

Solemn High Mass

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025 11 a.m.



Welcome to Atonement. We hope you will participate fully in today's service, as you feel comfortable. Customary times to stand, kneel, and sit are indicated by italic type. Words spoken by the people are indicated by bold type. Hymns can be found by number in the blue hymnal in the pewbacks.

The Mass setting is "Missa Sanctæ Margaretæ" by Gabriel Jackson (b.1962)

THE VOLUNTARY

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

When the bell rings, please stand, as able.

THE OPENING HYMN • 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991). ©1971 Mason Martens.

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

The Celebrant says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The People kneel, as able.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE KYRIE

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Please stand, as able, for

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

The People sit for the readings from scripture.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10–16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

THE PSALM • 80:1–7, 16–18

Qui regis Israel

Setting: Matthew Camidge (1764–1844)

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up thy strength, and come and help us. Turn us again, O God; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole. O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears, and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink Thou hast made us a very

strife unto our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Turn us again, thou God of hosts; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

It is burnt with fire, and cut down; and they shall perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self. And so will not we go back from thee: O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1–7

Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

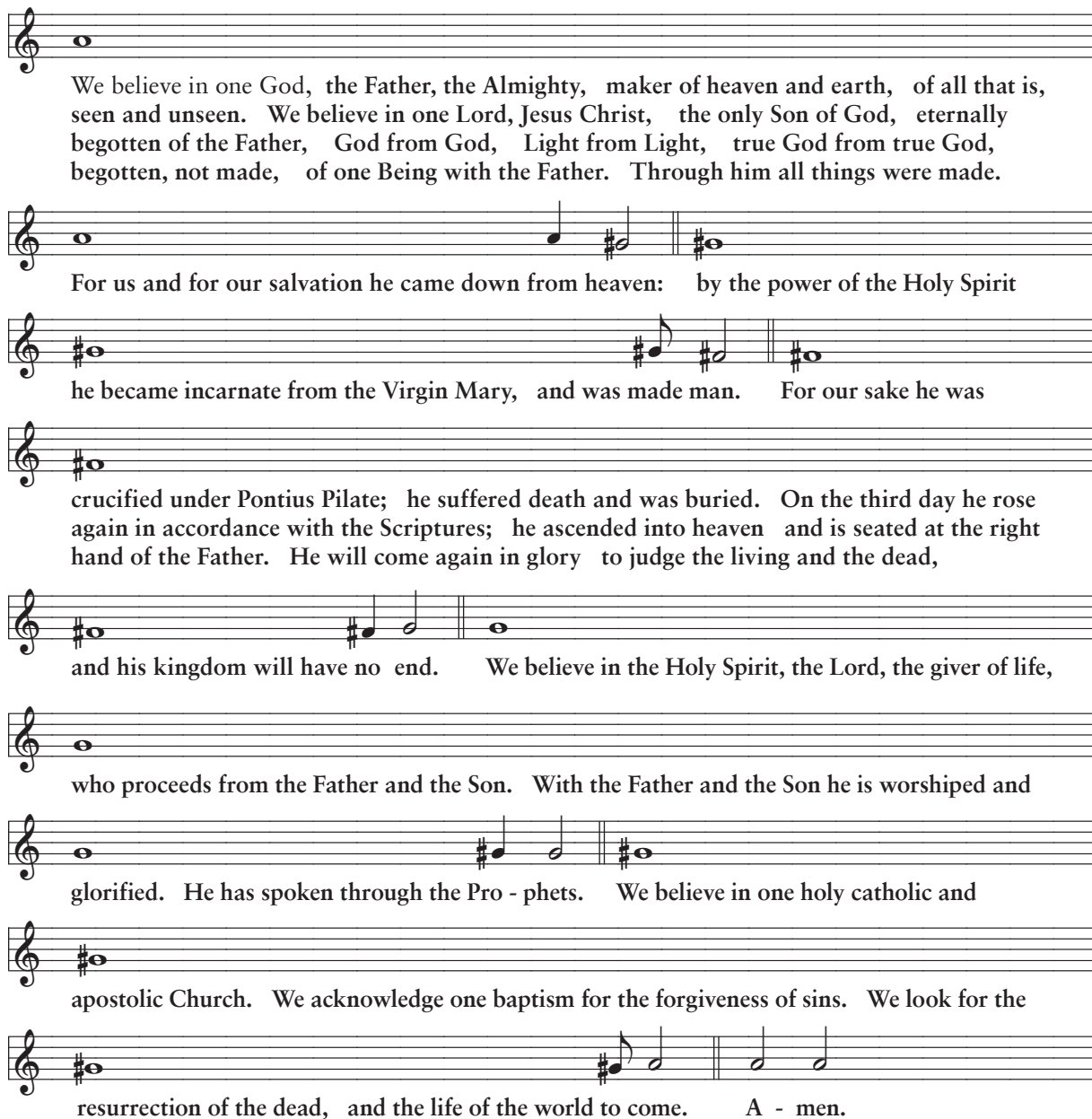
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Charles Everson
Rector

Please stand, as able.

THE NICENE CREED



We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. A - men.

Setting: Bruce Prince-Joseph (1925–2015)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition, the People respond

Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be al - ways with you.

People

And al - so with you.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933–1991). ©1971 Mason Martens.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If this is your first time here, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, which can be found in the pewbacks, and place it in the offering basket or hand it to the priest or an usher after the service.

Online Giving. The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY PROPER

Ave, María

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Magnificat from The Short Service

William Byrd (1540–1623)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Please stand, as able, and sing

THE OFFERTORY HYMN • 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Angel Gabriel

Celebrant
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant offers a Proper Preface, before continuing

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

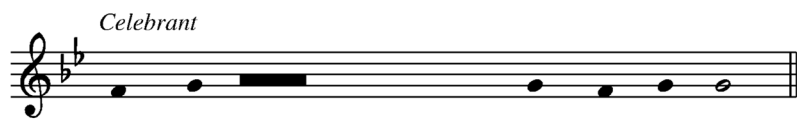
Please kneel or stand, as able, as the Celebrant continues the prayer.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."


After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant

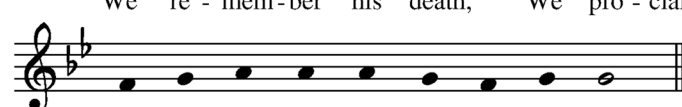


There-fore according to his com-mand, O Fa-ther,

People



We re-mem-ber his death, We pro-claim his re-sur-rec-tion,



We a-wait his com-ing in glo-ry.


Setting: *Pater noster* tone, adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b.1974). ©1985 Bruce E. Ford.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.


By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



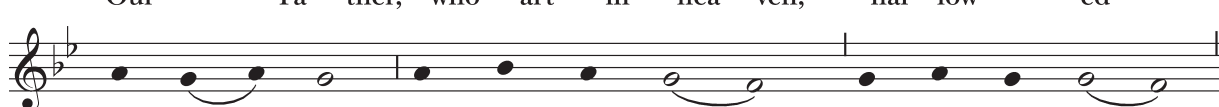
A-men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER


And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,



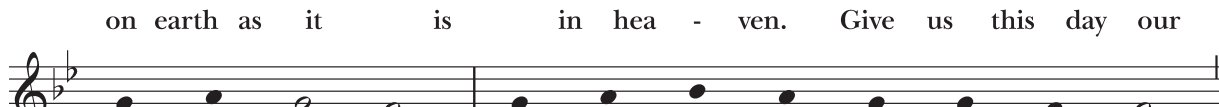
Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed



