Cathedral Basilica of Saint John the Baptist

222 East Harris Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 - Located at Abercorn and East Harris Streets
Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes — Bishop of Savannah
Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland — Bishop Emeritus

Mass Schedule
Saturday: 12 Noon & 5:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 11:30 am
Latin Mass 1:00 pm
Weekdays: Mon thru Fri: 7:30 am & 12 Noon
Holy Days: 7:30 am, 12 Noon, 6:00 pm
Nursery: Open For 10:00 AM Mass

Sacraments
Baptisms Arrangements should be made in advance.
Confessions Fridays: 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Saturdays: 11:00 to 11:45 am and 4:15 to 5:00 pm
Also by request at other times.
Weddings
Arrangements should be made at least four months in advance. Participation in a marriage preparation program is required. Please call parish office for more information.

Faith Formation
Children’s Religious Ed Sundays 8:45 am to 9:50 am
R. C. I. A. Tuesdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Parish Staff
Rector - Very Rev. J. Gerard Schreck, JCD
Parochial Vicar - Rev. Andrew Larkin
In Residence - Msgr. William O’Neill, Rector Emeritus
In Residence - Rev. Tom Peyton
Permanent Deacon - Rev. Dr. Dewain E. Smith
Director of Music - Dr. Paul Thornock
Director of Religious Education - Mrs. Janee Przybyl
Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant - Ms. Jan Cunningham
Office Assistant - Mrs. Brenda Price
Maintenance - Mr. Jimmy Joseph Sheehan III
Housekeeper/Food Services - Ms. Alma Young
Docents - Mrs. Peggy Baker
Mrs. Gloria Keane

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 to 5:00  ·  Phone: (912)233-4709  Fax: (912)233-8229  ·  E-mail: office@savannahcathedral.org
·  Cathedral Website:  www.savannahcathedral.org  ·  Cathedral Music:  music@savannahcathedral.org
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming

Brahms

INTROIT

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior. Isaiah 45

Rorate caeli

Mode I

HYMN

GAUDEAMUS PARITER

1. When the King shall come again All his pow’r revealing,
Splendor shall announce his reign, Life and joy and healing;
Earth no longer in decay, Hope no more frustrated;
This is God’s redemption day Longing ly awaited.

2. In the desert trees take root Fresh from his creation;
Plants and flowers and sweetest fruit Join the celebration;
Rivers spring up from the earth, Barren lands a dorn ing;
Valleys, this is your new birth, Mountains, greet the morning!

3. There God’s highway shall be seen Where no roaring lion,
Nothing evil or unclean Walks the road to Zion:
Ransomed people home-ward bound All your praises voicing,
See your Lord with glory crowned, Share in his rejoicing!

PENITENTIAL ACT

New Plainsong Mass

Hurd

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

READING I
When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’”

“It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89
Carroll

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, “My kindness is established forever;” in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. R.
“I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant:

Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.” R.
“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.’
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.” R

READING II
Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hurd

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

HOMILY

CREED
I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, (bow)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (rise)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Lord, hear our prayer.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
O God, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto You.
Bless our Diocese of Savannah
with many vocations to the Priesthood,
Diaconate, and Religious Life.

Give the men and women You call
the light to understand Your gift
and the love to follow always
in the footsteps of Your priestly Son.
PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Ave Maria

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

SANCTUS

New Plainsong Mass

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven 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.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you come again.

GREAT AMEN

Amen, Amen, Amen.

AGNUS DEI

1., 2. Have mercy on us. 3. Grant us peace.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conveive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel. Isaiah 7

COMMUNION MOTET

Awed by the Beauty

Awed by the beauty of thy virginity,
and the exceeding radiance of thy purity,
Gabriel called out to thee,
O Mary full of grace. Alleluia. Byzantine

Tavener

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

HYMN

VENI EMMANUEL

PARTICIPANT RELEASE

Please be aware that by entering this area, you consent to your voice, name, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in films and tapes for use in any and all media associated with the Catholic Diocese of Savannah, and you release the Catholic Diocese of Savannah, its successors, assigns and licensees from any liability whatsoever of any nature. Please speak with an usher or Diocesan representative if you have any questions or concerns.

