



Solemn Observance of the
25th Anniversary of the Canonization
of Saint Katharine Drexel

October 5, 2025 at 11:00 AM



Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
and the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel
18th and The Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MOST REVEREND NELSON J. PÉREZ
Celebrant and Homilist

INVOCATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;
be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray:
and you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God,
cast down to hell Satan and the other evil spirits,
who prowl through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Hymn in Honor of Saint Katharine Drexel
On the Occasion of the Solemn Installation of her Sacred Remains
In the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia
18 November 2018

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE

HYMN IN HONOR *of* ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

OLD 100TH



1. Saint Kath - 'rine Dre - xel, we re - joice
2. A daugh - ter of the ho - ly Church,
3. A vir - gin found - ress of great fame,
4. Dis - ci - ple of the Eu - cha - rist,
5. A wit - ness to a jus - tice true
6. Saint Kath - 'rine Dre - xel, hear us pray



1. to sing with all the saints your praise;
2. you, with your fam - 'ly, seek - ing more,
3. your call to fol - low deep - ly sown,
4. you loved this ho - ly Gift di - vine,
5. the Word of God to all you taught
6. that we may strive for ho - li - ness,



1. your deeds we hon - or with one voice
2. formed from an ear - ly age to search
3. with oth - ers you were set a - flame
4. the sav - ing Mys - t'ry did in - sist
5. a life of grace that makes us new,
6. with you a - dor - ing God this day;



1. with joy so great our hearts now raise.
2. to share a for - tune with the poor.
3. to make the name of Je - sus known.
4. to make us branch - es on the vine.
5. to see all e - qual as we ought.
6. and all his won - ders we pro - fess.

Text: Rev. Gerald Dennis Gill, b. 1957.
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM

SIGN of THE CROSS AND GREETING

PENITENTIAL ACT

Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

People: For we have sinned against you.

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

People: And grant us your salvation.

Priest: May almighty God . . . and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen

KYRIE

MASS of THE AMERICAS

FRANK LA ROCCA

Cantor, then All



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,

Cantor, then All



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

GLORIA

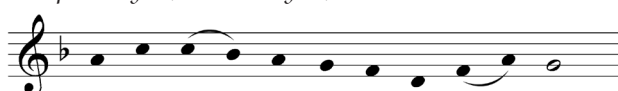
RICHARD J. CLARK

MASS IN HONOR of POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest

All: 
and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.

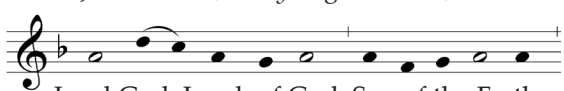
Cantor: We praise you, we bless you,

All: 
we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy you.

Cantor: we give you thanks for your great glory,

All: 
Lord God, heav-en - ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.

Cantor: Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

All: 
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther.

Cantor: you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

All: 
you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;

Cantor: you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

All: 
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

Cantor: you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

All: 
with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT

LITURGY of THE WORD

FIRST READING

HABAKKUK 1:2-3; 2:2-4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk

Spanish translation, read in English

¿Hasta cuándo, Señor, pediré auxilio,
sin que me escuches,
y denunciaré a gritos la violencia que reina,
sin que vengas a salvarme?
¿Por qué me dejas ver la injusticia
y te quedas mirando la opresión?
Ante mí no hay más que asaltos y violencias,
y surgen rebeliones y desórdenes.

El Señor me respondió y me dijo:
“Escribe la visión que te he manifestado,
ponla clara en tablillas
para que se pueda leer de corrido.
Es todavía una visión de algo lejano,
pero que viene corriendo y no fallará;
si se tarda, espéralo, pues llegará sin falta.
El malvado sucumbirá sin remedio;
el justo, en cambio, vivirá por su fe”.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 95

DAVID CLARK ISELE



If to - day you hear His voice hard-en not your hearts.

Music: © David Clark Isele

Lectura de la segunda carta del apóstol san Pablo a Timoteo

English translation, read in Spanish

Beloved:

I remind you, to stir into flame
the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.
For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather of power and love and self-control.
So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,
nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;
but bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.

Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit
that dwells within us.

Palabra de Dios.

