

Bulletin Insert Four: The Game Plan

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The last couple of weeks we have been discussing music in the Mass. We've tried to outline where we currently are, how we got there, and the principles which should guide us to where we want to go. If you missed these discussions, they are available online. This week, we want to get down to brass tacks. What are some of our goals to anticipate at Holy Trinity and when do we want to start incorporating them? This is the bulletin insert you've all been waiting for!



St. Hildegard von Bingen: religious sister and brilliant composer. Type her name into Youtube and thank me later.

There are two things that are going to be starting sooner, rather than later. The first thing is that the priest is going to start singing what are called the “presidential prayers”. This belongs to that first category of things to chant in the Mass that we mentioned last week when talking about the hierarchy of things to sing. The only additional singing that will be done by the congregation is the singing of the “Amen” after the prayer. This will be prompted by the priest and the congregation will respond using only two different notes. Most of you already know this. The other thing we are going to start is going to sound like it will be harder, but it will actually be a lot easier than we might think.

Sooner rather than later, we are hoping to start singing a different setting of the “Glory to God in the Highest” (“*Gloria*” for short) called the *Iubilato Deo* (“Praise God”). No, we will not be singing it in Latin. Rather, while it was originally composed in Latin, we will be singing an English translation of it. This might sound difficult, but it will be easier than we might think for two reasons. The first is that the *Gloria* is a setting that was sung nearly universally before the Second Vatican Council. Therefore, many people will probably have heard it before somewhere. When the choir was practicing this for the first time, many of them were apprehensive until they sung through it and several recognized the tune. That being said, the choir has been practicing it and will be helping us to learn it.

The next things we hope to start singing are the “Our Father” and the penitential act. We already know these! That will be easy. We will start this in Advent. We will also be chanting the antiphon during Communion. This is something that we are already familiar with it, as we have been chanting the verse before starting a hymn. In Advent, we will sing the antiphon and the verses from Scripture that go with it.

Next is the Christmas season. During this time, the priest will sing the preface, which is that prayer to God which begins with “The Lord be with you; lift up your hearts; let us give thanks to the Lord our God”. This is something that we already do occasionally. But we chanted this most recently for the feast of the Transfiguration and we were all very impressed with how well the people sung the responses. Another easy one!

After Christmas during Ordinary Time, we hope to put things together: singing the *Iubilato Deo Gloria*, chanting the presidential prayers, singing the Preface Dialogue, and the Mass Ordinary. Gradually, we also hope to begin singing the entrance antiphon instead of an entrance hymn.

The last thing we want is to make people feel overwhelmed, which is why we are taking things so slowly.

We want you to be able to enjoy and enter more deeply into the Mass, experiencing deeper prayer and its beauty. We have already been doing some of these things at Mass during the weekdays and we have noticed a more fulfilling reverence among our parishioners in attendance. Several people have remarked that, while it might get some getting used to, it definitely made the Mass feel more reverent and dignified. It seems so far out of reach to do some of these things, because we have been limiting ourselves to the same old thing for so long. But we could have so much more beauty in the liturgy! Together, with patience and a willingness to trust in God and His holy Church, we can make that happen here at Holy Trinity!

God bless you all!

The Game Plan:

- *ASAP-Advent:*
 - Chanted *Gloria*
 - Presidential Prayers
- *Advent:*
 - *Kyrie Eleison*
 - Our Father
 - Communion Antiphon
- *Christmas Season:*
 - Preface Dialogue
- *Ordinary Time:*
 - Chanted *Gloria*
 - Presidential Prayers
 - Preface Dialogue
 - Mass Ordinary
 - Entrance Antiphon