

# *~From the Administrator~*

December 20, 2009

Dear Parish Family,

Last weekend I had the privilege of baptizing the newest member of our parish community, Brennan Garrett Smith, after the 10:30 Mass. Please keep Brennan and his family in your prayers.

The Opening Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is a variation on a well-known prayer, The Angelus; which is a devotion to the Incarnation and the events of the Annunciation. The prayer is traditionally said at 6 am, 12 noon, and 6 pm. This tradition originated in the 11th century from the monastic custom of praying the Hail Mary three times during the ringing of the evening bell. The text of the prayer is as follows:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
    Hail Mary . . .  
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.  
    Hail Mary . . .  
V. And the Word was made Flesh:  
R. And dwelt among us.  
    Hail Mary . . .  
V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God:  
R. that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
Let us pray:  
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts;  
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known  
by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought  
to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

We're only a few days away so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas. Below are two of my favorite Christmas quotes:

With love and with Christmas blessings to all,  
Comes the Infant once more to free us from sorrow,  
Whose smile and Whose power and Whose gentleness call,  
To each heart and each soul for a manger tomorrow.  
Whose love and Whose goodness, Whose wonders proclaim,  
Him, the Son of the Virgin, as promised of yore.  
O may He estrange us from sin and its shame,  
And reign in our hearts as His crib evermore.

—Father Solanus Casey, OFM Cap.

The purpose of God's coming to man was not  
to make us nice people, but to make us new creatures.

—Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

School is out for Christmas, but I received an early Christmas present from the students and teachers following the Thursday morning Mass: a Beal City blue hooded sweatshirt and knit cap. Now I can show my Aggie pride!

Once again, Merry Christmas! May God bless you!

*Fr. David*

# THE COLORS OF VESTMENTS USED AT MASS

**White** is used at Masses during the Easter and Christmas seasons; also on celebrations of the Lord other than of his Passion, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Holy Angels, and of Saints who were not Martyrs; on the Solemnities of All Saints (1 Nov) and of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (24 Jun); and on the Feasts of Saint John the Evangelist (27 Dec), of the Chair of Saint Peter (22 Feb), and of the Conversion of Saint Paul (25 Jan).

**Red** is used on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and on Good Friday, on Pentecost Sunday, on celebrations of the Lord's Passion, on the feasts of the Apostles and Evangelists, and on celebrations of Martyr Saints.

**Green** is used at Masses of Ordinary Time.

**Violet** or **purple** is used in Advent and of Lent. It may also be worn at Masses for the Dead.

Besides **violet**, **white** or **black** vestments may be worn at funeral services and at Masses for the Dead.

**Rose** may be used on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent).

**Gold** or **silver** colored vestments may be worn on more solemn occasions.

## What are the vestments used at Mass?

+++++

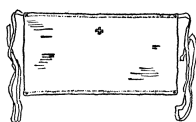
The sacred garment common to ordained and instituted ministers of any rank is the **alb**, to be tied at the waist with a **cincture**. Before the **alb** is put on, should this not completely cover the ordinary clothing at the neck, an **amice** should be put on.



Alb

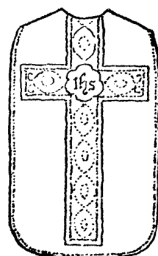


Cincture



Amice

The vestment proper to the priest celebrant at Mass and other sacred actions directly connected with Mass is the **chasuble**, worn over the **alb** and **stole**.



Chasuble

The **stole** is worn by the priest around his neck and hanging down in front. It is worn by the deacon over his left shoulder and drawn diagonally across the chest to the right side, where it is fastened.



Stole

The vestment proper to the deacon is the **dalmatic**, worn over the **alb** and **stole**. The **dalmatic** may, however, be omitted out of necessity or on account of a lesser degree of solemnity.



Dalmatic

Altar servers may wear the **alb** or other appropriate and dignified clothing.



Excerpted from  
*The General Instruction of  
the Roman Missal, 2002.*  
Paragraphs 335-347.