Todos: Te alabamos, Señor.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE *the* GOSPEL

A. GREGORY MURRAY



Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB, © 1958, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

*The word of the Lord remains forever.
This is the word that has been proclaimed to you.*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Spanish translation, read in English

En aquel tiempo, los apóstoles dijeron al Señor:

“Aumentanos la fe”. El Señor les contestó:

“Si tuvieran fe, aunque fuera tan pequeña
como una semilla de mostaza,
podrían decir a ese árbol frondoso:
‘Arráncate de raíz y plántate en el mar’,
y los obedecería.

¿Quién de ustedes,
si tiene un siervo que labra la tierra o pastorea los rebaños,
le dice cuando éste regresa del campo:

‘Entra en seguida y ponte a comer’?

¿No le dirá más bien:

‘Prepárame de comer y disponte a servirme,
para que yo coma y beba;
después comerás y beberás tú’?

¿Tendrá acaso que mostrarse agradecido con el siervo,
porque éste cumplió con su obligación?

Así también ustedes,
cuando hayan cumplido todo lo que se les mandó, digan:
‘No somos más que siervos,
sólo hemos hecho lo que teníamos que hacer’ “.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION *of* FAITH

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven

At the words that follow, up to and including "and became man," all bow.
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord , the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

LITURGY *of* THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION *of* GIFTS

OFFERTORY

STRENGTHEN FOR SERVICE JESSICA FRENCH (b. 1977)
from the Syro-Malabar Liturgy, 5th Century
Cathedral Basilica Choir

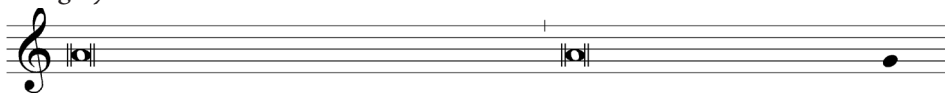
Strengthen for service, O Lord Hands that holy things have taken;
And let ears that heard your most holy word To lesser things never awaken.

Lord, may tongues which "Holy" sang Be free from all deceiving,
May eyes which saw your love be bright, Heavenly hope perceiving;

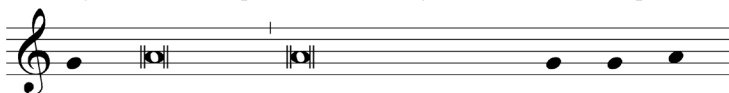
And may feet that walked along hallowed courts From your true light never be banished.
May bodies by your Body fed Be with your new life replenished.

Amen

*Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the
almighty Father.*



ALL: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name



for our good and the good of all his ho - ly Church.

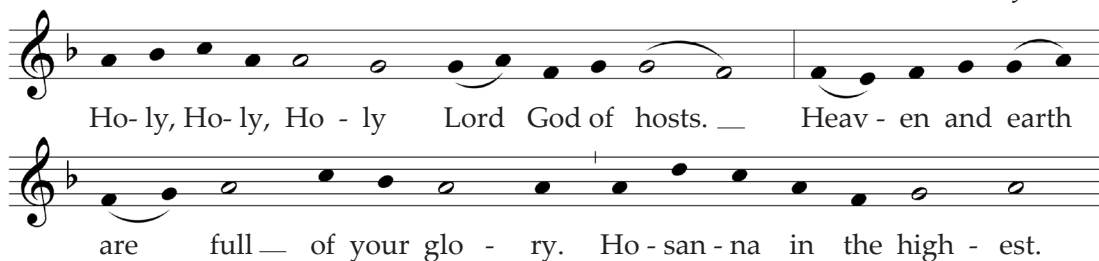
PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SANCTUS

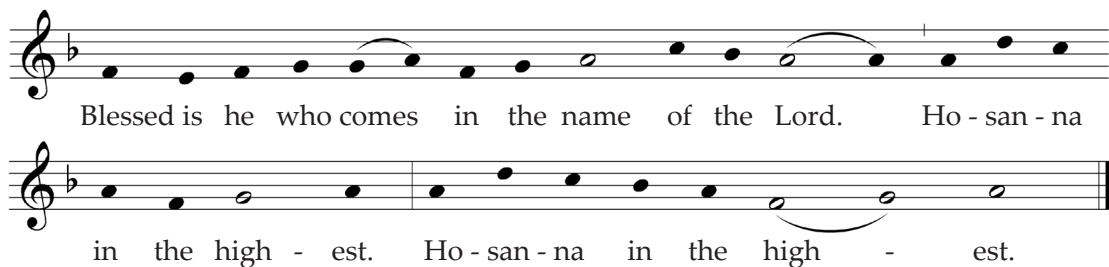
MASS IN HONOR *of* POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

