

# JOIN US FOR RORATE MASS

SATURDAY, DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup>, 6:15AM



## WHAT IS A RORATE MASS?

A centuries long tradition in the Church, the Rorate Mass is **candlelit Votive Mass in the Blessed Virgin Mary's honor** during Advent.

The Mass is fully sung, with all of the Latin Gregorian propers. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

## WHY "RORATE"?

The Rorate Mass got its proper name from the opening words of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon), which comes to us from Isaiah 45:8:

**"Rorate caeli** desuper et nubs pluant justum."

"Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness."

## WHY CANDLELIT?

Originating from practical reasons of needing to illuminate the Church in the darkness of cold winter mornings, the practice of using solely candlelight in the Rorate Mass holds beautiful symbolism. Advent is a time of preparation. The light of our candles is a symbol for our **longing for the coming of our Savior** whose light is already dawning.

On Christmas eve, we will enter the Church in procession by candlelight. When the Gloria is sung all the lights will be turned on meaning that Christ is now born, the Light of the World.