

Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated by a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Wednesday evening, March 25 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Waverley at Homer in Palo Alto. The St. Ann Choir will sing the Missa O Magnum Mysterium by Tomás Luis de Victoria and the Gregorian chants for the feast. The clergy will be arranged by Fr. Francisco Nahoe, O.F.M.Conv.

A Solemn High Mass includes priest, deacon, and subdeacon, and various acolytes, each of which plays a distinctive and purposeful role. The extraordinary form is the Mass of tradition, sometimes called Tridentine, and the solemn form is in the most ample manner of its celebration. It is particularly to be celebrated since Pope Benedict gave wide permission to celebrate Mass in the traditional manner.

The Annunciation observes the coming of the Angel Gabriel to Mary to announce that she will bear a son, who will be Jesus. It is from this announcement by the Angel that we have the initial line of the prayer, Hail Mary. For centuries, March 25 was considered New Year, the beginning of the history of the work of Jesus Christ, and so this day is both a day of the Blessed Virgin and of the Lord Jesus.