On December 8, 1854, Blessed Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, has been revealed by God, and therefore should firmly and constantly be believed by all the faithful.” Fifty years later, when the Dominican friars of the Province of St. Joseph established a new house of formation in Washington, D.C., it was dedicated to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. For more than a hundred years, the Dominicans of the Priory of the Immaculate Conception have lovingly hailed Mary as their Mother and Patroness, praising her each night with the Salve Regina and celebrating with special solemnity the feast of her Immaculate Conception on December 8.

In the years immediately following the declaration of the dogma in 1854, Dominican friars would have continued to sing the Marian chants from the Common of Saints that date back to the early Middle Ages. In 1863, however, Blessed Pius IX promulgated a new set of texts to highlight the definitive promulgation of the dogma. In response, many musicians throughout the Church composed new melodies or adapted earlier chants to set the new texts to appropriate music. The following year, one of the first musical settings of these new texts was published by the French Dominican Pie Bernard (1826–1899) in the Supplementum ad Cantus Missarum juxta ritum Sacri Ordinis Praedicatorum (Mechlin: H. Dessain, 1864). In this publication, Père Bernard adapted chants from the medieval Dominican repertoire to the new texts. In 1890, Père Bernard published a new edition of the Graduale based more closely on the earliest medieval Dominican manuscripts. In this edition, he made slight revisions to some of the chants of the Immaculate Conception and provided newly composed settings for the Alleluia and Offertory chants as well as a setting of the Communion chant based on a medieval melody.

In this recording, the Schola Cantorum of the the Priory of the Immaculate Conception sings the medieval chants of the Blessed Virgin Mary used by Dominicans for this feast prior to 1863 as well as the chants published by Pie Bernard in 1890. In addition, this recording includes some of the Marian chants sung by Dominicans in the celebration of Compline, the Night Office of the Church. This recording is dedicated to the Holy Virgin Mother of God, the Immaculate Conception, who is our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
Medieval Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1. Gaudeamus omnes (Officium)

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes sub honore beatæ Mariae virginis, de cujus conceptione gaudent angeli, et collaudant Filium Dei. 
Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego opera mea regi.

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a feast day in honor of the blessed virgin Mary, in whose conception the angels rejoice and give praise to the Son of God. 
My heart has uttered a good word; I speak my works to the King. (Ps 44:2)

2. Kyrie


Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. 
Lord, have mercy.

3. Gloria


Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, 
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
4. *Propter veritatem* (Responsorium)  

**Propter veritatem, et mansuetudinem, et justitiam: et deducet te mirabiliter dextera tua.** † Audi filia, et vide, et inclina aurem tuam: quia concupivit rex speciem tuam.  

5. *Conceptio gloriosae* (Alleluia)  

**Alleluia, alleluia.** † Conceptio gloriosae virginis Mariae ex semine Abrahae, ortae de tribu Juda, clara ex stirpe David. Alleluia.  

6. *Credo*  

**Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium.**  

Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero: Genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem, descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine: et homo factus est.

O n account of truth, and meekness, and justice, your right hand shall draw you forth wonderfully. † Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear, for the king has greatly desired your beauty. (Ps 44:5, 11–12)  

A lleluia, alleluia. † This is the conception of the glorious virgin Mary, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, of the noble race of David. Alleluia.  

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, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, judicare vivos et mortuos: cujus regni non erit finis.

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.

Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem: qui ex Patre Filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et congruit: qui locutus est per Prophetas.

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.

7. Felix namque (Offertorium)

Felix namque es sacra virgo Maria, et omni laude dignissima: quia ex te ortus est sol justitiae, Christus Deus noster.

You are happy, O holy virgin Mary, and most worthy of all praise, because from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

8. Preface


For ever and ever. Amen. The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.
Vere dignum et justum aequum et salutare, nos tibi semper et ubique gratias agere Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeterne Deus.

Et te in Conceptione Immaculata beatae Mariae semper virginis exsultantibus animis laudare, benedicere, et praedicare.

Quae et Unigenitum tuum Sancti Spiritus obumbratione concepit, et virginitatis gloria permanente, mundo lumen aeternum effudit, Jesum Christum Dominum nostrum.

Per quem majestatem tuam laudant angeli, adorant dominationes, tremunt potestates; caeli, caelorumque virtutes, ac beata seraphim, socia exsultatione concelebrant.

Cum quibus et nostras voces ut amitti jubeas deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes:

9. Sanctus


Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God,

And that we should with glad hearts praise, bless, and glorify you on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the blessed ever-virgin Mary,

Who by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit conceived your Only-begotten Son, and without losing the glory of her virginity gave to the world the eternal light, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Through whom the angels praise your majesty, the dominations adore, and powers tremble before you; heaven and the virtues of heaven and the blessed seraphim worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:
10. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

11. Beata viscera (Communio)

Beata viscera Mariae virginis, quae portaverunt aeterni Patris Filium.

Blessed is the womb of the virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.

12. Ite missa est

Ite, missa est.

Deo gratias.

Go forth, the Mass is ended. Thanks be to God.

13. Gaudens gaudebo (Officium)

Gaudens gaudebo in Domino, et exultabit anima mea in Deo meo: quia induit me vestimentis salutis, et indumento justitiae circumdedit me, quasi sponsam ornatam monilibus suis. Ὡ Exaltabo te, Domine, quoniam suscepi me: nec delectasti inimicos meos super me. (Melody adapted from Laetare Jerusalem, Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Rejoicing, I will rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and he has covered me with the robe of justice, as a bride adorned with her jewels. Ὡ I will extol you, O Lord, for You have upheld me, and have not made my enemies rejoice over me. (Isaiah 61:10, Ps 29:2)
14. *Benedicta es (Responsorium)*

Benedicta es tu, virgo Maria, a Domino Deo excelso, prae omnibus mulieribus super terram. ∥ Tu gloria Jerusalem, tu laetitia Israel, tu honorificentia populi nostri. (Melody adapted from *Misit Dominus*, First Sunday after the Octave of Epiphany)

15. *Tota pulchra es (Alleluia)*

Alleluia, alleluia. Tota pulchra es, Maria, et macula originalis non est in te. Alleluia.

