

# Christmas 2023 Worship Aid

# Introductory Rites

# GATHERING HYMN: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1. Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time, behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

### Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

# Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; Adapt. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

# Liturgy of the Word

#### **PSALM 96:**

Today is born our Savior, today is born our Savior, today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

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#### **OFFERTORY HYMN:**

"Christ Our Light Has Come"

1. Still, come be still; let us hear the prophets calling. Still, come be still; let us hear the angels sing. For true light has arrived to illumine our lives so often beset by the darkness. We find who we are in the light of the star on the way to our journey's end.

# Cast aside all your fear and dread, come follow the light to Bethlehem. The way of salvation revealed to all: Christ our light has come, Christ our light has come.

- 2. Peace, there is peace; for new hope today is dawning. Peace, there is peace; come behold the face of God. In a promise fulfilled now his love is revealed; all heaven and earth are rejoicing. Put away all your fear for our path now is clear on the way to our journey's end. **R**
- 3. Here in this place let us stand in awe and wonder. Here in this place we behold the mystery. For the message goes out; there is no room for doubt: the child now laid in a manger; true God and true man, now revealing the plan, the way to our journey's end. **R**

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# Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### **PRE COMMUNION:**

#### "Noel"

"Noel, Noel, come and see what God has done. Noel, Noel, the story of amazing love. The light of the world, given for us, Noel."

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

"Silent Night"

- 1. Silent night! Holy night!
  All is calm, all is bright
  Round yon Virgin Mother and child!
  Holy Infant so tender and mild,
  Sleep in heavenly peace,
  Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night! Holy night!
  Shepherds quake at the sight;
  Glories stream from heaven afar;
  Heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!
  Christ the Savior is born,
  Christ the Savior is born."
- 3. Silent night! Holy night!
  Son of God, love's pure light
  Radiant beams from thy holy face,
  With the dawn of redeeming grace,
  Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
  Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**SILENTS NIGHT:** Irregular; Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. by John F. Young, 1820–1885. Music: STILLE NACTH; Franz X. Gruber, 1787-1863.

#### "Take and Eat"

Take and eat; take and eat: this is my Body given up for you. Take and drink; take and drink: this is my Blood given up for you.

1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made: I am the seed that died







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to be reborn; I am the bread that comes from heav'n above; I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.

- 2. I am the way that leads the exile home; I am the truth that sets the captive free; I am the life that raises up the dead; I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
- 3. I am the Lamb that takes away your sin; I am the gate that guards you night and day; You are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice; You are my own: your ransom is my blood.
- 4. I am the cornerstone that God has laid; a chosen stone and precious in his eyes; You are God's dwelling place, on me you rest; like living stones, a temple for God's praise.
- 5. I am the light that came into the world; I am the light that darkness cannot hide; I am the morning star that never sets; lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
- 6. I am the first and last, the Living One; I am the Lord who died that you might live; I am the bridegroom,

this my wedding song; You are my bride, come to the marriage feast.

**TAKE AND EAT:** Verse text, James Quinn, SJ, b.1919, © 1989. Used by permission of Selah Publishing Co., Inc., Kingston, NY 12401, North American agent; refrain text, Michael Joncas, b.1951. © 1989. GIA Publications. Inc.

# Concluding Rites

#### **SENDING FORTH HYMN:**

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

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# An Aria of Inspiration

The words for a new refrain we learned during Advent was "Cast aside all your fear and dread, come follow the light to Bethlehem. The way of salvation revealed to all: Christ our light has come."

The theme this Christmas and upcoming year is ONLY Jesus. Let's leave behind anything that encumbers us so we can trust Jesus even more.

The lyrics to one of the songs you heard during Advent was "As we await the birth of Jesus, help our busyness recede." Sometimes we try to pack so much in our schedule that there's not enough time for Jesus.

My prayer for all of us this Christmas is that we will take a step back from the busyness of the season so that we can spend more time with Jesus. Only Jesus can completely fulfill our heart's desire.

TRAVIS JÜRGENS Director, Saint Ambrose Music Ministry

# Sing a joyful song...

We are blessed as a parish community to have an inspiring music ministry. They help us lift our voices in prayer and song to the Lord. Singing is actually a great way to 'plant' the Word of God and the message of the Lord deep in our hearts. We remember the songs we sing so we can sing them to ourselves over and over.

There's a place for everyone in our music ministry. Better said, there's a way for everyone to share their gifts and talents... and join a friendly and joyful group of members.

