

Mass for the Anniversary of the Dedication of an Altar

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Bowling Green, KY

The Altar and Restored Church of Saint Joseph Catholic Church were Solemnly Dedicated and blessed by
Bishop William Francis Medley
on August 21, 2021, the Memorial of Saint Pius X.

The 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 was anointed with *Sacred Chrism*. This sacred oil made our altar a symbol of Christ, whom, before all others, is ‘The Anointed One’.

Incense was 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 reminded 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.



The Ambo

The Ambo was designed and built by local artist, Mark Whitley to match our Altar of Sacrifice and the original early 19th century wooden architecture of our parish. From the Ambo, the Word of God is proclaimed, homilies are preached and we come to encounter our Lord present in the Holy Scriptures.

Saint Martin de Porres, OP, Religious

“I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the word of God.” – Revelations 6:9

The tradition of praying the Mass over the relics of the saints 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. The entombing of martyrs in or under the altar designates their close resemblance to the Lamb of God as took place in suffering and now consists in glory. During the Mass of Dedication, our relic of Saint Martin de Porres was sealed by Bishop Medley within the altar.



Saint Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru of a Spanish father and a black slave mother. He was a lay Dominican brother who humbly ministered to the poor and the sick especially the African slaves. He was devoted to the Holy Eucharist and was a close friend of Saint Rose of Lima. He is the patron saint of barbers, and social justice. His feast day is November 3rd.

The Altar

The wood and marble altar was commissioned by the parish and built by local artist Mark Whitley. The altar was created out of walnut wood with a marble mensa, gold leafing, with its carving and decorative scheme being designed to closely match our existing high altar and other furnishings. The relief image on the front is a marble carving of the Last Supper. For years to come our parish community gathers to join our prayers to the sacrifice of Christ offered in the Holy Eucharist. We are fed by His Body and Blood as we perpetuate the Sacrament of His love.

(Some information taken from *The Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* and *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass* by Nikolaus Gühr.)

Processional

LET US GO REJOICING

Psalm 122

Bob Hurd

Let us go re - joic - ing, re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

1. How I rejoiced to hear them say,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
And now within your walls we are standing,
O Jerusalem.

4. Let us pray for the good of Jerusalem,
and for those who love you prosperity and peace,
peace within your ramparts and your towers,
peace in your dwellings.

5. For the sake of my people and my friends,
I say peace be to you, Jerusalem.
For love of God’s house I pray for you
and your prosperity.

Commissioned for the dedication of St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, Westlake Village, California The English translation of the refrain text from the
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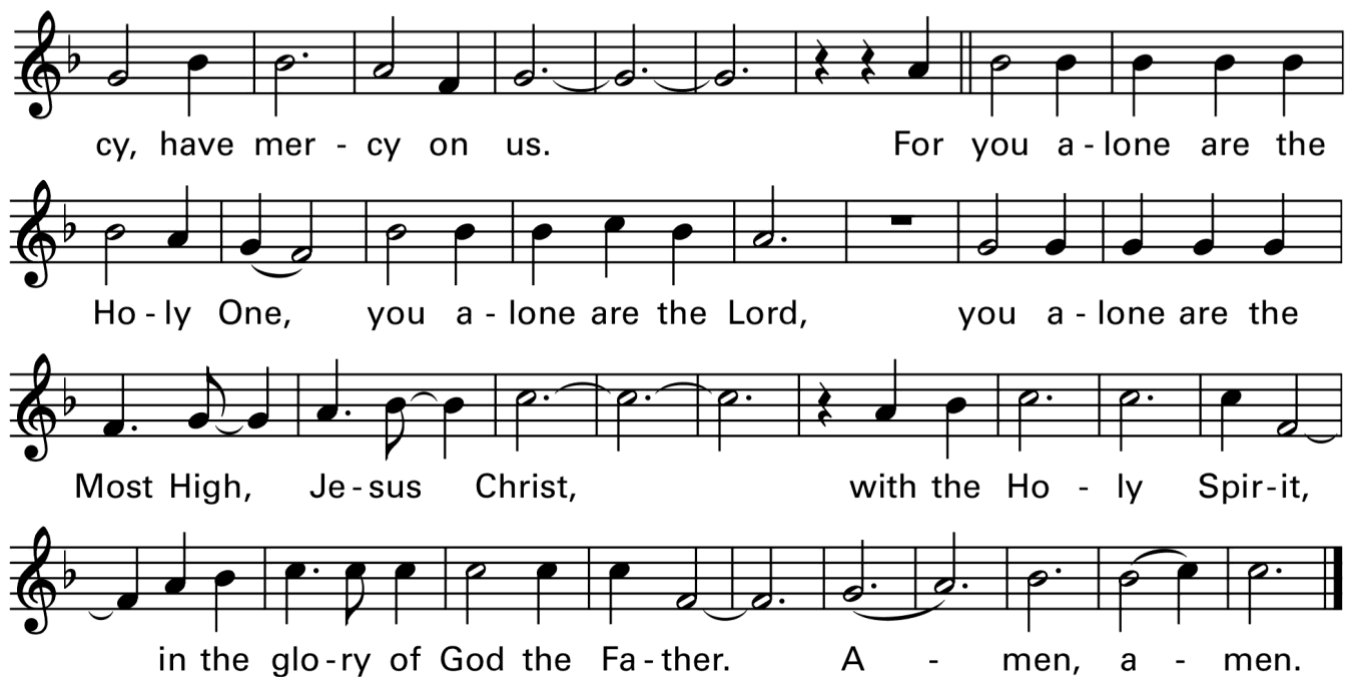
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Introductory Rites