RICHARD J. CLARK



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. — Heav - en and earth

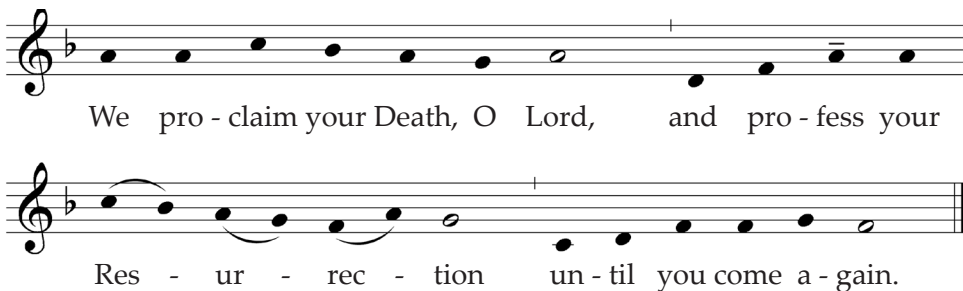
are full — of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



MYSTERY *of* FAITH

MASS IN HONOR *of* POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

RICHARD J. CLARK



AMEN

MASS IN HONOR *of* POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

RICHARD J. CLARK



COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

RITE *of* PEACE

AGNUS DEI/CORDERO *de* DIOS MISA *de* SAN JOSÉ HOWARD HUGHES

Cantor: Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,



ALL: ten pie - dad, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. ____

Cantor: Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,



ALL: ten pie - dad, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. ____

Cantor: Cordero de Dios que quitas el pecado del mundo,



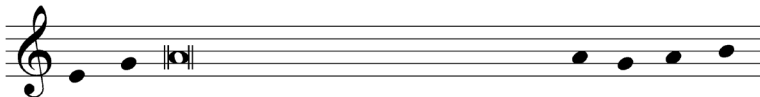
ALL: da - nos, da - nos la paz. ____

Música: *Misa de San José*, Howard Hughes, SM. © 1976, GIA Publications, Inc.

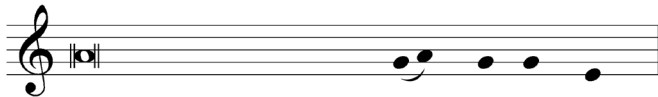
COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.



ALL: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter un-der my roof,



but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Cathedral Basilica Choir

Chant

English translation, sung in Latin

The five wise virgins took oil in flasks with their lamps;

at midnight there was a cry:

“Behold, the bridegroom is here;
come out to meet Christ the Lord.”

ANDREW R. MOTYKA



My soul as-pires af - ter your sal - va - tion; I hope in your word.

communionantiphons.org

HYMN *of* PRAISE

AVE VERUM
Cathedral Basilica Choir

WILLIAM BYRD
(1543-1623)

English translation, sung in Latin

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
Who has truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mortals,
Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood:
Be for us a foretaste (of heaven) during our final examining.

O Jesu sweet, O Jesu pure,
O Jesu, Son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

GREETING AND BLESSING

DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL

PILGRIMS of HOPE
Jubilee 2025 Hymn

FRANCESCO MENEGHELLO

Refrain



Like a flame my hope is__ bur-ning, may my song a - rise to__ you:



Source of life that has no__ en-ding, on life's path I trust in__ you.



1. Ev' - ry na - tion, tongue, and__ peo - ple
2. God, so ten - der and__ so__ pa - tient,
3. Raise your eyes, the wind__ is__ blo - wing,



find a light with - in__ your Word. Scat - tered fra - gile sons
dawn of hope, you care_ for__ all. Heav'n and earth_ are re -
for our God is born in__ time. Son made man_ for you



and_ daugh-ters find a home in your dear Son.___
cre - at - ed by the Spi-rit of Life set__ free.___
and_ ma - ny who will find_ the way in__ him.___
to Refrain

Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri. English translation: Andrew Wadsworth

POSTLUDE

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

The Drexel household was a happy one, in a large but simple home at 1503 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Francis Anthony Drexel was hard working and a successful banking partner with his brother, Anthony. Emma M. Bouvier Drexel, his wife, proved to be very loving, faith-filled and a caring parent to their three daughters, Elizabeth, Katharine (Katie) and Louise. It was here that these young women realized that their lavish wealth was to be shared, not only with neighbors in need, but also with Missionaries throughout the world who were serving the poor and destitute.