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Rector’s Corner

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of Father Drew Larkin, Monsignor O’Neill, Father Tom Peyton, Deacon Dewain Smith, and all the members of the Cathedral Basilica Staff, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Our Christmas Mass Schedule is contained below. The maximum number of persons for each Mass will be 300. I want to apologize in advance if you find that you come to one of the Masses but are not allowed to enter. If that should happen to you, remember that the 10:00 PM Mass, celebrated by Bishop Parkes, will be livestreamed. May God bless you and all in your family this Christmas, and may He keep us all safe and healthy in the New Year.

Rev. J. Gerard Schreck
Rector

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM Prelude Concert
5:30 PM Vigil of the Nativity
*Cathedral Brass*

7:00 PM Organ Prelude
7:30 PM Vigil of the Nativity

9:30 PM Concert
10:00 PM Mass in the Night
*Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Brass*

Christmas Morning
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses
11:30 AM Latin Mass
Our season of fervent anticipation is nearly over. The promise of these four weeks, the coming of our Lord and Savior, will soon be reaching its fulfillment. Have we prepared a place in our hearts for him even as we have made preparations for the holiday? Once more we hear Mary accept the invitation to bear the Son of God. Let her response be a model for us to accept God’s invitation to bear Christ to one another.

Mass Intentions for the week of December 20, 2020

SUNDAY
- Pro Populo
- John Dragat
- Brian Gallagher
- Barbara Madore & Eleanor Traversy

MONDAY
- Mary Dunn
- Allan Laird (Anni)

TUESDAY
- John Thang Dang
- Dorothy Powers (Anni)

WEDNESDAY
- Katherine R. Kohrt (Anni)
- Anna Chuc Nguyen

THURSDAY
- Belle Brunson (Anni)
- Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy
- Frank Mitchell (Anni)

FRIDAY
- Raul Buelvas III (Anni)
- Ursula Keller (Anni)
- Stella Bartlinks Letcher (Anni)

SATURDAY
- Lucia Campos Curtis (MM)

Please Pray For: Ed Arbo, Nancy Bachner, Lola Bacon, Mabel Barba, Gerry and Maureen Bartlein, Randy Beckle, Wendy Beiner, Cynthia Blaschke, Steve Blaschke, Doris Boring, Mike Bowers, Bill Boyle, Aaron Shane Conner, Stephen Corcoran, Joan Coules, Donna Cox, Natalie Deriso, Joan Devlin, Carlton Dowdy, Patrick Duffy, Eileen and Bill Dunlop, Erin Dunning, Chris Fernandez, Lance Gambrell, David Hampton, Ryan Helmes, Matt Hunter, Patricia Jarrell, Kathleen Kalagvano, Susan Spillane Lai, William Leach, Virginia Logan, Lee Marmarus, Hugh Markowsky, Gayle McGhee, Brian Murphy, Cindy Doolan Murphy, Josephine Nasworthy, Jenna Nobles, USMC Derek Perez, Jeffrey Powell, Tina Sanders, Tyler Smith, Family of Andy Weiss, Beverly Willett, Jan Wilson, and Larson Zekas.

Cathedral Basilica Rectory Office
Closed Thursday and Friday this week. Will reopen Monday, December 28th.

Nursery
The nursery will not be open for any of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day masses. It will also be closed Sunday, December 27th.
“Advent on Tap”
Prepare for the Birth of Christ
Journey through Advent with Ruth and learn how to prepare for the birth of Christ over burgers and beers at B & D Burgers, located on 209 W. Congress St. in downtown Savannah on Monday, December 21st. Join us from 6:00 to 7:00 PM for “Preparing for the Birth of Christ.” Open to all Young Adults.

Gold and Silver Wedding Jubilee Anniversary Mass
All couples celebrating their Silver or Gold (25th or 50th) Wedding Anniversary in 2021 are invited to a Special Mass on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 3:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica. Those wishing to attend can register online at www.diosav.org/gold-and-silver by December 21st in order to receive a formal invitation.