Gloria

Mass of Renewal
Curtis Stephan

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -



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Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Maccabees 4:52-59

They rose early on the morning of the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Kislev, in the year one hundred and forty-eight, and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new altar for burnt offerings that they had made. On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had desecrated it, on that very day it was rededicated with songs, harps, lyres, and cymbals. All the people prostrated themselves and adored and praised Heaven, who had given them success. For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise. They ornamented the facade of the temple with gold crowns and shields; they repaired the gates and the priests' chambers and furnished them with doors. There was great joy among the people now that the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and the entire assembly of Israel decreed that every year for eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Kislev, the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary.

The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God

Dedicated in thanksgiving to the people of Saint Joseph Catholic Church

PS 84:3, 4, 5-6a, and 8a, 11

Rev. Corey D. Bruns

How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, Oh Lord God of Hosts!

Cuán a - ma-bles aon tus mor - a - das, Oh Señ - or de los e - jér-ci-tos!

©2021 Rev. Corey D. Bruns

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:8-15

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching.* It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace and not by foods, which do not benefit those who live by them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. The bodies of the animals whose blood the high priest brings into the sanctuary as a sin offering are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, to consecrate the people by his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach that he bore. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come.

Through him [then] let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

James Chepponis

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord
R Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

Profession of Faith

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.

(All bow up to “and became man.”)

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

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he 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.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts



Bishop Medley places the relic of Saint Martin de Porres beneath the Altar
assisted by Father Ryan and Deacon Larry

Saints of God

Bob Hurd

Refrain

Saints of God a - bid - ing in the arms of
mer - cy, pray for us.

2

1. I saw the souls of the saints beneath the altar, slain for bearing witness to God's word, and each one was robed in white.
2. I saw a multitude from every land and people worshipping before the throne of grace, where all tears are washed away.
3. Since even now this cloud of witnesses surrounds us, let us cast aside the weight of sin, so with them we may run the race.

Text: Based on Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9, 17; Hebrews 12:1.
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Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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Memorial Acclamation

Mass of Renewal
Curtis Stephan

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
Res - ur - rec-tion un - til you come a - gain.

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Great Amen

Mass of Renewal
Curtis Stephan

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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Agnus Dei



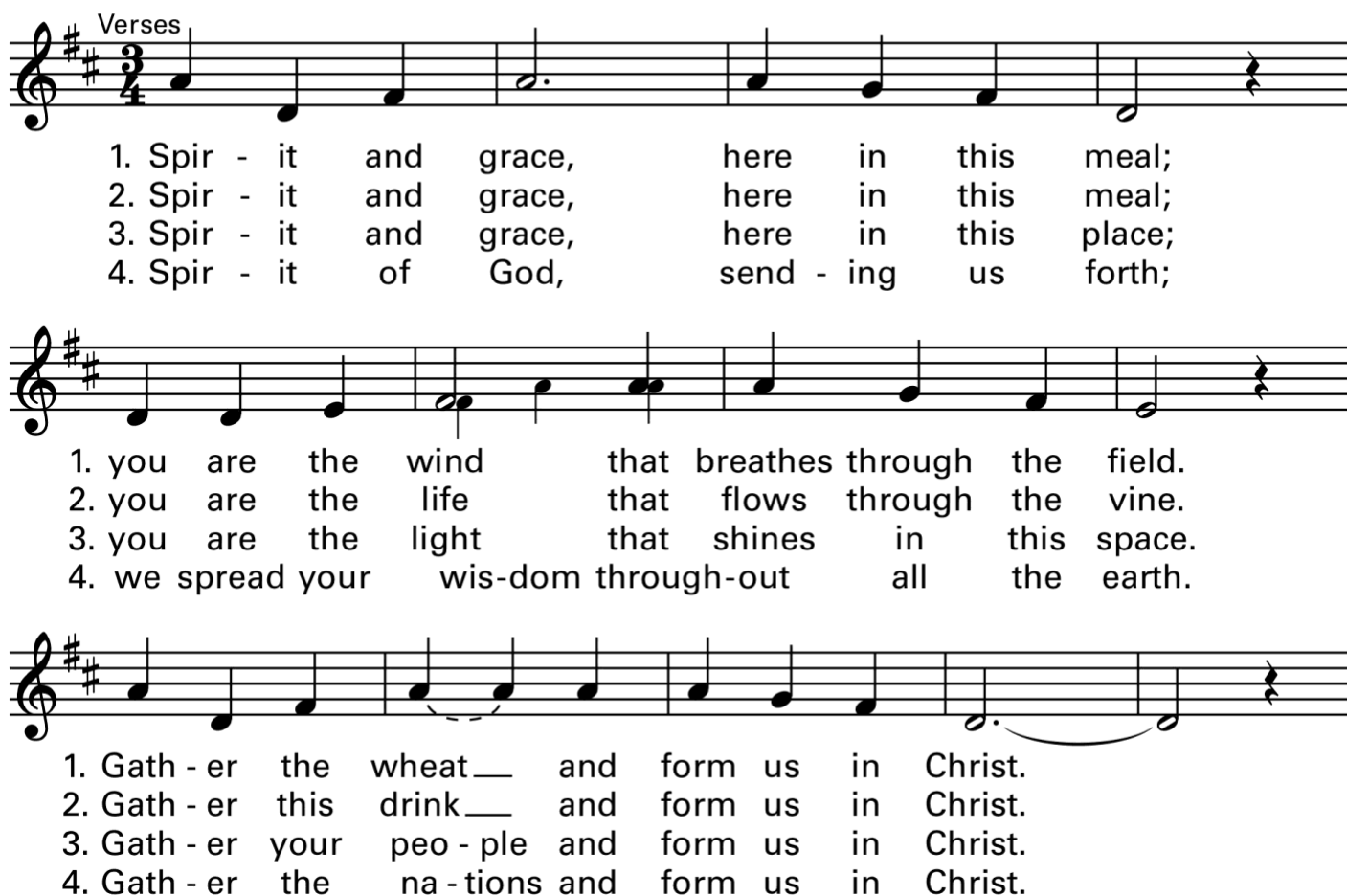
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy,
have mer - cy on us. world, grant us, grant us peace.

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Communion

SPIRIT AND GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP



Verses

1. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
2. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
3. Spir - it and grace, here in this place;
4. Spir - it of God, send - ing us forth;

1. you are the wind that breathes through the field.
2. you are the life that flows through the vine.
3. you are the light that shines in this space.
4. we spread your wis-dom through-out all the earth.

1. Gath - er the wheat___ and form us in Christ.
2. Gath - er this drink___ and form us in Christ.
3. Gath - er your peo - ple and form us in Christ.
4. Gath - er the na - tions and form us in Christ.



1. Come, be our source and breath of life.
2. Come, be our source and blood of life.
3. Come, be the heart - beat of our lives.
4. Come, be the pres - ence in our lives.



Refrain

In the bread, blessed, bro-ken and shared, Christ is our



life, whose presence we bear. Come, O Spir - it, make your



3 to Verses

grace re - vealed in this ho - ly meal.

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Prayer after Communion

Blessing and Dismissal

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil;
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits
who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Bishop Medley pours sacred Chrism onto the Altar
before rubbing it over the entire mensa.



Ladies from the parish wipe the Sacred Chrism off of the Altar mensa.

O God beyond All Praising



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
*2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen-dor in time must sure - ly die,
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz-ing that songs can-not re - pay;
Its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
That we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



For we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
But hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown,
And wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



At bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with-out end.
Though small in mor - tal stat - ure to heav-en's gar - den grown.
We'll tri-umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still,



We lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word;
For Christ, the man from heav - en, from death has set us free,
To mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



We hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
And we through him are giv - en the fin - al vic - to - ry!
And make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

**May be omitted.*



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