

THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY



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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Celebrate Christmas at The Basilica of Saint Mary

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 14, 2007 – The Basilica of Saint Mary today announced their Christmas liturgy schedule. Each service celebrates Christ's birth into this world, yesterday, today and tomorrow, through readings, procession and song. The main liturgical symbols of Christmas are the crèche, the evergreens and the poinsettias.

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24, 2007

3:00pm **Christmas Vigil Eucharist** *Organ, Cantor, Children's Choirs*

The first service of Christmas is specifically designed for families with children, which is reflected in the music, readings and choirs. The procession at the end of the service will include many children, surrounding the baby Jesus who is brought to the manger.

5:30pm **Christmas Vigil Eucharist** *Mundus, The Basilica Contemporary Choir*

8:00pm **Christmas Vigil Eucharist** *Renaissance Ensemble*

11:00pm **Prelude Music for Christmas** *Organ, Harp, Flute*
The Basilica Cathedral Choir

As people arrive for the evening services, they will be welcomed by candlelight and the soft sounds of Christmas carols.

11:30pm **Vigil of Lights** *Organ, The Basilica Cathedral Choir*

This service begins with the blessing of the light. About 100 ministers carrying candles will process into a darkened church. They will distribute the light to all those present, and by the end of the procession, The Basilica will be bathed in the glow of candle light.

Midnight Solemn Eucharist *Organ, The Basilica Cathedral Choir, Brass, Harp*

Christmas Eve is the only time in the year that we gather for a solemn Mass at Midnight. Festive processions, great music and beautiful readings characterize this service. In addition, all Basilica bells will ring at midnight from the lit-up tower.

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Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25, 2007**7:30am Eucharist at Dawn** *Organ, Cantor***9:30am Solemn Eucharist** *The Basilica Cathedral Choir, Organ, Brass, Strings*

The most solemn of all services with over 100 choir members, dozens of ministers and several festive and colorful processions with banners and great basilica symbols such as the *umbrellino* and *tintinabulum*.

Noon Solemn Eucharist *The Basilica Cathedral Choir, Organ, Brass, Strings***4:30pm Eucharist** *Music From Around the World***About The Basilica of Saint Mary**

The Basilica of Saint Mary is a centrally located, downtown Catholic parish in Minneapolis, MN, whose mission is four-fold: to provide quality liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, and hospitality; to preach justice and provide emergency relief to the poor; to pursue interfaith relationships; and to contribute to the sacred arts in the community. The parish is marked by hospitality and a rich diversity of age, ethnic, racial, social and economic backgrounds.

Built in 1907, The Basilica of Saint Mary was the first Basilica designated in the United States and is the Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis. It is the spiritual home to over 5,500 families. For more information, please visit our website, www.mary.org

The Basilica of Saint Mary is located on the corner of Hennepin Avenue and Sixteenth Street in downtown Minneapolis. Please be aware that flash photography is not permitted during these liturgies. Access to the choir loft may be gained for photography by contacting Angie Lien.

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