Advent Angel Giving Tree
Please Make Donations this Sunday!
During this season of Advent, the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women and the Christian Services Committee will partner on the Advent Angel Giving Trees. The Christian Services Committee will be asking for donations of food to provide a healthy Christmas dinner for the clients of our Social Apostolate. In partnership with this effort, the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) will be asking for donations of gift cards as an additional benefit for the same clients. These are great ways to give and benefit less fortunate families in our community. Please visit the Angel trees in the back of the church and return your donations to either the baskets under the food tree or the box by the gift card tree.

GROW AS A DISCIPLE
PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE
During Advent, we await the One who is perfect grace, light, and joy. The Christ Child’s arrival during a time when darkness has been increasing each day, and our anticipation of that arrival, emphasize his salvific role. For if even the smallest light is a glimmer of hope in the night, how much more is Christ’s perfect and all-consuming light a life-saving flare in the darkness of sin and death. As we hear the angel Gabriel say of Christ, in his visitation to Mary: “He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High … and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Emmanuel, God with us, is the reason for our hope, and the reason for our joy.

GO EVANGELIZE
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT
I don’t know about you, but despite my best intentions, I have been known to get a little swallowed up in the commercialism of Christmas. But this last week of Advent feels like a chance to reorder my mind and heart. One way to do this is by focusing on the “O Antiphons,” prayed during the Church’s evening prayer from December 17-23. Each antiphon begins with the word “O,” and is followed by a title for the Messiah, found in Scripture, and a petition for him to come and save his people. Although this may sound overly complicated, you most likely know of these without realizing it: they have been transposed into the verses of the hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Today’s first reading speaks of David, who thought he could build a place for God to dwell, but he can’t. Instead, for us, whom God created and fashioned in his own image, God created a dwelling for his Son, so that he might enter into our human history as one of us; and in doing so, dwell among us and within us forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

INVITE
When lighting the final candle on your Advent wreath, invite your family to help you make the prayer interactive. Focus on the lesser-known verses of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, such as the one below – it is an ancient prayer still very relevant today.

O King of the Nations
O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; O bid our sad divisions cease, And be for us our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Christmas at the Cathedral

Sunday, December 20, 2020 • 5:00 p.m.

Due to the pandemic, we are required to severely limit seating for Christmas at the Cathedral to 30% of normal capacity. There are no tickets remaining for in-person attendance.

The concert will be performed by the Cathedral Choral Scholars and a chamber ensemble drawn from members of the Savannah Philharmonic. The program will include many of the great carols of the season, plus Vivaldi’s Magnificat.

The concert will be Livestreamed for all to enjoy.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have upgraded the microphones for the Livestream and dramatically improved the audio quality of our broadcasts. Because we use multiple cameras, we will provide a beautiful and rich video presentation, as well.

We are, once again, pleased to offer our annual gift of Christmas at the Cathedral to our parish and to the city.

Please join us at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20th for Christmas at the Cathedral. The Livestream link will be found on the homepage of the Cathedral Basilica’s website.

Sincerely,

Friends of Cathedral Music
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFERTORY
Offertory Dec. 13, 2020: $22,542.00
Offertory Dec. 15, 2019: $27,253.19

Children's Religious Education Schedule
Dec 20  NO CLASS
Dec 27  NO CLASS

Cathedral Basilica Potpourri
Celebrate the Christmas season with fragrant gifts from Cathedral Flowers and Evergreens. “Bayberry Christmas” and “Lavender Mist” potpourri and sachets are decorated and available for sale now. Purchase at the Cathedral Docent Desk at the back of the church 9 to 5 daily, or email caflowers.919@gmail.com for office pick-up instead of delivery. You may also order online at www.savannahcathedral.org for convenient shipping option.

Cathedral Basilica Ornaments
Cathedral Ornaments are available. You can purchase them at the back of the church or online at www.savannahcathedral.org.