

Mass for the Dedication of an Altar

CHURCH OF THE VISITATION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

JANUARY 18, 2018

MASS FOR THE DEDICATION OF AN ALTAR

The Rites

The rites of anointing, incensing, covering, and lighting the altar express in visible signs several aspects of the invisible work that the Lord accomplishes through the Church in its celebration of the divine mysteries, especially the Eucharist. During the ceremony, the altar is anointed with *holy chrism*. This sacred oil makes the altar a symbol of Christ, who, before all others, is ‘The Anointed One’.

Incense is burned on the altar to signify that Christ’s sacrifice there, perpetuated in mystery, ascends to God as an odor of sweetness and also to signify that the people’s prayers rise up pleasing and acceptable, reaching the throne of God (Rev. 8:3-4). The lighting of the altar reminds us that Christ is ‘a light to enlighten the nations’; (Luke 2:32) His brightness shines out in the Church and through it in the whole human family.

Saints Zeno and Victor, Martyrs

The tradition of praying the Mass over the bones of the martyrs has its origin in the worship of the early Christians in the catacombs. Often, the altar of the Mass would itself be a tomb or sarcophagus of a beloved martyr. During the early persecutions of Christians by the Roman Empire, many tens of thousands lost their lives rather than deny Christ or the truths of the faith. During the Mass, some of the remains of the martyrs Saints Zeno and Victor will be sealed within the altar.

Saints Zeno and Victor suffered under the Roman Emperor Diocletian as part of a group of Christian men including their companions Zoticus, Acindinus, Cæsarius, Severian, Chrysophorus, Theonas, and Antoninus. Emboldened by the recent example of the martyr Saint George, they proclaimed their Christian faith to the Roman authorities and were beheaded at Nicomedia in AD 303. Their feast day is April 20.

The Altar

The marble altar being dedicated today was originally commissioned by the parish of Saint Joseph and its then-pastor Rev. Jacob Maurer. The altar was created in wood with a marble mensa, and its carving and decorative scheme was designed to closely match their existing high altar and other furnishings. The relief image on the front is a computer-aided carving of the first sacrifice to God, that of Abel, as depicted in a woodcut by the German artist Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld in 1860. It was meant to compliment the relief on the Saint Joseph high altar, done in a similar style, which depicts the *Last Supper*.

When the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter (*Fraternitas Sacerdotalis Sancti Petri* or FSSP) was assigned to Saint Joseph in October of 2015, the altar had yet to be installed. Given that the FSSP exclusively celebrates the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite—the older Latin Mass—this new altar was superfluous to their needs. Rev. Michael Stinson, FSSP and the people of Saint Joseph parish have graciously made the altar a permanent loan to Visitation parish, with the understanding that if the FSSP ever leaves Saint Joseph and use of the altar is required, it will be returned.

With the permission of Most Rev. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle, it was installed in Visitation Church in June, 2017.

(Some information taken from *The Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* and *The Roman Martyrology*.)

ORDER OF MASS

Introit: Psalm 43

Antiphon

I will come to the altar of God, to God who restores the joy of my youth.

Opening Rites

Blessing and Sprinkling of Water: Antiphon

I saw water flowing from the Temple, from its right-hand side, alleluia:
and all to whom this water came were saved and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis

Siena Chant Gloria found in the booklets in the pews

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 28:11–18

When Jacob came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God’s messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: “I, the LORD, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you.”

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, “Truly, the LORD is in this spot, although I did not know it!” In solemn wonder he cried out: “How awesome is this shrine! This is nothing else but an abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven!” Early the next morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on top of it.

Responsorial: Psalm 118:15ab-16, 19-20, 22-23, 27

✠. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:
“The right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD has struck with power.”

℟. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

2. Open to me the gates of justice;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the just shall enter it.

℟. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

℟. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

4. The LORD is God, and he has given us light.
Join in the procession with leafy boughs
up to the horns of the altar.

℟. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16–21

Brothers and sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Look at Israel according to the flesh; are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? So what am I saying? That meat sacrificed to idols is anything? Or that an idol is anything? No, I mean that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to become participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and also the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons.

Gospel Acclamation: Ezekiel 37:27

My dwelling shall be with them, says the Lord;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Gospel: Matthew 5:23–24

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Homily by The Most Reverend Daniel H. Mueggenborg

Nicene Creed

The Rite of Dedication and Anointing of an Altar

The Litany of the Saints

- ✠. Lord have mercy.✠. Lord have mercy.
✠. Christ have mercy.....✠. Christ have mercy.
✠. Lord have mercy.✠. Lord have mercy.
- ✠. Holy Mary, Mother of God✠. Pray for us.
✠. Saint Michael.....✠. Pray for us.
✠. Holy angels of God.....✠. Pray for us.
- (as the names of the saints are chanted) ✠. Pray for us.
✠. All holy men and women✠. Pray for us.
- ✠. Lord, be merciful.....✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. From all evil.....✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. From every sin.....✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. From everlasting death✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. By your coming among us✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. By your death and rising to new life.....✠. Lord, save your people.
✠. By your gift of the Holy Spirit✠. Lord, save your people.
- ✠. Be merciful to us sinners.....✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Guide and protect your holy Church✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Keep the pope and all the clergy in faithful service to your church.
.....✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Bring all peoples together in trust and peace.
.....✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Strengthen us in your service.....✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Make this altar holy and consecrate it to your worship.
.....✠. Lord hear our prayer.
✠. Jesus, Son of the living God✠. Lord hear our prayer.
- ✠. Christ, hear us.....✠. Christ hear us.
✠. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.....✠. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Depositing of the Relics of Saints Zeno and Victor, Martyrs (Psalm 15)

Saints of God, you have been enthroned at the foot of God's altar:
pray for us to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anointing of the Altar (Psalm 45)

God, your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.