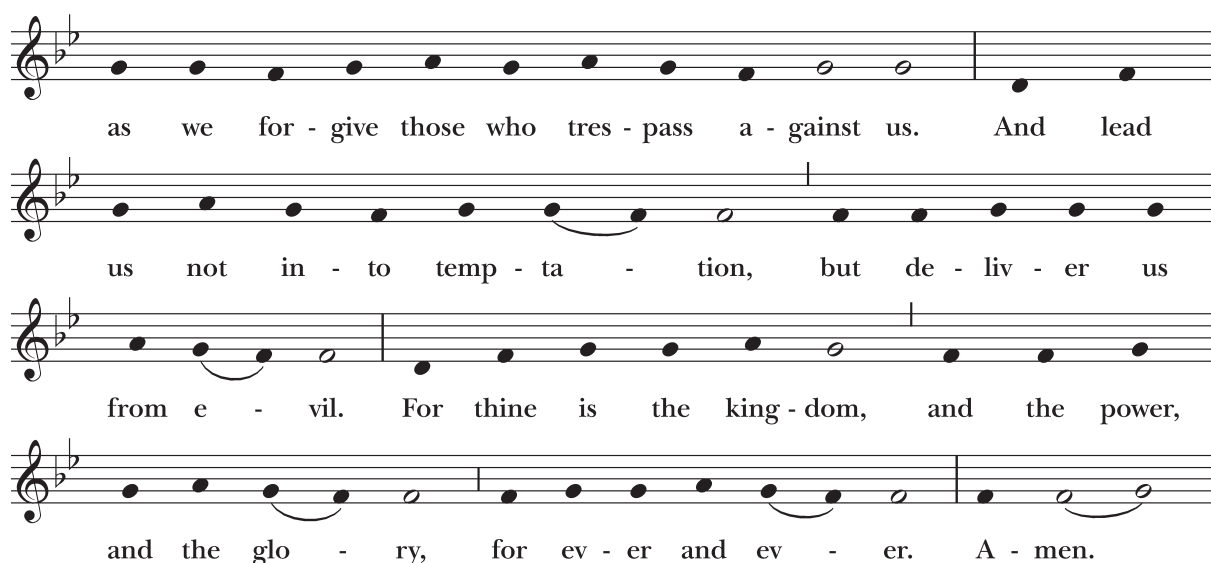
be thy Name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our



dai-ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas-ses,



Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944). Setting: © Church Publishing Inc.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

THE AGNUS DEI

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away
the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

Everyone is welcome to come forward at this time. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion in both bread and wine. Please do not dip your bread in the wine. Gluten-free bread is available; please notify the priest as they come to you.

If you are not baptized, or if you prefer, you may receive a blessing from the priest instead: cross your arms over your chest to indicate this. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms over your chest after receiving the bread. Please remain in place until the person next to you has received Communion.

THE COMMUNION PROPER

Ecce virgo

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son:
and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Benjamin C. S. Boyle (b.1979)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

THE COMMUNION HYMN • 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy

THE COMMISSION OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

From time to time, a Eucharistic Visitor is sent forth with the Body of Christ to those unable to be present with us on Sundays.

N., in the name of Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body.

We, who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Please kneel or stand, as able, for

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand, as able, for

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE CLOSING HYMN • 72

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond

THE VOLUNTARY

Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

✠ ✠ ✠

*Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the service in Montgomery Hall,
through the double doors on the right side of the church.*

*The sanctuary lamp is given to the glory of God and in memory of
the Very Rev’d Dean Paxton Rice, rector of Atonement (1956–2003).*

✠ ✠ ✠

TODAY’S MINISTERS *Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev’d Charles Everson; *Deacon:* The Rev’d Kate Guistolise; *Subdeacon:* Br. Will White, CMJ; *Organist:* Charlie Segal; *Choirmaster:* Dr. Christopher Windle; *Lectors:* Elizabeth Swanson, Daniel Polley; *Intercessor:* Barbara Newman

A reminder that this public service may be photographed and/or videotaped and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear on the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media. Music usage licensing and agreements through Church Hymnal Corporation, New York, and OneLicense A-732906.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wed., Dec. 24: The Eve of the Nativity

We offer two Masses on Christmas Eve—a Family Mass at 4 p.m. and a Solemn High Mass at 10:30 p.m. with a carol sing starting at 10:10 p.m.

