

December 7, 2022

Good Morning All,

- ~Adoration following the morning Mass till 4:00 pm.
- ~Vigil Mass for the Holy Day Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 5:30
- ~New kneelers have been installed at the Altar!
- ~Catholicism for Dummies - Parish Office 1:30-3:00
- ~Parish Office will be closed tomorrow for the Holy Day of Obligation

~Angel Tree gifts - Please bring to the church office as soon as possible as distribution is needed to the relief agencies. The office will be open today and Friday morning. Closed on Thursday for the Holy Day of Obligation.

1. Today's Readings: [Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: St. Ambrose of Milan's life is a particularly fascinating story. St. Ambrose was born around AD 339 in what is now Trier, Germany, the son of the Roman prefect of Gaul. Following his father's footsteps, Ambrose embarked upon a career in law and politics and by 370, he had become the Imperial governor of Northern Italy. When the episcopal see of Milan became vacant in 374, the people demanded that Ambrose be made their bishop. The neighboring bishops and the Emperor convinced him to accept this call as the will of God, and so the catechumen Ambrose was baptized and ordained deacon, then priest, then bishop, all in a single week! This politician-turned churchman was profoundly aware of his lack of preparation for this great responsibility and so set himself immediately to prayer and the study of Scripture. His deep spirituality and love of God's Word married together with the oratorical skill acquired in law and politics made Ambrose one of the greatest preachers of the early church. St. Ambrose proved to be a fierce opponent of heresy, paganism, and hypocrisy. He battled to preserve the independence of the Church from the state and courageously excommunicated the powerful Catholic Emperor Theodosius I for a massacre of innocent civilians in Thessalonica. Ambrose also had a significant impact on sacred music through the composition of hymns and psalm tones that are known to this day as Ambrosian chant. Besides numerous sermons and treatises on spiritual life, Saint Ambrose is responsible for two of the first great theological works written in Latin, *De Sacramentis* on the Sacraments and *De Spiritu Sancto* on the Holy Spirit. Around 385, an ambitious professor of public speaking named Augustine came to hear Saint Ambrose preach in order to study his technique, and in the process, was attracted to the Catholic faith. In 386 Augustine was baptized by Ambrose and went on to become bishop of Hippo in North Africa. Ambrose and his pupil, Augustine, together with St. Jerome and St. Gregory the Great, make up the four original Doctors of the Latin Church. Saint Ambrose, one of the most important of the Early Church Fathers, died on Holy Saturday (April 4) in the year 397.

Daily Parish Communication

His feast day in the Roman calendar is December 7, the day he was ordained bishop. Today we share a short writing of his---Psalms: Music of Heaven.

3. Quote of the Day: Just a few wise words from St. Ambrose...there are many more...

~"Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the Son of the everlasting light."

~"Where a man's heart is, there is his treasure also."

~"Virtue is a very wonderful thing for us. It is the good of life, the fruit of a clear conscience and the peace of the innocent."

~"No one heals himself by wounding another."

St. Ambrose, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Psalms: Music of Heaven by St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose here provides a poetic description of the role of the psalms in the prayer life of the Church. Though many prayers are to be found in the treasury of the Christian devotion, the psalter is the true prayer book and hymnal of both the Jerusalem temple and the Church. There is a psalm appropriate for every mood and occasion; the psalms as the music of heaven both inspire the heart with their beauty and instruct the intellect with their teaching.

What is more pleasing than a psalm?

David expresses it well: *Praise the Lord, for a song of praise is good: let there be praise of our God with gladness and grace.* Yes, a psalm is a blessing on the lips of the people, a hymn in praise of God, the assembly's homage, a general acclamation, a word that speaks for all, the voice of the Church, a confession of faith in song. It is the voice of complete assent, the joy of freedom, a cry of happiness, the echo of gladness. It soothes the temper, distracts from care, lightens the burden of sorrow. It is a source of security at night, a lesson in wisdom by day. It is a shield when we are afraid, a celebration of holiness, a vision of serenity, a promise of peace and harmony. It is like a lyre, evoking harmony from a blend of notes. Day begins to the music of a psalm. Day closes to the echo of a psalm.

In a psalm, instruction vies with beauty. We sing for pleasure. We learn for our profit. What experience is not covered by a reading of the psalms? I come across the words: *A song for the beloved*, and I am aflame with desire for God's love. I go through God's revelation in all its beauty, the intimations of resurrection, the gifts of his promise. I learn to avoid sin. I see my mistake in feeling ashamed of repentance for my sins.

What is a psalm but a musical instrument to give expression to all the virtues? The psalmist of old used it, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to make earth re-echo the

music of heaven. He used the dead gut of strings to create harmony from a variety of notes, in order to send up to heaven the song of God's praise. In doing so he taught us that we must first die to sin, and then create in our lives on earth a harmony through virtuous deeds, if the grace of our devotion is to reach up to the Lord.



David thus taught us that we must sing an interior song of praise, like Saint Paul, who tells us: *I shall pray in spirit, and also with understanding; I shall sing in spirit, and also with understanding.* We must fashion our lives and shape our actions in the light of the things that are above. We must not allow pleasure to awaken bodily passions, which weigh our soul down instead of freeing it. The holy prophet told us that his songs of praise were to celebrate the freeing of his soul, when he said: *I shall sing to you, God, on the Lyre, holy one of Israel; my lips will rejoice when I have sung to you, and my soul also, which you have set free.*

Source: crossroadsinitiative.com