When they moved to the Torresdale section of Philadelphia they befriended Fr. James O'Connor, pastor of the Church of Saint Dominic. Soon he was ordained a bishop and sent to Nebraska. His pastoral work to the Native Americans made it necessary for him to seek financial help from the Drexel family. Kate, now known as Katharine, who was following the plight of the native groups, saw the injustices they were suffering at the hands of the federal government. She noted as well, the severe racial injustices and torture of black people in the South, for whom she grieved. Clearly, priests were needed for both races to offer pastoral care and spiritual conversion to Christianity. On one of her final trips abroad, she begged and was granted an audience with Pope Leo XIII to make a request for missionary priests. The Holy Father, asked her to personally become a missionary which sealed her own desire to enter Religious Life. On her return to America, at the suggestion of Bishop O'Connor, she went to the Novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, PA in May, 1889, at age twenty-nine.

She entered for the purpose of founding a new congregation which would serve the Native and African American people, tending especially to their conversion to the Catholic faith. Her deep love for the Blessed Sacrament was at the heart of her mission. She would not only take the three vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, but a 4th vow of Service to the "Indian and Black Races". While in the Novitiate, Katharine gave focused attention to her personal religious development and even excelled, but often reflected on her past visits to the Native Americans, and to Sioux Chief Red Cloud. Her novice director, Mother Mary Inez, RSM guided her toward her goal and also helped in the formation of 10 novices and 3 postulants who would travel with her to their own Novitiate in Cornwells Heights, PA. When Mother Katharine professed her vows, February 12, 1891, in the presence of Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia, the Foundation of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament became a reality.

As a consecrated religious, Mother Katharine Drexel, SBS wasted no time in moving onward to the West and South establishing missions. By 1940, more than 30 Foundations were made in seventeen states, where 400 of her sisters were serving. These great accomplishments happened in spite of the challenges of the Great Depression, vicious activities of the KKK and the challenges of World War II. These hardships compounded with the fierce winters, long, arduous journeys which Katharine continued to make, all contributed to her declining health. Her final years came after several heart attacks which then confined her to the Motherhouse, which she called “her little Nazareth”. She lived there from her 84th year until her last breath. She died peacefully at age 96 on March 3, 1955.

*“All is vanity except knowing, loving and serving God.
This alone can bring peace to my soul.”*

Mother Katharine lived these very words, the heart of her spirituality. The Church recognized her holiness, which was confirmed by two miracles or cures to persons not able to hear, attributed to God through her intercession. She was beatified November 20, 1988 then canonized a saint on October 1, 2000.

St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us.

*Sister Eleanor McCann, RSM
Pastoral Associate
Cathedral Parish of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please see this website, **saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com**, for information updates on activities surrounding the Tomb of Saint Katharine Drexel, for catechetical information, and media resources.

TIMELINE of SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL'S LIFE AND SERVICE

- November 26, 1858 - Born in Philadelphia, PA. Her mother dies shortly after giving birth.
- February 15, 1885 - Katharine's father dies, bequeathing an estate valued at \$15 million to his children and various charities.
- 1886-1887 – Katharine finances the opening of St. Catherine's Indian School in Santa Fe, NM, to serve the local Pueblo-American Indians.
- January 27, 1887 – During audience with Pope Leo XIII in Rome, the Holy Father asks Katharine to consider becoming a missionary.
- March 1889 – Katharine answers God's call to the religious life. Under the direction of her spiritual advisor, she seeks to found a religious order dedicated to serving African Americans and American Indians.
- May 7, 1889 – Katharine enters religious life as a postulant with the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, PA.
- February 12, 1891 – Pronounces first vows, founds the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, and becomes Mother M. Katharine Drexel.
- 1892 – Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament move into new motherhouse and open Holy Providence School in Bensalem, PA.
- June 13, 1894 – Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament go to Santa Fe to staff and run St. Catherine's Indian School.
- January 9, 1895 – Mother Katharine pronounces perpetual vows.
- Fall 1899 – St. Francis de Sales School, a boarding school for African-American girls, opens in Powhatan, VA.
- December 3, 1902 – Founding of St. Michael Indian School in St. Michaels, AZ, to serve the Navajo Native Americans.
- September 5, 1905 – Immaculate Mother Academy, a boarding school for African-American girls, opens in Nashville, TN.
- 1906 – Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament sent to Carlisle, PA, to teach religious education to African-American and American-Indian students.
- 1915 – Mother Katharine purchases buildings in New Orleans and opens Xavier Preparatory School.