### In the New Year, please consider joining the music ministry:

- Children's Choir(s) (for all ages)
- Handbell Choir
- Adult Choir
- New Life Funeral Choir
- Cantors
- Instrumentalists
- We even need help 'running' sound for Mass

Join us in the New Year. For more information, or to sign up, contact Travis Jurgens (tjurgens@StAmbrose.us) or Michelle Cha (mcha@StAmbrose.us).



The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the vision of God's Kingdom and the promise of God's faithfulness in His Son Jesus. He is Emmanuel. He is the Prince of Peace, our source of Strength, the Grace and Wisdom we need each day.

As we celebrate the Joy of Christmas, may we use this day to embrace the faithful love and peace that only Jesus can give at Christmas and always. May we use this Christmas to renew our commitment to work together to build stronger families and a more tender, kind and compassionate world for all of God's people.

And on Christmas, and always, I thank God for you and our parish family. Over and again, I see so many giving, sharing and working together to build a strong community of faith and a more loving world for all. Over the past few weeks:

- · Hundreds of people received food for Christmas.
- Thousands of toys and gifts have been given to those in need.
- We have adopted hundreds of people serving in our military and hold them and their families close to the Lord in prayer.
- Thousands (literally) have come to some of our Advent/ Christmas events to find joy in this holy season and to strengthen the bonds of faith and community.
- Hundreds and hundreds of children have learned about, and brought to life in songs and in presentation, the timeless story of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- And the list could go on and on.

God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas and always. Please take some time to review the complete Christmas bulletin (different than this Christmas program) by going online to: StAmbrose.us/Christmas.

Thank you so much for your continued participation and support in our parish community. Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

Merry Christmas!!!

Father Bob Stec

P.S. Please remember to read through the complete Christmas bulletin and find a way you can deepen your faith, strengthen your family and engage more in the life of our parish community by going online to: StAmbrose.us/Christmas.



# Welcome to Our Parish!

#### We welcome newest members with Joyful Hospitality!

Joined August 12, 2023 - December 14, 2023

Rod & Angela Alberino Burdette Baker & Jen Eich Michael & Bev Barnhardt Fran Bentley David & Paula Berghauser Rosario & Lisa Calabria Linda Calire Martin Cianciola Bryan & Heather Costin Gregory (Coke) Coughenour Stephanie Dauerman Ollie & Sarah Dovle Nick & Shelly Faulhaber Justin & Marie Fink Mike & Danielle Grzeskowiac Mike & Renee Izzo Frank & Natalie James Joe & Kim Janis Jack Jones & Heather Kowalski Kyle & Rachel Jurgens Nick & Kelly Kastelic Peggiann Kavlick Stefania Kiernozek Steven & Nora Knipper Adam & Jacklyn Kornokovich Bill & Katelyn Kosileski Andrew & Yunnan Lau Jeff & Carol Lynn Gene Mark Stephen & Vianney Marquez Jason & Kayla Martin Ryan & Sydnie McGreer Maria Napalo Charles Nemet

Mike & Ashley Novicky

Tyler & Ashley O'Connell Dan & Lyndsey O'Malley JP Peronek Andrew & Erin Perpetua George & Jean Petkac Alex & Brittany Philbin **Kevin & Mary Porco** Melanie Prohaska Josh & Chantal Racut Melanie Relitz Michael & Sandra Ritley Matthew Roder & Mallory Morell Stephen Rusterholtz & Maureen Leneghan Anastasia Sabo Sally Sample John Scheuermann& Katie Manzuk **Christine Schreiner** Maureen Schumacher andrew & Kara Smith Jacob Smith & Alyson Waite Zach Snyder **Curtis & Kristen Sorovy** Jared & Richelle Sudy **Andrew Szabo Jason Tycast** Ken & Michele Vapenik Matthew & Alexandrea Vasko Dave & Michelle Vectirelis Eric & Tanya Verderber Michael & Corey Vigliucci Lea Wilson **Brandon & Alison Wojtowicz** Jennifer Zarnesky

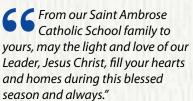
# Christmas Greetings!

Thank you to all the wonderful parishioners here at Saint Ambrose. I am so blessed to be a part of the parish. Meeting so many wonderful people through the various Bus Trips, and also through the Extraordinary Ministers Ministry has truly made me feel a part of the Parish"

- VITA SCHMIDT



Praise God for the gift of His Son Jesus, whose birth we celebrate! I am so excited for my first Christmas season with all the wonderful people of Saint Ambrose!." - FATHER DAN SAMIDE



- LISA CINADR



May the Dear Lord Bless all of you this Christmas Season, especially those who have lost a loved one. 'Remain vigilant'...signs from Heaven are showing up to remind you Love never dies!"

- DIANE HEILMAN





Before coming to Saint Ambrose Parish, my family and I were missing something in our life...something significant that we just couldn't put our finger on. We went years living with this giant void. Then one day I walked into our parish and it didn't take long for Michael, each of my children, and I to realize what it was that was missing. It was only when we got to Saint Ambrose that we figured

out that ONLY Jesus could fill the void. We always had faith but not nearly the quality and quantity of faith that we needed. for this reason and so many other reasons, I will forever be thankful." - REBECCA KAAIKAULA



The Peace that the world needs can only come from Jesus. May your home be filled with peace and joy. Merry Christmas!"
- HELEN LANZAROTTA



Only Jesus...May Jesus lead your family into the New Year with many blessings, prayers of peace, and an open heart to love like He does. God bless. - KIM NEMET

It is such a blessing to be a part of parish family that is so faith-filled, so alive in Christ. My faith is growing as I have the privilege of sharing the journey with so many in our community through the spiritual programs and opportunities we offer. There's something for everyone. And everyone has a place – a home – in our parish family. Merry Christmas."- GAYLE OBOY



Only Jesus is the answer During this Christmas season be reminded that Jesus always shows up in our deepest times of need, He is the only one who brings peace to a troubled mind and fills our hearts with hope. Keep your eyes fixed on Him. I pray you and your families have a blessed and joy-filled Christmas."

- JANET MAJKA

Nothing could be more beautiful than being able to serve this community joyfully at the most precious time of the year. Let Jesus come into your heart in a new way. He is our eternal hope. Merry Christmas!" - NATHAN FRANKART





I pray for our middle school students that they will continue to grow in their relationship with God, finding that ONLY Jesus will bring them the peace that they seek."

- TERESA MCCOMBS

From my first Christmas Mass in "the Ark" at Ambrose Crossing with 100 people to finally filling the Church last year after several bad weather holidays, I'll always treasure the Christmases I've shared with you. Merry Christmas!"

- FATHER ANDREW HOOVER



How do you start and finish your day?

ONLY Jesus is the only way! Visit StAmbrose.us/Only-Jesus
to find ways to live by our ONLY Jesus way of living

In Loving Memory

May all who are not with us this Christmas enjoy the Eternal Light of God's presence in Heaven.

Names received as of December 18, 2023

Ronald & Mary Liz Abel Elizabeth Abshire Joseph Adams Joey Adams Ernest & Rae Yatson Emese Altheim Mary & Daal Anderson Coletta Anderson Rose Angelle Walter & Emma Antoniw Patricia M. Armagno Devon Aromas-Janosik The Aust Family Don, Nancy & David Avery Dorothy & Edward Baginski Donald Baker The Balluch Family George & Mary Balluch John & Viola Balogh Gus & Millie Balogh Blake Barchak Richard D. Baronak Helen Bartkiewicz **Edward Bartkiewicz** Donald A. Bartlett Kenneth G. Bartunek Larry Barty, Sr. Jane Bast The Bator Family John & Anne Bator William Baum Frederick L. Beba, Jr. Jim Bebit William & Winnette Beck Joseph Beck Francis L. Becker Helen & Joe Bednar Lu & Al Behrend The Bellavia Family Rose & Leo Bender Margaret Mary Bender Leo & Judy Bender Joe Bender Jakob & Inge Berg Ruth & Richard Berg Howard, Dorothy & Jeff Bernsee The Bertuzzi Family

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1/1/1/1/

Peter Caso

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Eugene & Deborah Frank, Sophie & Bernard Joseph & Ethel Family Baby Bradley Mom Clergy, K of C & Benefactors People in most need of prayers

#### Special thanks to all who have made donations to the Christmas Flower collection.

#### Your support makes it possible for us to create a holy place pleasing to the Lord and inspiring to all.

The names listed below are those who have made donations for Christmas flowers in loving memory of a loved one.

