



**WELCOME TO ST. MATTHIAS**

The members of St. Matthias Church wish you and yours a most Blessed Christmastide and a New Year filled with peace and joy. We invite everyone to join us in Johnson Hall after the service for some Christmas goodies and fellowship.

It is the custom of St. Matthias to begin the celebration of our Lord's birth by hearing again the message of the Holy Scriptures in a service called Lessons & Carols. Following this abbreviated Lessons & Carols service, we ask that you remain in your pews as we prepare to begin the service of Holy Communion.

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**LESSONS & CAROLS**

**BLESSING OF THE CRECHE & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

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Organ Preludes

Donna L. Taylor

WELCOME & BIDDING

*Fr. Jason*

**“O come, O come, Emmanuel”**

**Hymn #7**

*(verses 1, 4, & 6 only)*

#1 - A READING FROM GENESIS 3

*Aidan Grote*

**“I know a rose-tree springing”**

**Hymn #32**

#2 - A READING FROM ISAIAH 9

*Heidi Wray*

**“Go tell it on the mountain”**

**Hymn #47**

#3 - A READING FROM LUKE 1

*Aaron Adams*

**“What child is this”**

**Hymn #36**

#4 - A READING FROM LUKE 2

*Megan Mueller*

**“Away in a manger”**

**Hymn #65**

#5 - A READING FROM LUKE 2

*Obiora Agbim*

**“Hark! the herald angels sing”**

**Hymn #70**

#6 - A READING FROM MATTHEW 2

*Dss. Annette Johnson*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**“The First Nowell”**

**Hymn #82**

*(Verses 1-3 only)*

¶ The service of Holy Communion will begin shortly. The Congregation will stand when the hymn starts.

## HYMN #28 – “O come, all ye faithful”

### THE ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

*Minister:* Let us pray. (*all kneel*)

¶ *Minister:*

**A**LMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Turning to the people, the minister continues:*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith,

**T**hou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

¶ *Congregation sings the 9-fold Kyrie,*

710 HEALEY WILLAN, 1928

*In unison, moderate time*

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us. Christ, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us. Lord, have mercy up-on us.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

*The Collect for Christmas Day*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given us thine only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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**THE EPISTLE LESSON**

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**(SITTING)**

Lector: The Epistle is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

**G**OD, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thy hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Lector: Here endeth the Epistle lesson.

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**THE GOSPEL**

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**(STANDING)**

**HYMN #27 – “Angels we have heard on high”**

*(Verse 1, 2, 3 before the Gospel reading)*

*Minister:* The Holy Gospel is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the Gospel according to St. John beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

*Congregation SINGS:*



**I**N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world

was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*Minister:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregation SINGS:* 

**HYMN #27** - Verse 4 only

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### THE NICENE CREED

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**I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(SITTING)**

**SERMON HYMN**

**(STANDING)**

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**HYMN #35**

**“God rest you merry gentlemen”**

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**SERMON**

**(SITTING)**

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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¶ Offerings should be placed in the alms basin located on the table in the Narthex or electronically through Givelify. You may also visit our website [www.stmkaty.org](http://www.stmkaty.org) and look for the donate button. You can also scan this QR code to go directly to the donate page.



¶ When the table has been prepared and all things are ready, the people will stand and sing the doxology.

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## THE DOXOLOGY

(STANDING)

**Praise God, from who all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.**

Minister: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church. (*All kneel*)

**A**LMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [*\*alms and*] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [*a silent moment is observed during which you may offer up names*]. ✠ And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

¶ Then shall the Priest say to those who come to receive the Holy Communion,

**Y**E who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest, or the Bishop if he be present, turn to the people, say,*

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *The shall the Priest say,*

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

**C**OME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matthew 11:28*  
So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John 3:16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *1 St. John 2:1, 2*

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

*People: (sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Priest:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People: (sung)* **It is meet and right so to do.**







¶ *The Priest then prays,*

**A**LL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.✠ Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.✠

**W**HEREFORE, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

**A**ND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thine almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood ✠.

**A**ND we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

*Priest:* And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say (*SING – next page*),

¶ *The Congregation sings the Lord's Prayer*

(printed by: George E. Wilding, June 1996)

Our Fa - ther which art in Heaven, Hal - low - ed be Thy Name.

Thy king - dom come Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread and for - give us our tres - pass -

es as we for - give them that tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion; but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For

Thine is the king - dom the Pow - er and the

Glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver

A - men. A - men.

*Priest:*

**W**E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

¶ *Congregation sings the Agnus Dei (see next page)*

*In unison, slow*

*mp* O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the

sins of the world, . . have mer - cy up - on . . . . .

us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

*mf* on . . . . . us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, . .

grant . . . . . us thy . . . . . peace.

*cresc.* *mf*

*Ped.*

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## The Distribution of Communion

(All baptized Christians are welcome to receive)

## COMMUNION HYMN

¶ After the distribution is finished, the congregation will sing the Communion hymn

### HYMN #263

**"Let all mortal flesh"**

Minister: Let us pray. (*kneeling*)

**A**LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thine everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

**Amen.**

¶ The congregation then stands and sings the Gloria – the Priest beginning alone, “Glory be to God on high”.

*Priest* *In unison, in moderate time*

Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we

glo - ri - fy thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry,

O . . Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God . . . the Fa - ther Al -

*A little slower*

migh - - - - - ty. . . . O Lord, the

right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.

*First pace*

on - ly-be-got-ten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; thou

Son of the Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most

mer - cy up - on us. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

world, re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sit - test at the

*rall.*

A - - - - - men.

¶ The Priest, or the Bishop if he be present, shall then pronounce the blessing.

**T**HE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

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HYMN #30  
“Joy to the World”

¶ *During the hymn, the children are asked to bring the gifts donated for the Adira Clinic (Pregnancy Center) to the chancel. Following the hymn, the Priest will offer this blessing.*

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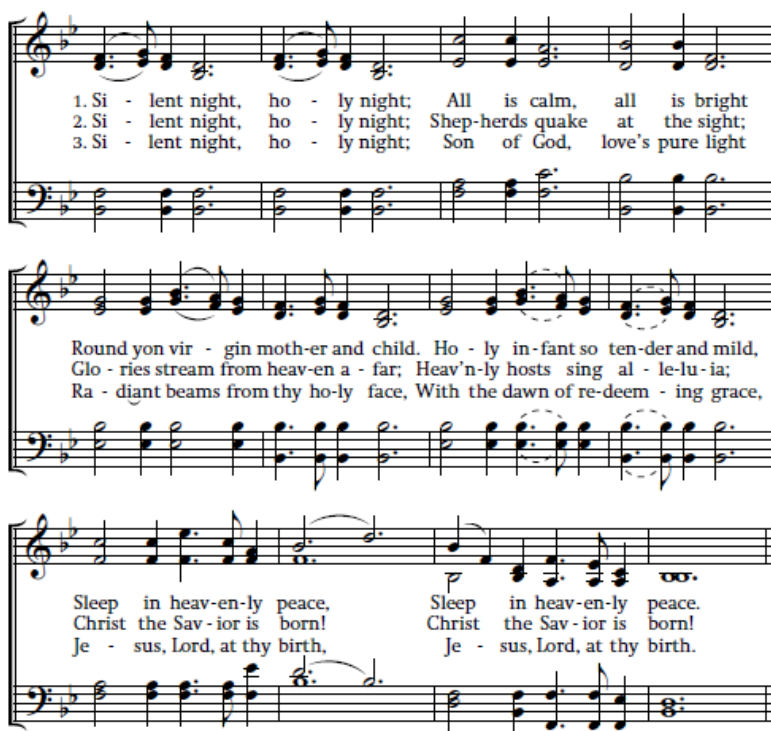
PRESENTATION AND BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

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**H**EAVENLY Father, whose Son was born into the world at this time, and whose mother laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the Inn; We remember before thee all those mothers who are now preparing to give birth, or who have recently given birth. We thank you for your continued love and care of them. Yet we know, Lord, that the circumstances of their pregnancies may be such that they were unplanned, or came during a time of financial burden, or have caused them a great amount of emotional stress. Lord, we pray that you would make your presence known to these mothers and fathers during this time, most especially by calling others to walk with them and help them during such times. We praise you for all those who devote their lives to ministering in this way, particularly those at the Adira Clinic. Bless them, O Lord, that they might be a blessing of strength, encouragement, and provision to all the mothers and fathers who come to them. And Father, we count it a privilege to come before you with these our gifts, which we now offer for their ministry. We ask your blessing ✠ upon them, that they might help meet their needs, but more importantly, that they might speak your presence and hope into the hearts and lives of each mother, father, and child. All this we ask in the Name of the One who was born into this world as the Prince of all Peace, thy Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

¶ *Following the prayer, the priest will bring the Christ Candle to each pew to light your candles. Once all candles are lit, the congregation will sing the candlelight hymn, “Silent Night”.*

## CANDLELIGHT HYMN



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night; All is calm, all is bright  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night; Shep-herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night; Son of God, love's pure light

Round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,  
 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far; Heav'n-ly hosts sing al - le-lu - ia;  
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

¶ The acolytes will extinguish the altar candles in silence during which you may have a moment of silent prayer.  
 Afterwards, the dismissal will be said.

## DISMISSAL

Minister: Beloved, Go forth into the world in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Organ Postludes

Donna L. Taylor

*Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment next door in Johnson Hall.*



## Altar Flowers

Given in memory of and in thanksgiving for the ministries of

The Most Rev. Royal U. Grote, Jr.

and The Rev. Jacob D. Feldhacker



## Poinsettias donated by

SIR CHRIS & LADY CHIZOBA AGUMADU To the Glory of God

TOM & BETTY BREUER Thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren

THE BREZSKI FAMILY In Memory of Joseph and Otto

THE HARING FAMILY In Thanksgiving for our many blessings

LOU HIGDON In Memory of Tom Moore & Charlotte Higdon

ANDREA LEE In Memory of John & Ann Epperson

JENNIFER NZEGWU To the glory of God & Thanksgiving for our church family

ODINYE FAMILY In Memory of Letitia Odinye, Bridget Ogwudire, and Edith Ofoche

ALLAN & CHRISTINE SULLIVAN In memory of Victor, Dorothy, and Richard Newman



### THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TONIGHT!

CELEBRANT & PREACHER:

Bp. Jason Grote

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Donna Taylor

ASSISTING PRIEST:

Rev. Victor Odinye

TRUMPET:

Audrey Foster

DEACONESS:

Dss. Annette Johnson

CHOIR:

Betty Breuer

VERGER:

Harry Johnson, III

Chinenye Ezeudu

THURIFER (INCENSE):

Aidan Wray

Avery Grote

CRUCIFER (CROSS BEARER):

Favor Odinye

Barbara Haring

TORCH BEARERS & ACOLYTES:

Aidan Grote & Charlie Mueller

David Haring

SERVER:

Aiden Lyles

Harry Johnson, III

ALTAR GUILD:

Liz Grote

STREAMING:

Jacob Grote

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Ellen Grote

REFRESHMENTS:

Laus Deo Group

USHER:

Henry Lyles

KIDS CHAPEL:

Chinenye Odinye