ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL
“America’s Parish Church”

NEW YORK CITY

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

FEAST

DECEMBER 26, 2020
THE ORDER OF MASS
THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful"
ADESTE FIDELES

KYRIE

adapt. Litany of the Saints
Gloria Simplex
Richard Proulx

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

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,
Stephen, filled with grace and power,
was working great wonders and signs among the people.
Certain members of the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen,
Cyrenians, and Alexandrians,
and people from Cilicia and Asia,
came forward and debated with Stephen,
but they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke.

When they heard this, they were infuriated,
and they ground their teeth at him.
But he, filled with the Holy Spirit,
looked up intently to heaven
and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
and he said,
“Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man
standing at the right hand of God.”
But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears,
and rushed upon him together.
They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.
The witnesses laid down their cloaks
at the feet of a young man named Saul.
As they were stoning Stephen, he called out
“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17

R\(\textsuperscript{6}\) (6) Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to give me safety.
You are my rock and my fortress;
for your name’s sake you will lead and guide me. R\(\textsuperscript{7}\)

Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.
I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy. R\(\textsuperscript{7}\)

Rescue me from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness. R\(\textsuperscript{7}\)

Gospel Acclamation

Christmastime Alleluia

James Chepponis

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Jesus said to his disciples:
“Beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts
and scourge you in their synagogues,
and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake
as a witness before them and the pagans.
When they hand you over,
do not worry about how you are to speak
or what you are to say.
You will be given at that moment what you are to say.
For it will not be you who speak
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
Brother will hand over brother to death,
and the father his child;
children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name,
but whoever endures to the end will be saved.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Sanctus

Resonet in Laudibus Acclamations
Jennifer Pascual

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith

Resonet in Laudibus Acclamations
Jennifer Pascual

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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The reception of Holy Communion is the most sacred act for Catholics. We believe that we are then receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. Catholics who are properly prepared should approach the ministers of Holy Communion.

We ask non-Catholics not to receive. They are encouraged, however, to come forward with arms crossed over their heart to receive a blessing.
AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

HYMN

“Silent Night”
Franz X. Gruber

1. Silent night, holy night,
   All is calm,
   all is bright
   Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
   heav en ly peace,

2. Silent night, holy night,
   Shepherds quake at the sight;
   Glories stream from heaven a far,
   Christ, the S av ior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
   Son of God,
   love's pure light
   Radiant beams from thy holy face,
   Lord, at thy birth,

   Holy night,
   Virgin Mother and Child,
   Infant, so tender and mild,
   sleep in heavenly peace.

   Heav'ny hosts, sing Alleluia;
   With the dawn of redeem ing grace,
   Sleep in heavenly peace.

   With the dawn of redeem ing grace,
   Sleep in heavenly peace.
   Lord, at thy birth,
THE CONCLUDING RITES

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  Glory to the
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  Christ, the ever-
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  Hail the Sun of

1. new-born King;  Peace on earth and mercy mild,
2. last-ing Lord,  Late in time behold him come
3. Right-eous-ness!  Light and life to all he brings,

1. sin-ners re-con-ciled;  Joy-ful all ye na-tions rise,
2. of a vir-gin's womb;  Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
3. heal-ing in his wings;  Mild he lays his glo-ry by,

1. Join the tri-umph of the skies,  With th'an-gel-ic
2. Hail th'in-car-nate De-i-ty!  Pleased as man with
3. Born that man no more may die,  Born to raise the

1. host pro-claim,  Christ is born in Beth-le-hem.
2. man to dwell,  Jesus, our Em-ma-nu-el.
3. sons of earth,  Born to give them sec-ond birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing  Glory to the new-born King.
GUIDELINES FOR THE RECESSION OF COMMUNION

FOR CATHOLICS

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Code of Canon Law, canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic Discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

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