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Mrs. Phyllis Marinelli
Ms. Mary Lou Markowski
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Marrelli
Jan & Tim Maruk
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Mrs. Theresa Pensis Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Perchinske Mr. & Mrs. James Perl Mrs. Catherine Peterson Ms. Colette Peters Mr. & Mrs. George Petkac Mrs. Marianne Petraus Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Piko Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Piorkowski

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Pamela Plavecski
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Mrs. Karen Roberts

Mrs. Arlene Robertson Mrs. Joan Rodano Mr. & Mrs. Thom Rogers Ms. Mary Rooks Mr. Conrad Roschival Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rowan Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Rudy Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rundle Mrs. Carol Russo Mrs. Marjorie Rutkowski Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rutkowski Mr. & Mrs. John Sabados Mrs. Anastasia Sabo Mr. Gregory Scaccia Mr. & Mrs. Anthony

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Mrs. Sharon Scislo`
Mr. & Mrs. Rodger Seese
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Seese
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Sensel
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Sensel
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shuba
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Simmons
Ms. Annette Simione
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Sison
Ms. Michelle Skala
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Smith
Mr. & Mrs. David Smith

Schaffner

Snider Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Solar Mr. & Mrs. Richard Spisak Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Spooner

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher

Spooner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard St. Pierre
Ms. Tina Stanchina
Fr. Bob Stec
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Stepp
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Steyer
Ms. Patricia Strazar
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Strazar
Mr. & Mrs. James Strazar
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Styka
Mr. & Mrs. David Sulzer
Deborah Swink-Radil
Mrs. Lois Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Szabo I
Mr. Emily Szabo

Mrs. Betty Taller Mrs. Shirley Telenko Mrs Shirley Telenko Mr. & Mrs. David Tews Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Thornsberry

Ms. Mary Toman Ms. Joan Tomazic Ms. Kimberly Toski Mr. & Mrs. David Trebisky Mr. & Mrs. Michael Truchan Ms. Emilia Twarowski Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Ulichney Mr. & Mrs. William Valichnac Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Valko Mrs. Nancy Van Gieson Edward & Lorrain Vanselow Ms. Donna Varnish Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Vavrek Mr. & Mrs. Benny Vazquez,

Jr.
Mrs. Rita Volosyn
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wachs
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Walla
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waugh
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Weidus
Mrs. Sandra Weishuhn
Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Wenmoth

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Whisler Jean White Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Wiglusz Mr. Frank Wrobel Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Wyderka

Mrs. Éarbara Yaugher

Mr. & Mrs. Larry York
Mr. & Mrs. William Zarefoss
Mrs. Patricia Zdyas
Ms. Patricia Zdolshek
Mr. Greg Zdolshek
Ms. Nancy Zechman
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zenczak
Ms. Gayle Zevchik
Mrs. Karen Zevchik
Mr. & Mrs. Mark
Zielaskiewicz
Ms. Deborah Zielinski

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....his beard—blue beard - no beard?

....his generous heart and good spirit?

....his thought provoking weekly messages and inspiring homilies?

Father Andrew arrived at Saint Ambrose in the early days of August 2020. He joined us during the crazy days of covid and helped our community walk forward to health, happiness, and especially holiness.

Father Andrew poured himself into the life of our parish community and inspired us to walk more closely with the Lord. His generous spirit helped resettle hundreds of refugee families, grow Reach More, and walk with so many into the Easter Sacraments and life in the Church. He's funny...clever...thoughtful... and a great thinker for the Lord.

As Father Andrew leaves our parish on December 31, 2023 to begin his new role as the Administrator of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Parma, we send him off with our prayers, deep thanks, and great appreciation for his generous heart and priestly ministry. We are all better people because we have been together with Father Andrew Hoover.

Father Andrew, you will be greatly missed!

# Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

You've already chosen to follow Jesus. Now, spend some time in the New Year becoming more like Him.

- Begin your day with the Jesus Prayer.
- Mornings can be rough on the best of us. Find peace, especially during the most chaotic of mornings.
- **Express love** whenever possible.
- Take "caring for others" to the next level of considering others more important than yourself. Find time for joy...in every thing you do.
- Put patience into practice.
- Have faith in the power of Jesus Christ. Allow ONLY Jesus to control and lead you.
- Model kindness to the forgotten and/or flawed.
- Practice self control even when it seems impossible to maintain.
- Jesus was a teacher and you can be too. Find time to learn and then share your knowledge with others, especially when it comes to the Word of God.
- Model public and personal evangelism in all aspects of your life.
- Be gentle and kind to those who falter in their faith. They are not lost. Seeing you strong in ONLY Jesus will make a difference in their lives.
- Prioritize your relationships. Jesus loved His disciples and He invested in the relationship He had with each of them.
- Read the Bible and sing our hymns. Jesus is in all of those words.
- Know that you cannot be perfect. ONLY Jesus was made in this divine way.

Contact Gayle at GOboy@StAmbrose.us with any questions or visit our website!



Find new, fresh ways to start and finish your day with Only Jesus at StAmbrose.us/Only-Jesus.