Pothier
(Sunday Evening) Regina celi Prætorius

**PROCESSION** 

"Ite, Missa est" from *Dublin Organ Mass*(8:00) *Kyrie (Cunctipotens Genitor Deus)*Faenza Codex, c.1420

PROCESSIONAL ICON OF THE MYSTICAL BANQUET ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Psalm Response by Proulx; Eucharistic Acclamations from *German Mass* by Franz Schubert, adapt. Richard Proulx, copyright © 1986 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net License #A706828. Memorial Acclamation adapted from *Deutsche Messe* by St. James Cathedral. All rights reserved.

#### ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

#### IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant The Reverend Richard J. Ward

#### PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

#### **PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES**

John Simpson, Pastoral Care Minister (206-274-3173) Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse (206-382-4269)

#### SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515) Suzanne Lee (206-654-4640)

Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (622-3559 x3996) Brenda Bellamy, Peter Burns, Bryan Long, John Marquez, Stephen Pace, sacristans

#### MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597) Dr. Clint Kraus, Associate Organist; Director of Youth Music Stacey Sunde, Music Assistant

Thomas Thompson, Coordinator of Special Projects

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Helen Oesterle, Director/RCIA (206-382-4514) TerryAnn Bowen, "Welcome Back" & Confirmation (206-382-2018) Marianne Coté, Youth & Family Ministry (206-382-4512) Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (206-654-4658) Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

#### **MINISTRY to IMMIGRANTS** (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director Glenda Caldwell, ESL Specialist Jim Hodges, Citizenship Cecilia Erin Walsh, ESL Coordinator

#### STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564) Peggy Behnken, Receptionist (206-622-3559) Marilyn Maddeford, Administrative Assistant (206-622-3559 x3971)

Linda Carr, Wedding Office (206-622-3559 ext. 3979) Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

#### **FACILITIES and GROUNDS**

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

#### **CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS**

#### MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm Saturdays

#### LITURGY of the HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

#### **VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT** Sundays at 4:00 pm.

BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**RECONCILIATION** Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

MARRIAGE A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

ANOINTING of the SICK A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

#### "TAIZÉ" ECUMENICAL PRAYER, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

TOURS of the CATHEDRAL Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Groups of 4 or more may arrange a tour by calling Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

#### ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303

Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org Emergency Number: 206-467-3049

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**TELCOME!** If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese. Thanks, in part, to the generosity of visitors like you, we are able to celebrate the Church's liturgy here in a fitting and beautiful way. We are also able to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the central district of our city.

**HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE** On Friday, October 7, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:15am Mass, concluding with a Holy Hour for Life at 12 Noon.

#### THE CATHEDRAL ESPRESSO CART IS UP AND

**RUNNING!** All proceeds, through the end of October will support scholarships for our Children's Faith Formation program. We are also looking for a few more volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Katherine Berry at 425-772-0897. No experience is necessary, training will be provided.

**TOURS OF THE CATHEDRAL** We've had such an extraordinary response to the Wednesday tours of the Cathedral we've offered all summer, that we will continue to offer tours of the Cathedral each Wednesday at 1:00pm throughout the year. This is a great way to share the Cathedral with family and guests.

ARE YOU A CATHOLIC WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FROM **THE CHURCH?** It is not too late to join our Welcome Back program – a safe place, in the company of others who are also examining their faith, to ask questions about returning to regular church attendance, returning to the sacraments, and to learn about changes in the church. It is not too late to join us Monday, September 26 from 7:00-9:00 pm and then each Monday through December 5 in Cathedral Place, 2nd floor. Classes are offered without any obligation. *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or the thousand stjames cathedral.org.

ST. JAMES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUP Open Meeting Thursday, October 6, 6:30 pm in the Mother Mary Rose Room, Pastoral Outreach Center. Our faith calls us to care for all of God's creation. Do you feel that call? Do you want to learn more and get involved? Join the St. James Environmental Justice Group to learn about environmental activities at the parish, and to share your own ideas. *Information*, Patty Bowman, 206-382-4515, or pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org.

**PARISH REMEMBRANCE** Throughout the year, because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day. This week we remember in prayer the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi in Friday Harbor and Seahurst; and Holy Rosary in Seattle, Tacoma, and Edmonds. We also pray for the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

### Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations at St. James

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S **BLESSINGS** Last weekend we celebrated the Rites of Acceptance/Welcoming for those in our RCIA process who are ready to take the next step towards becoming full members of our Catholic Christian Church. We welcome Norman Ledbetter, Jeremy Soule, Sonya Trejo, Evelyn Tse, and Natalie Van Brunt who are preparing for baptism and enter the order of catechumens; and our candidates: Kay Alton, Rebecca Brown, Michael Holland, Bruce Lorente, and Barbara Schmidt who are already baptized and are preparing for Full Communion with us. Many of them will now participate in the ancient tradition of being dismissed after the homily during Mass. Please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to *Nicholl Ross & Brandon Eggers*, married in the Cathedral on Saturday, September 24. Please pray for them as they begin their new lives together!

**REST IN PEACE** Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Joseph Deichl*.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), St. Joseph's parish is sponsoring a free Electronics Recycling event next Sunday, October 9 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Did you know that electronic waste is only 2% of the trash in American landfills but represents 70% of overall toxic waste? This is an opportunity to dispose of unused electronic equipment in an environmentally responsible way. All donations are tax deductible. Certificates of destruction of data will be provided. For more extensive list of acceptable items, please visit www.friendlyearth.org. *Items should be dropped off October 9 at St. Joseph's parish, 732 18th Avenue East on Capitol Hill. Information*, Patty Bowman, 206 -382-4515 or pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org.

THE LAST SENIOR TRIP for this season will be Wednesday October 12. We will visit both the Burke Museum and the Museum of History and Industry. We'll receive a passport through the evolution of our state's geology, biology, and archaeology. And, we'll see engaging exhibits, a collection of artifacts, archives and photographs illustrating the Northwest's diverse cultural, social and economic history. Please join us! Space is limited and priority will be given to registered parishioners. *Information, or to reserve your place*, John Simpson, Pastoral Care Minister, at 206-274-3173 or jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org.

**YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM** St. James Youth Music is still accepting new singers in to our renowned youth choirs. In the training choirs for students grades 1-4 students will learn participate fully and actively in the mass through exciting and innovative musical teaching. Some of the Northwest's most highly recognized music educators will inspire your student with both vocal and instrumental training. No audition is necessary, and scholarships are available. Help us make a joyful noise! *Information*, ssunde@stjames-cathedral.org or 206 382 4874

HUNGARIAN ORGANIST Szabolcs Szamosi, organist of the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Pécs, will make his St. James debut on Tuesday, October 18, 8:00 pm. Mr. Szamosi will perform a program featuring works mostly by Hungarian composers including Dezső d'Antalffy, Liszt, Kodály, Bartók, and Gárdonyi. This event is being co-sponsored by the Seattle-Pécs Sister-City Association and the Hungarian-American Association of Washington. Suggested donation \$15, students and seniors pay as able. Passes available at www.stjames-cathedral.org/music, or 206-382-4874.

REACH OUT TO SOMEONE WITH HIV/AIDS *I was sick* and you took care of me (Mt 25:36). St. James partners with Rosehedge Multifaith Works to provide practical and emotional support to people living with HIV/AIDS or recovering from addiction. A CareTeam consisting of 4-7 Cathedral parishioners builds supportive relationships with CarePartners by listening, offering encouragement, celebrating birthdays and holidays, and helping with simple tasks such as transportation to appointments, shopping and light cleaning. Volunteer training is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 from 8:45 am to 4:45 pm at Rosehedge Multifaith Works, 115 16th Avenue, Seattle. *Information*, Suzanne Lee, 206-654-4640 or slee@stjames-cathedral.org.

**SOLEMN MASS OF ALL SOULS WITH FAURÉ'S REQUIEM** Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 pm. If you would like to remember someone in the printed program or be a patron, please put your donation in an envelope marked "All Souls Patron" and drop it in the offering basket or send to the parish office. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to remember, as well as your name and address. *Information*, Music Office, 206-382-4874.

**FRIENDS OF CATHEDRAL MUSIC** Give us your email address if you would like to receive email notices about music events at St. James Cathedral. *Information*, 206-382-4874 or musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org.

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR On Sunday, October 16, we will have a Mental Health Fair at coffee hour after the morning Masses. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about our new Mental Health Ministry, find out more about mental illnesses and the services that are available in the Seattle area, and much more! Information, Beth Rose, 206-382-4269 or e-mail brose@stjames-cathedral.org.

### Protecting Children, Born and Unborn

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH | No. 1 of 5

October 2, 2011

October is Respect Life Month!
Each week this month, a page in
the bulletin will explore different
aspects of Church teaching on a
variety of life issues: abortion,
human trafficking, war, and
euthanasia. This week, we look at
the Church's teaching on
abortion.

"... From the moment of conception, God loves every human life. He loves each and every human person, no matter his or her stage of development

or age, and he wants each to know and enjoy his love in fullness."

Every child brings us God's smile Pope Benedict XVI

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, Of You My Heart Has Spoken

#### What does the Church say about abortion?

The Second Vatican Council defines abortion, together with infanticide, as an "unspeakable crime." But today, in many people's consciences, the perception of its gravity has become progressively obscured. The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind, in behavior and even in law itself, is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake. Given such a grave situation, we need now more than ever to have the courage to look the truth in the eye and to call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or to the temptation of self-deception.

Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, 58

#### Reflections

If one contends, as we do, that the right of every fetus to be born should be protected by civil law and supported by civil consensus, then our moral, political, and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth. Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, A Consistent Ethic of Life

Since 1973, there have been more than 50 million abortions in the United States. While some women report relatively little distress following abortion, for many, the experience is devastating, causing severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological and spiritual trauma. Even those who advocate for the right of a woman to choose abortion tell of the grief, sorrow, confusion and struggle to cope with the aftermath of the most common surgical procedure performed in the United States.

The ministry of Project Rachel arose in response to the stories women and men told about the hurt they experienced months and even years after an abortion.

From the website for Project Rachel www.hopeafterabortion.com

#### Take a Stand for Life

Participate in 40 Days for Life Campaign
From September 28th to November 6th peaceful
prayer vigils will be held outside abortion facilities
in 337 cities across the United States and other
countries. In Seattle, daily vigils will be held at
Planned Parenthood, 2001 E Madison. Information,
Ted Nutting, theodorenutting@msn.com or 206285-7533.

Get involved in the Pregnancy Support Ministry of St. James Cathedral. We work in partnership with Catholic Community Services to help women dealing with the crisis of unplanned pregnancy or with the difficulties of parenting on their own. Volunteers build a support network for mothers in need to help them with transportation, shopping, laundry, cooking, and babysitting. Information, Suzanne Lee, slee@stjamescathedral.org or 206-654-4640.

**Learn about Catholic Community Services' Project Rachel Ministry** http://www.ccsww.org or call 1-800-822-HOPE.



# All they want to do is serve our country and live

### The American Dream

Thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can now be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they have never known.

The DREAM Act would stop this injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated high school in the United States the opportunity to serve our country and earn legal status through higher education or military service.

As Catholics, we support the DREAM Act because we believe in protecting the life and dignity of every human being, so that all can reach their God given potential.



### PLEASE SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT! It is the right thing to do, for them and for our country

"Whoever receives one child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." (Mk 9:37)

To learn about the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' position on immigration, go to www.justiceforimmigrants.org





# From Age to Age

## Exploring the History of Catholic Worship

**Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25** 6:30pm in Cathedral Place, 2nd Floor OR

Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29 9:30am in Cathedral Place, 2nd Floor

This fall, explore the rich history of Catholic worship through a special adult education series presented by members of the Cathedral staff. Why do we pray the way we do? How have the laity participated in the liturgy through the centuries? How has the role of the priest grown and changed? We'll explore the many transformations in the way we worship from the days of the early Church to the present. Each session will be offered twice, on Tuesday evenings and on Saturday mornings.

#### The Early Church and the Rise of Rome

Helen Oesterle, presenter

Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30pm OR Saturday, October 7 at 9:30am We trace the early growth of the Church, from a sect of Judaism to the official religion of the Roman Empire.