We will host a festive reception following the 10:30 service in Montgomery Hall. Please bring cookies, pies, and coffee cakes, or cheese and crackers to the kitchen prior to Mass.

Thu., Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Join us on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. for a service celebrating the birth of our Lord with scripture and music.

Tue., Jan. 6: The Feast of the Epiphany

Atonement will celebrate Epiphany with a Solemn High Mass at 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church office will be closed Dec. 26 through Jan. 4 in observance of the Christmas holiday. If a pastoral emergency occurs, please call the church office (773) 271-2727 and press 3 to reach Fr. Charles.

The nursery will be closed Dec. 14 through Jan. 4.

Youth to present Christmas pageant today. Our Sunday school classes and youth group will present a Christmas pageant at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you normally come to the 11:00 Mass, we encourage you to come early to enjoy this performance by our talented young parishioners. Please bring cookies and other snacks for our coffee hour that day.

Please help us build our crèche for Christmas this year. Rick Velon is looking for volunteers to help set up our nativity after the 11:00 Mass today. Meet in the Mary Shrine.

Support our Christmas flowers decor. You can donate online to support our flower ministry during Christmastide. Your gift in honor or memory of a loved one helps offset the cost of decorating the chancel with beautiful poinsettias for our Christmas services. Donations must be received **by noon Tue., Dec. 23** to be included in the Christmas bulletins.

Annual Meeting to be held Jan. 24. Atonement will hold its Annual Meeting on Sat., Jan. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Fr. Charles and the vestry will report on the status of the parish and look forward to 2026. The parish by-laws state that all members in good standing (those whose baptism is registered with the parish, who contribute financially, and who received communion at least three times in the past year) may vote at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry has approved the following slate of candidates as recommended by the Nominations Committee for warden, vestry, and diocesan convention delegates: for warden: Pam Ferguson; for vestry: Ann Cassidy, Tim Fox, and Pauline Sachar; for convention delegates: Richard Benson, Brendan Harrison, and Dennis Pattey-Warner. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

ONLINE GIVING The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.



RESTROOMS are located in the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church. There is a changing table in each restroom.

SUPERVISED NURSERY CARE is available on the second floor of the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church.

To find out more about our ministries, visit atonementchicago.org or contact any of the staff listed below.

Clergy, Staff & Leadership

CLERGY AND STAFF

Bishop of Chicago: The Rt Rev'd Paula E. Clark; *Rector:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Director of Music:* Charlie Segal; *Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Director of Operations & Communications:* Matt Rodgers; *Ministries & Pastoral Care Coordinator:* Kate Mayer; *Liturgical Coordinator:* Br Ron Fox BSG; *Sexton:* Gerardo Guzman

PRIEST ASSOCIATES

The Rev'd Dr Maurice Charles, The Rev'd Robert S. Cristobal, The Rev'd Kate Guistolise, The Rev'd John Moulder, The Very Rev'd Joy Rogers, The Rev'd Thomas C. H. Scott, The Rev'd Norma Sutton, The Rev'd Anne Wridler

VESTRY

Wardens: Dave Beil, Charles Bonilla; *Treasurer:* Tim Coe; *Clerk:* Michael Waltz
Jennifer Ash, Evie Aadland Coe, Glen Gabert, Aaron Johnson, Sena Leikvold, Amanda Patrick, Charlaire Reynolds, Br Will White CMJ, Alex Wyman

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS Low Mass 8 a.m., Family Mass 9 a.m., Solemn High Mass 11 a.m.

WEEKDAYS Monday and Friday 7:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon, Wednesday 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS The Holy Rosary 9:30 a.m., Healing Mass 10 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER Daily 8:30 a.m. *on Google Meet*

EVENING PRAYER Tuesday 5:30 p.m. *on Google Meet*

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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