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MUSIC FOR A RORATE CAELI MASS
Celebrated in the Ordinary Form

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A "Rorate Mass" is a traditional Advent devotion where Mass is celebrated by candlelight, accompanied by Gregorian chant in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary (beginning with the chant "Rorate Caeli" - "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the earth bud forth a Savior." Isaiah 45:8).

The music selections below are based on the texts of the Proper Antiphons from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Advent (Roman Missal, page 902). Recommendations follow the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (48, 87) and include first the actual antiphons from the *Graduale Romanum,* then simpler settings of the Roman Missal text (including English options), then other suitable hymns, chants, or motets that can be selected based on the abilities of the choir/cantors.

Singing acapella is recommended to add to the quiet, reflective nature of the liturgy.

Since the church will be dimly lit, there may not be a need for a congregational worship aid. Some of these chants are simple and traditional enough that the congregation can sing along from memory as they become familiar with the music over time, or be reminded that conscious participation can also mean actively listening to the texts being sung.

Introit (Entrance Antiphon): *"Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant iustum [aperiatur terra et germinet Salvatorem]."* (Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior. Cf. Is 45:8)

1. Latin Chant from Graduale Romanum: <u>RorateCaeliGR.pdf</u> (modern notation) <u>LISTEN</u>
   <u>18-22-10_0.pdf</u>
   Cantor can intone the chant; choir joins at * (caeli). Cantor or schola sings verse and Gloria Patri if time permits (no Alleluia). ALL repeat antiphon.

2. Latin HYMN (also called the "Advent Prose"): <u>Rorate Caeli Hymn</u> <u>LISTEN</u>
   Cantor sings antiphon once, ALL repeat. Cantor or schola sings verse. ALL repeat antiphon (additional verses as time permits - not necessary to sing all).

3. English Chant (Fr Weber)   <u>Fr Weber Propers</u> (many options at pg 388 of doc - numbered 368)

4. Antiphon with Latin and English: <u>ADVENT 4 RORATE WITH CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM.pdf</u>
   Tune of "Creator of the Stars of Night"

5. Antiphon with Latin refrain, English Verses by <u>Brian Michael Page</u> pg 32

Kyrie: *Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison* (Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.)
(if celebrant uses this option for the Penitential Act, the sung Kyrie may be omitted)

   1. Mass XVIII (Weekdays of Advent/Lent)- <u>KyrieXVIII.pdf</u> <u>LISTEN</u>
   2. Mass XVI (technically the Mass for Ordinary Time - this is the simplest chant Kyrie included by most major publishers - <u>KyrieXVI.pdf</u> <u>LISTEN</u>
   3. ICEL chant (same melody above, in English - in every major music publication)

Psalm and Alleluia - taken from the Lectionary for the Mass of the Day. Following the local custom, these may be chanted or recited, and the Alleluia (if not sung) may be omitted.   Simple music suggestions:

1. St. Meinrad Psalm Tones (modes 1, 5, 6, 7, or 8 recommended for Advent)
2. Meinrad Tones - modern notation (with explanation of how to sing)
    a.   Mode 1 - LISTEN
    b.   Mode 5 - LISTEN
    c.   Mode 6 - LISTEN
    d.   Mode 7 - LISTEN
    e.   Mode 8 - LISTEN
III.   Simple chant alleluia - Alleluiavi.pdf- LISTEN (verse in video is slightly different from music)

Offertory Chant
The Roman Missal does not provide a text for Offertory antiphons. In the *Graduale Romanum*, the *Ave Maria* (Hail Mary) is the first proper chant listed. There are a number of settings that can be used:

1. Chant: Ave Maria (Mode 1) - modern notation is found in many hymnals - Ave Maria Chant LISTEN
2. SATB: Ave Maria (Arcadelt) - also lovely sung S/A - there are a few different editions, many options can be found here.   LISTEN to one version here.
3. Polyphony: Ave Maria (attr. Victoria) LISTEN
4. Other suitable Advent or Marian hymns: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; Creator of the Stars of Night (English or Latin),

Sanctus: *Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, etc.* (Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, etc.)

1. Mass XVIII (for weekdays of Advent/Lent) - SanctusXVIII.pdf- LISTEN
2. ICEL chant (same melody above, in English - in every missalette) - LISTEN

Mysterium Fidei (Mystery of Faith): *Mortem tuam annuntiamus Domine, et tuam resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias.* (We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.)

1. Latin chant Mysterium Fidei - LISTEN
2. ICEL chant (in every missalette) - LISTEN

Agnus Dei: *Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis (x2). Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.* (Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us/grant us peace.)

1. Mass XVIII (for weekdays of Advent/Lent) - Agnus Dei.pdf LISTEN
2. ICEL chant (same melody above, in English - in every missalette) - LISTEN

Communion Chant: *Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium: et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.* (Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son: and his name will be called Emmanuel. Cf Is 7:14)

1. Latin Chant from Graduale Romanum - Ecce virgo.pdf   LISTEN
2. English Chant - Simple English Propers (Bartlett) - 004_SEP_4-Advent.pdf(pg 4) LISTEN
3. Fr Weber setting - pg 392 in doc (numbered 372)

Communion Hymn (optional)
1. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (great opportunity to give the congregation an opportunity to sing, at least on the refrain). Very effective when sung acapella. Or try adding this [descant](#)!
2. SATB: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
3. Creator of the Stars of Night
4. Any other Advent or Marian chant or hymn
5. Polyphony: [O Magnum Mysterium](#) (Victoria) - [LISTEN](#)

Recessional (optional) A closing hymn is never required at Mass, but singing the Marian Antiphon for Advent/Christmas (prayed during the Liturgy of the Hours) is a lovely way to end: *Alma Redemptoris Mater* (English translation: *Loving Mother of the Redeemer, Gate of heaven, star of the sea, Assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, Yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, Have pity on us, poor sinners.*)

1. Latin Chant: [Alma Redemptoris Mater](#) - [LISTEN](#)
2. Polyphony: [Palestrina-Alma_Redemptoris_Mater.pdf](#) [LISTEN](#)
3. Any other suitable Advent or Marian hymn (see suggestions listed above)