#### The Age of the Monasteries

John Marquez, presenter

Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30pm OR Saturday, October 15 at 9:30am We explore the history of the liturgy in the Middle Ages, as the liturgical life of the Church was centered in its great monasteries.

#### The Transforming Power of Music

Dr. James Savage, presenter

Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30pm OR Saturday, October 22 at 9:30am What makes music 'church music'? This whirlwind tour of music in the liturgy may surprise you!

#### Reform and Renewal

Corinna Laughlin, presenter

Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30pm OR Saturday, October 29 at 9:30am In the last in our series, we will trace the reform and renewal of the Church following the Council of Trent and the Second Vatican Council.

The book which inspired this series, *From Age to Age: How Christians Have Celebrated the Eucharist*, by Father Edward Foley, Capuchin, is available in the Cathedral Bookstore.

RSVP is appreciated but not required. *Information*, Theresa Van De Ven, 206-219-5822 or e-mail tvandeven@stjames-cathedral.org

### Transitioning to the new Roman Missal

Part 4 in a series (Prepared by Corinna Laughlin)

**October 2, 2011** 

ne of the most familiar Christian prayers is known as the "Doxology," meaning words of praise: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end." The Gloria we sing at Mass is sometimes called "the greater Doxology," because it is an extended hymn of praise to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The translators of the 1974 Sacramentary wanted an English Gloria which was accurate in the essential points of the prayer, but which avoided repetitions which could be distracting in the vernacular. They also worked hard to make the text rhythmic and singable, so that it could be set to music naturally and memorably.

In keeping with the Church's new guidelines on liturgical translation, the 2011 version of the Gloria reflects the Latin text more exactly. The most noticeable changes are in the litany of praise at

the beginning of the prayer. The current version says (or sings!): "Lord God, heavenly King, / almighty God and Father, / we worship you, we give you thanks, / we praise you for your glory." The new version changes the order of these phrases, in keeping with the Latin, and adds

Amen.

#### THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. 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. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, **Jesus Christ**, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Texts of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, are copyright © 2010 by International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL).

additional words of praise: we "praise," "bless," "adore," "glorify," and "give... thanks." The Gloria is a poem, a song of praise, not a theological treatise, so this variety of language should probably not be read as if these phrases somehow constitute a precise summary of how we can praise God. Rather, they should be experienced as we experience music or poetry, in which repetition is used for cumulative effect: in this case, a crescendo of praise.

The other significant difference comes in the second part of the Gloria, with the extended litany to Christ, who takes "away the sins of the world." This litany echoes the "Lamb of God" we will pray just before communion. In this part of the Gloria, we express our faith in Christ, the "Only Begotten Son" of God, and recall his saving mission for the world - and for us. He takes away the sins of the world, and so we ask him to "have mercy on us" as well. He is "seated at the right hand of the Father" to intercede for us, and so we ask him to "receive our prayer."

The final part of the Gloria, which is unchanged, praises Christ and the triune God, bringing to a transcendent conclusion this great song of praise.

**THE LANGUAGE OF THE MASS IS CHANGING** The texts of the Mass, including the parts prayed by the priest and the people's responses, are changing. In just a few weeks, **on November 27**, we will begin using the new translation of the Roman Missal. This page is part of an ongoing series in the bulletin to help us understand the new texts and prepare to use them on the First Sunday of Advent. *Explore the whole series at www.stjames-cathedral.org*.

You are invited to participate in a **lecture and discussion series on the history of our worship, which begins Tuesday, October 4**. The series is offered on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturday mornings at 9:30am. This series explores the history of our worship, why we pray the way we do, and includes time for discussion and reflection. In addition, on the weekends of November 13 and 20, there will be short, intensive sessions focused on learning the new responses after all the Masses. Please participate! Visit the Cathedral's website for more details on these programs.

The following is the text of Father Ryan's homily for last Sunday, September 25. It is reprinted for the benefit of those who may have missed it.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 25, 2011

"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing." St. Paul addressed those words long ago to the Christian community at Philippi. Think of them as addressed to our community today. Think of them as St. Paul's assurance to us that there *is* encouragement in Christ, comfort in love, communion in the Spirit, compassion and mercy in the community, and there will be as long as we are of one mind with each other, as long as we put on the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ.

These are words any pastor can relate to. Like Paul, a pastor wants his community to be energized by their faith in Jesus Christ and by their communion in God's Spirit -- to be strong in love, compassionate and merciful, one in mind and heart. And, my friends, we are. Not completely so, of course, but it's what we strive to be, hope to be, and pray to be. And it's our coming here together Sunday after Sunday that makes it possible. The Eucharist we celebrate is the source of our life as a community and as individuals. It is the very pinnacle of all our prayer. All our life flows from the Eucharist and all our energy should flow toward it.

Every few years I like to reflect a little with you on the way we pray together because even though I think we do it very well, there are always ways we can do it better. But let me first say that, thanks to you, St. James Cathedral has gained a reputation across this country for being a place where the Church's liturgy is celebrated with reverence, beauty, and dignity, a place where the people participate to a phenomenal degree. I think it's a reputation we deserve. For me, it's an incredible privilege to be able to lead you in prayer week after week, and I feel so very grateful and proud when visitors remark to me Sunday after Sunday about the beauty of our prayer in this beautiful place. I'm leaving for vacation this week and it will be good to get away, but I will miss this. Gathering here with you for prayer is the highlight of my life.

Even so, that doesn't mean we can't do better! And this coming year we will be especially challenged to do just that. Two months from now, as Advent begins, we will begin using the new Roman Missal. All the prayers you hear and many of the responses you make will be very different from what you've been hearing and saying for the past 40 years. Some, you may like better; others may raise eyebrows or raise questions, or even cause consternation. We will do our best to prepare you for the new Missal in a positive way but, ultimately, you will form your own opinions and I hope you express them -- even as we make every effort to help you make a smooth transition.

And, now, let me remind you of some other things that are important no matter how the prayers are translated. First, our celebrations would be even better than they are if all of us, not just most of us, were to regard the sung responses and hymns, not just as nice music, but as communal prayers. The Mass prayers come in two forms: some are recited, others are sung. But they're all prayers, so we should all pray them! And I know that some of us don't think we sing very well. No matter. Every human voice is music to God's ear. So, please pick up the Order of Celebration and join in the hymns and responses!

And our celebrations would be even better if we took advantage of the quiet moments during Mass (the pause during the penitential rite, the brief moments that follow the "Let us pray" at the opening prayer, the pauses that follow the readings and the homily), to let God's Spirit speak to us deep in our hearts. These silent moments during the liturgy are as much a prayer as the sung or spoken parts.

Our celebrations would be even better than they are if we made the effort to arrive for Mass on time and stayed until the end. I know there are last minute emergencies (especially for families with babies and small children) which can cause late arrivals. That's to be expected. What's not to be expected is arriving consistently late – in effect, treating the whole first part of the Mass, the proclamation of God's Word, as if it were an optional extra. It isn't! We are fed from two tables at Mass: the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist. If we miss either one, we are depriving ourselves of essential nourishment. And leaving Mass early – during or right after Communion – except in cases of real necessity is, frankly, a bad statement about priorities. The hymn of praise is part of our prayer and so is the final blessing. So why leave early? Why forego a prayer and a blessing?

These remarks will be incomplete if I don't say a word about unwelcome sounds during Mass. As far as I'm concerned, the only really unwelcome sounds are those of cell phones with their ever so entertaining ring tones. The voices of babies (including their cries) are *welcome* sounds! We are very blessed to have so many young families with babies and young children in this parish. It's one of our greatest blessings. But, yes, there are times when the insistent cry or ongoing chatter of a baby might mean "Can I please go outside for a few minutes?" I leave it up to you parents to interpret your babies' cries. You can do that far better that I. But know this: your children are always welcome at St. James! They are our hope, our joy, and our future.

I return to where I began: to St. Paul's words to his beloved community at Philippi. There is much to encourage you about, my friends: there is compassion and mercy in this community, there is love, there is joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. There is among us the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ. In so many ways you have taken to heart your baptismal call and dignity and you show this by the absolutely marvelous way you worship together in this place, bringing heaven very close to earth. You show it, too, by the way you go forth from here to serve the poor in Christ's name. There's no doubt about it: we are a great community of faith, but we can always be a better one!