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- 1925 – Founding of Xavier University of Louisiana, the only historically black Catholic college in the United States.
 - 1935 – Failing health leads to Mother Katharine’s resignation as superior. She leads a life of contemplation for the next twenty years.
 - March 3, 1955 – Mother M. Katharine Drexel dies of pneumonia.
 - February 27, 1964 – John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, officially introduces Mother Katharine’s cause for sainthood.
 - January 26, 1987 – Named Venerable.
 - November 20, 1988 – Beatified.
 - October 1, 2000 – Blessed Katharine Drexel canonized by Pope John Paul II, becoming the second recognized American-born saint. Her feast day is March 3.
 - August 2, 2018 - Translation of the Sacred Remains of Saint Katharine Drexel from the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

THE SISTERS *of* THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TODAY

In February 1891, St. Katharine Drexel, listening to the desires God placed in her heart, professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and became the first Sister of the Blessed Sacrament. Today, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament continue to vow themselves to God through a free and total gift of self. They remain faithful to the mission Christ has entrusted to them – to prayer and service among the Black and Native American people.

The Eucharist is at the heart of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament’s Charism and Mission. Through the gifts of community and service, they are called to address the hungers of the world and to share the bread of their lives in a spirit of generosity, joy and gratitude. The desire to effect unity and community among all peoples impels them to oppose all forms of prejudice, racism and oppression.

Since the beginning of the Congregation until today, the Sisters’ trust in God’s faithfulness and goodness continues to empower and energize them each day. The spirituality of the Sisters is enriched and strengthened by partnering with diverse cultures of people who share their lives and love with them - *a mutual blessing*.

THE TOMB *of* SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL **AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA *of* SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, PHILADELPHIA**

The Tomb of Saint Katharine Drexel is open for visits and prayer during Cathedral Basilica hours. Information about these hours can be found on the Cathedral Basilica website, <http://cathedralphila.org/>

Pilgrimages to the Tomb of Saint Katharine Drexel are encouraged. Outside of the parish Mass schedule, it is possible to offer Mass at the Drexel Family altar adjacent to the Tomb of Saint Katharine Drexel.

You are welcome to present intentions and petitions to be placed at the Tomb of Saint Katharine, asking her heavenly assistance. You may place these intentions and petitions in the offering basket at Mass or send them to the Cathedral Parish Office, 1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

NOVENA TO SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

The Novena to Saint Katharine Drexel will begin on Monday, February 22 and conclude on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

FEAST OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

The Feast of Saint Katharine Drexel is Wednesday, March 3, 2021. A special celebration of the feast will take place at the 12:05 PM Mass that day in the Cathedral Basilica.

THE CATHEDRAL SHOP

Our Cathedral Shop is open on Sundays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The shop carries religious and devotional articles of Saint Katharine Drexel as well as biographies of our Philadelphia Saint. These same items in larger quantities can be ordered through our Cathedral Shop.

DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Cathedral Basilica Parish are profoundly grateful to the Connelly Foundation for their most generous gift that provided for the translation of the sacred remains of Saint Katharine Drexel to the Cathedral Basilica, and the construction of the new Tomb. There is additional work that needs to be completed, such as the installation of new lighting and signage. Funds will also be needed to develop this new shrine location at the Cathedral Basilica. If you would like to make a contribution to this Development Fund, you may do so by mailing it to the Cathedral Parish Office, 1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.



REVEREND GERALD DENNIS GILL
Rector
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania