

The background is a dramatic painting depicting the Flight into Egypt. The Virgin Mary is silhouetted against a bright, golden sky, carrying the infant Jesus on her lap. They are riding a donkey, which is being led by Joseph, also silhouetted and with a halo. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds on the left and bright, glowing light on the right. In the distance, the silhouettes of ancient Egyptian temples with columns are visible on the horizon.

The Ignatian Schola

presents

# REJOICE

*Journey On!*

**3 January 2026**

**Chapel of the Sacred Heart  
Regis High School  
New York City**

## *Director's Note*

Dear Friends,

Tonight we celebrate the plight of the Holy Family, the first refugee family. We support all refugees and migrants through our music. We sing in solidarity with all those who are displaced and marginalized. We know of refugee mothers who, like Mary, pregnant, giving birth in a manger, will give birth to children who, like the infant Jesus, are born into poverty as refugees.

Excerpts from: Pope Leo at the Christmas Day Mass: “The Word Has Pitched His Fragile Tent Among Us”

In his first Christmas Day Mass as pope, Leo delivered a profound homily at St. Peter’s Basilica, reflecting on the humility and vulnerability embodied in Christ’s birth. Drawing from the prologue of St. John’s Gospel, Pope Leo highlighted the paradox that God’s Word—powerful and active—enters the world as a helpless infant, able only to cry and babble. He emphasized that this divine fragility cannot be separated from the plight of those suffering from war, displacement, and poverty. The Pope urged Catholics to let the reality of Christ’s birth break through complacency, inspiring tenderness and solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed.

Leo drew a powerful parallel between the Gospel image of the Word “pitching his tent” among humanity and the harsh realities faced by families living in temporary shelters due to conflict, referencing the tents in Gaza and refugee camps worldwide. He lamented the fragility of those caught in war—defenseless communities, wounded consciences, and young people forced into violence. For Leo, Christmas proclaims a peace that is not just hoped for but already present in Christ, even if unrecognized. This peace, he asserted, arises not from grand words but from concrete acts of compassion, attentive listening, and solidarity with those who suffer.

Finally, Pope Leo warned that believers risk burying their true spiritual power—the capacity to become children of God—when they distance themselves from the cries of the vulnerable. Genuine peace and spiritual transformation begin, he insisted, when hearts are moved by the fragility and pain of others, prompting a response of mercy and shared humanity.

It is our hope that the music you hear tonight will be a beacon of light in these dark times, a source of joy, hope, peace, and most of all, encouragement to journey on...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Jackie Perez  
3 January 2026  
Chapel of the Sacred Heart  
Regis High School, NYC

*To help foster a prayerful atmosphere, we ask that you kindly hold your applause until the breaks (~~~~~) indicated in the program.*

# *Rejoice: Journey On!*

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

Text: Verse 1, Latin, 9th c., Verses 2-5, Marty Haugen  
Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, Chant Mode IV; Arr. by Marty Haugen

## *First Coming: a Poem for Christmas*

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

—Madeleine L'Engle,  
from *The Ordering of Love: The New and  
Collected Poems of Madeleine L'Engle*

***Friends in Christ, Rejoice***

French Carol, Words & Arr. by Rory Cooney

***Comfort, Comfort, O My People***

Text: Is 40:1-8; Johann Olearius; Tr. by Catherine Winkworth

Tune: GENEVA 42. 8 7 8 7 7 8 8

***Song of God Among Us***

Text: Huub Oosterhuis; Tr. by Tony Barr, Tom Conroy

Music: Marty Haugen



***Advent***

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary.  
And on one night when a great star swings free  
from its high mooring and walks down the sky  
to be the dot above the *Christus i*,  
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.  
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,  
with hope's expectance of nativity.

I know for long she carried me and fed me,  
guarded and loved me, though I could not see.  
But only now, with inward jubilee,  
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:  
*someone is hidden in this dark with me.*

—Jessica Powers

from *Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers*

***Mary's Wandering***

*Marias Wanderschaft*, German

Duetists: Anna Ryan-Bender & Wendell J. Laurent

***I Wonder as I Wander***

Appalachian Carol, adapt. John Jacob Niles; Arr. by Jim Coughlin, SJ

Conductor: Jim Coughlin, SJ

***Coventry Carol***

Text: Robert Croo; Tune: 15th century British

Quartet: Glen E. Heiss, Jacqueline C. Perez, Wendell J. Laurent & Christopher Derby, SJ

## *Child of Our Dreams*

Words & Music by Marty Haugen

Soloist: Margaret Monahan | Conductor: Dee Kittany

## *Carol of the Bells*

Ukrainian Carol, Arr. by David Hicken

Piano: Jim Coughlin, SJ

*For the Ukrainian people and all who suffer from war.*



## *Child of the Poor/What Child Is This*

*Child of the Poor*, Words & Music by Scott Soper

*What Child Is This*, Text: William C. Dix, Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8 7 8 7

## *Stille Nacht*

Words by Joseph Mohr; Music by Franz X. Gruber; Arr. by Jim Coughlin, SJ

Conductor: Jim Coughlin, SJ

*For the Refugees of the World*

*German:*    *Silent Night! Holy Night! All are asleep.  
The most holy couple alone stays awake. O sweet child with curly hair,  
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*French:*    *Sweet Night, Holy Night, In the heavens, the stars shine.  
The proclaimed mystery is accomplished. This child asleep on the straw,  
It is infinite love; it is infinite love.*

*Arabic:*    *Christmas night, that gleaming night, festival sounds adorn the night.  
Stars twinkle like bunches of grapes. It is time for treats!  
Jesus visited this night, Jesus colors this night!*

*English:*    *Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

## *All Is Well*

Words & Music by Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick

Arr. by Lloyd Larson



## *Prayer*

Lord, make us bearers of hope,  
so that where there is darkness,  
your light may shine,  
and where there is discouragement,  
confidence in the future may be reborn.  
Lord, make us instruments of your justice,  
so that where there is exclusion,  
fraternity may flourish,  
and where there is greed,  
a spirit of sharing may grow.  
Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,  
together with migrants and refugees  
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.  
Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is  
to live together as brothers and sisters.  
Amen.

—Pope Francis  
Rome, Saint John Lateran  
9 May 2022

## *Jesus, the Light of the World*

Words by George D. Elderkin & Charles Wesley  
Music by George D. Elderkin; Arr. by Lloyd Larson

## *Journey On*

Text by Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music by Francis Patrick O'Brien



## *Peace*

Words & Music by Patricia Mock; Arr. by Richard A. Nichols





**The Ignatian Schola** is a New York-based vocal ensemble composed of Jesuits and lay colleagues. Rooted in Ignatian spirituality, the Schola is dedicated to the exploration of musical prayer in the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

Alan Ahles	Ann Harris-Jacobs	Patricia Newkirk
Sidney Boquiren	Glen E. Heiss	Jacqueline C. Perez
Jim Coughlin, SJ	Kevin Karnisky	Patrick Ryan
Ricardo da Silva, SJ	Dee Kittany	Anna Ryan-Bender
Christopher Derby, SJ	Kate Kostelc	Thomas Rzeznik
Regina Furlan	Wendell J. Laurent	Tina Silvestro
James Ferus, SJ	Margaret Monahan	Boreta A. Singleton, RSM
Theresa Gardner	Sarah Murray	Joanna Tellis
Barry Gilman		Traci Tournoux

For more information about The Ignatian Schola, visit  
**[www.IgnatianSchola.org](http://www.IgnatianSchola.org)** and **[www.Facebook.com/IgnatianSchola](https://www.facebook.com/IgnatianSchola)**.

***Musical Director:*** Jacqueline C. Perez

***Piano:*** Sidney Boquiren, Jim Coughlin, SJ & Jacqueline C. Perez

***Guitar:*** Tina Silvestro

***Violin:*** James Ferus, SJ

***Woodwinds:*** Kevin Karnisky

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