16. *Ave Maria (Offertorium)*

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, alleluia.

17. *Gloriosa dicta (Communio)*

Gloriosa dicta sunt de te, Maria, quia fecit tibi magna qui potens est. (Melody adapted from *Qui meditabitur*, Ash Wednesday)
18. **Te lucis ante terminum (Hymn)**

To you, before the close of day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That, with accustomed kindness you
Would be our protector in guarding us.

May fantasies recede far away
As well as the phantasms of the night;
And crush our enemy,
Lest our bodies should be dishonored.

O Mary, mother of grace,
Mother of mercy,
Protect us from the enemy
And support us at the hour of death.

Glory be to you, O Lord,
Who were born of the Virgin,
Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Unto everlasting ages. Amen.

19. **Virgo Maria (Psalm antiphon)**

No woman born in the world is your equal,
Virgin Mary, blossoming like the rose,
Fragrant as the lily: pray for us, holy Mother of God.
20. *In manus tuas . . . alleluia (Responsory)*

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit, alleluia, alleluia. You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth. Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

21. *Corde et animo, Nunc dimittis (Gospel canticle)*

With heart and mind let us sing glory to Christ on this sacred festival of the illustrious Mary, Mother of God.

Canticle: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:29–32)
Salve Procession

22. Salve Regina

Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae: vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.
Eia ergo advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte; Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

23. Litany of Loreto

Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, audi nos.
Christe, exaudi nos.
Pater de caelis Deus, miserere nobis.
Fili, Redemptor mundi, Deus,
Spiritus Sancte, Deus,
Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus,
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.
Sancta Dei Genitrix,
Sancta Virgo virginum,
Mater Christi,
Mater Ecclesiae,

Hail, O Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you we cry, exiled children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping, in this vale of tears.
So then, our advocate, turn your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Mater divinae gratiae,  
Mater purissima,  
Mater castissima,  
Mater inviolata,  
Mater intemerata,  
Mater amabilis,  
Mater admirabilis,  
Mater boni consilii,  
Mater Creatoris,  
Mater Salvatoris,  
Virgo prudentissima,  
Virgo veneranda,  
Virgo praedicanda,  
Virgo potens,  
Virgo clemens,  
Virgo fidelis.

Speculum justitiae,  
Sedes sapientiae,  
Causa nostrae laetitiae,  
Vas spirituale,  
Vas honorabile,  
Vas insigne devotionis,  
Rosa mystica,  
Turris Davidica,  
Turris eburnea,  
Domus aurea,  
Foederis arca,  
Janua caeli,  
Stella matutina,  
Salus infirmorum,
Refugium peccatorum,  
Consolatrix afflictorum,  
Auxilium Christianorum.  
Refuge of sinners,  
Consoler of the afflicted,  
Help of Christians.  

Regina Angelorum,  
Regina Patriarcharum,  
Regina Prophetarum,  
Regina Apostolorum,  
Regina Martyrum,  
Regina Confessorum,  
Regina Virginum,  
Regina Sanctorum omnium,  
Regina sine labe originali concepta,  
Regina in caelum assumpta,  
Regina sacratissimi Rosarii,  
Regina familiae,  
Regina pacis.  
Queen of angels,  
Queen of patriarchs,  
Queen of prophets,  
Queen of apostles,  
Queen of martyrs,  
Queen of confessors,  
Queen of virgins,  
Queen of all saints,  
Queen conceived without original sin,  
Queen assumed into heaven,  
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,  
Queen of the family,  
Queen of peace.  

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
parce nobis, Domine.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
exaudi nos, Domine.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, hearken to us, O Lord.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
24. *Inviolata*

Inviolata, intacta et casta es, Maria: quae es effecta fulgida caeli porta. O mater alma Christi carissima, suscipe pia laudum praeconia. Nostra ut pura pectora sint et corpora, te nunc flagitant devota corda et ora. Tua per precata dulcisona nobis concedas veniam per saecula, O benigna, quae sola inviolata permansisti.

25. *O lumen Ecclesiae*

O lumen Ecclesiae, doctor veritatis, rosa patientiae, ebur castitatis, aquam sapientiae propinasti gratis: prae dicator gratiae, nos junge beatis.

26. *Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo: Tu quae genuisti natura mirante tuum sanc tum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

**MARIAN ANTIPHONS**

25. *O lumen Ecclesiae*

O light of the Church, teacher of truth, rose of patience, ivory of chastity, you freely poured forth the water of wisdom; preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed.

26. *Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, you who remain the open gate of heaven, and the star of the sea, hasten to the aid of your people who, falling, strive to rise again. You who, to the wonderment of nature, bore your holy Creator, remaining a virgin after as before, receiving that “Ave” from the mouth of Gabriel: have mercy on us sinners.
27. Ave Regina caelorum

Ave, Regina caelorum; Ave, Domina Angelorum. Salve radix sancta, Ex qua mundo lux est orta. Gaude gloriosa, super omnes speciosa. Vale, valde decora, et pro nobis semper Christum exora.

28. Regina caeli


29. Sub tuum praesidium

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, sancta Dei Genetrix; nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus, sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo benedicta.

30. Recordare Virgo Mater

Recordare Virgo mater, dum steteris in conspectu Dei, ut loquaris pro nobis bona, et ut avertas indignationem suam a nobis.
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