Incensation of the Altar (Psalm 138)

From the hand of the angel clouds of incense rose
near the altar of the temple in the presence of the Lord.

Lighting of the Altar (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Your light will come Jerusalem,
upon you the glory of the Lord will dawn and all nations will walk in your light, alleluia.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

At the Lamb's High Feast..... 512

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.....620

Sanctus

(Missa de Angelis)

VI

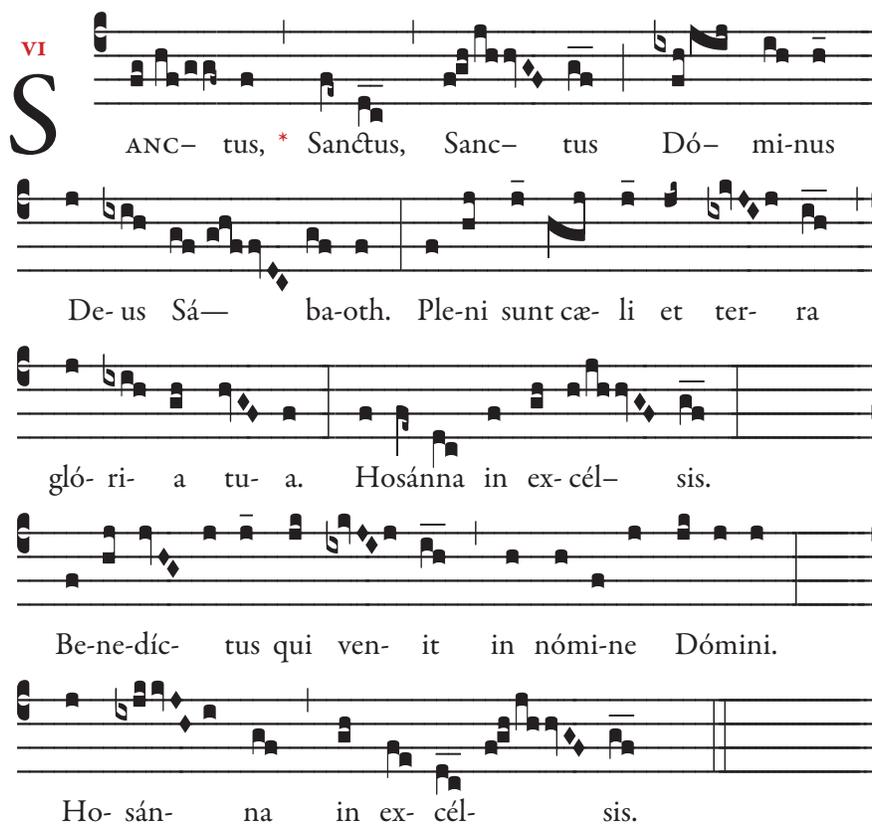
S ANC- tus, * Sanctus, Sanc- tus Dó- mi-nus

De- us Sá- ba-oth. Ple-ni sunt cæ- li et ter- ra

gló- ri- a tu- a. Hosánna in ex- cé- sis.

Be-ne- díc- tus qui ven- it in nómi-ne Dómini.

Ho- sán- na in ex- cé- sis.

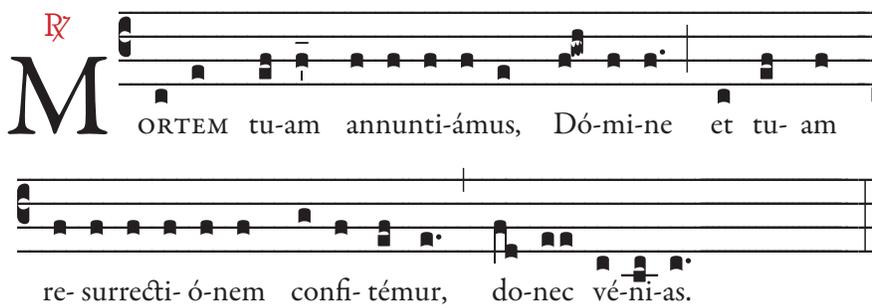


Memorial Acclamation

℞

M ORTEM tu-am annunti-ámus, Dó-mi-ne et tu- am

re- surrecti- ó-nem confi- témur, do- nec vé- ni- as.



VI
A -GNUS De- i, * qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-di :
 mi-se-ré- re no- bis. Agnus De- i, * qui tol- lis
 peccá-ta mun-di : mi-se-ré- re no- bis. Agnus
 De- i, * qui tol-lis peccá-ta mun-di : dona no- bis
 pa- cem.

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are they who dwell in your house forever singing your praise.

Communion Hymn

Adoro te O Panis Choir

Closing Rites

Solemn Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional

Holy Holy Holy 553

Please join us in the hall for a reception following the Mass.