

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2021

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude *Weihnachts baum No 4. – Adeste fideles* Franz Liszt

Processional Hymn (*Please stand as able*) *Please see pages 8*

#83 | *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

The Blessing and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Canticle of Praise: *Glory to God*

Hymnal S280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, Al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor - shipyou, we give you thanks, we
 praiseyou for your glo - ry. 3. LordJe - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord

God, Lamb of God, 4. you take away the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat-ed at the righ-t hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you alone are the Ho-ly One, you alone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People ***Amen.***

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Isaiah:

Introduction to the First Reading

In this reading we hear a hymn of thanksgiving and hope offered at the birth of a new king. His reign will end oppression and bring justice, righteousness, and a lasting peace. Christians see these words coming to fulfillment in Jesus.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 96



To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;

he is more to be feared than all gods.

[ANT.]

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;

bring offerings and come into his courts.

[ANT.]

From A Hymn Tune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition© 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr.
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Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King!

he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity." [ANT.]

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy

before the LORD when he comes,

when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with his truth. [ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A Reading from Titus:

Introduction to the Second Reading

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ offers salvation for all humanity. In the present we live wisely and justly while anticipating the hope of the Savior's final appearance.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand as able*) – *Please see page 9*

#96 | *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand as able*)

*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. Amen.*

Anthem - "O Holy Night" *Text: Cappeau de Roquemaure tr. John S. Dwight & Music: Adolph Adam*
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

The Prayers of the People *The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is Born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape, expression, and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints departed who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

People ***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.***

The Absolution

Celebrant 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 Peace *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

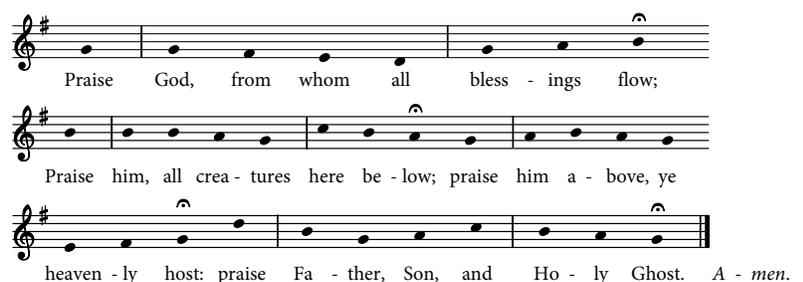
Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR

Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>

Offertory Sentence & Interlude

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung. Please stand as able)*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye
heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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. Hos - san - na in the High - est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues.

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 [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.
Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,** *And forgive us our trespasses,*
hallowed be thy Name, *as we forgive those*
thy kingdom come, *who trespass against us.*
thy will be done, *And lead us not into temptation,*
on earth as it is in heaven. *but deliver us from evil.*
Give us this day our daily bread. *For thine is the kingdom,*
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Distribution Anthem - "In the Bleak Midwinter" *Text: Christina Rossetti Music: Gustav Theodore Holst*
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or be seated)

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

To avoid candle-lighting mishaps during "Silent Night", the person with the lit candle should hold it upright. The person lighting a candle should be the one to tilt the unlit candle toward the flame of the upright, lit candle.

Hymn (Please stand as able) *Please see page 11* **Guitarist: Rob Freeman** #111 | "Silent Night"

Benediction (Please stand as able)

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**
 May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you will joy, and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen.**
 May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn (Please stand as able) *Please see page 12-13* #100 | "Joy to the World!"

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude **Voluntary on "Joy to the World with Little Prelude in C Major"** George Frideric Handel & J. S. Bach

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God, and in Loving Memory of Departed Family and Friends by J. Edwin Stout & Scott Kresge.

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector
Jill Malloy, Acolyte
Robert Freeman, Youth Minister / Soloist
J. Edwin Stout, Lay Reader
Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming
Robert Freeman, Cantor
Elizabeth Scheer & Susan Mattia, Videography/Streaming
Clara Escobar & John Robinson, Ushers

Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw — nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Sequence Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels

through the night, and the moun - tains in re - ply
hap - py cheer? What great bright - ness did you see?
an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
praise a - bove; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain
ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What glad tid - ings did you hear?
Christ, the Lord, the new - born King. Glo - - -
while we raise our hearts in love.

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Offertory Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

111

Christmas

B \flat (G) F(D)

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

B \flat (G) E \flat (C) B \flat (G)

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

E \flat (C) B \flat (G) F(D)

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

B \flat (G) F(D) B \flat (G)

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

B \flat (capo 3, G)

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

♩ - 96
Irr.

100

Christmas

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and

earth re - ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre -
 us our songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks,
 thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to make his
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his

pare him room, and heaven and na - ture
 hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is
 right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his

1 and
 2 re -
 3 far
 4 and

sing, and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 found, far as the curse is found, far
 love, and won - ders of his love, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759);
 adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

♩-96
 CM with Repeat

Poinsettias

Given to the Glory of God and . . .

In Loving Memory of

Tom Hamilton
Our Parents, and Our Son, Scott
Grandparents, Walter & Emily Clemis,
and Warren & Anna Kresge
Joyce & Raymond Hullings, Sr., and
Josephine & John Pirrung
William B. Hickman, Jr, and
Gladys & Harold Schirmer
Family and Friends
Parents James O. & Rosa Stout,
Brother Raymond Stout, and
Friend Paul D. Cole
Departed Parents and Grandparents

In Honor of

My Loving Family
Elizabeth Scheer
Our Families
In Thanksgiving for God's Faithful
People in the St. John the Baptist Family

By

Jonathan Burke
Deacon Harry & Kathy Hiltner
Scott Kresge

Susan Mattia & Jerry Pirrung

Carl & Doris Schirmer

Jean & Wayne Skocypec
James E. Stout

Father Tom & Rob Freeman

By

Clara Escobar
Sharon Lamando
Deacon Paula & Tom Waite
Father Tom & Rob Freeman

Church Greening

In Loving Memory of My Family

Clara Escobar