

Funeral Mass

for

Cecilia DeJesus Datu

Born to Christ May 8, 1941
Rose to Glory February 5, 2026

Rev. Father Nicholas Bulabuza
Rev. Mr. Tom M^cFeely

Church of the Ascension
Virginia Beach, VA
March 5, 2026

*Please silence all electronic devices.
This service is being livestreamed.*

GATHERING SONG “Ave Maria” by F. Schubert

BLESSING WITH SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM IN CHRIST

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1 – 8, 11

Reader: Mandy Tolman
Response: “Thanks be to God.”

Psalm 84/ Lord, Bring Me Home to Your Temple

Cantor first time Paul Tate



Lord, bring me home to your tem - ple.

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SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3: 1 – 2

Reader: Sofia-Marie Cintron
Response: “Thanks be to God.”

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mass of Renewal
Curtis Stephan

Cantor first time:



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GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25: 31 – 46

“Praise to you LORD, Jesus Christ.”

HOMILY

UNIVERSAL PRAYER *Response:* “LORD, Hear Our Prayer.”

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

GIFT BEARERS

Neilson Datu, Gwen Martinez, & Marissa Cintron

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Here I Am, LORD

I, the LORD of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, LORD. Is it I, LORD? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, LORD, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the LORD of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Text: Based on Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte, b. 1947. Music: Dan Schutte. Text and Music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Mass of Renewal by Curtis Stephan

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest. Hosanna in the Highest!

Save Us Savior

Save us Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free; you have set us free.

Great Amen

COMMUNION RITE

The LORD'S Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

(Pause for Presider)

For thine is the Kingdom...

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

Lamb of God

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us *(repeat)*.

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

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR NON-CATHOLICS

For guests who have joined this Celebration of Life for Cecilia and do not share our Catholic Eucharistic Faith tradition, you are invited to the table during the Procession. Please come with your hands folded over your heart, and you will receive a blessing from the clergy.

See You in the Eucharist

1. I will meet you at the table; I will meet you in his heart. In the company of angels, in the place where all things start, we receive each other's presence, we are all made one in him. Though I cannot see your face, I will see you in the Eucharist.
2. Come and meet me at the table, come and meet me in his heart. We'll be singing with the angels, each man playing his own part. In a symphony of praises, we will join our song with his. Though I cannot hear your voice, we'll be speaking in the Eucharist. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.
3. When we gather at the table, we are closer than our breath, even nearer than the angels when we touch his very flesh. Dwelling in each other's presence, I will hold you close inside. Ev'ry soul in heav'n and earth now is present in the body of Christ. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.
4. We are pilgrims on a journey; we are headed for the throne. Carried on the wings of angels, Oh, we do not walk alone. All our prayers we lay before him, and his grace will pave the way to lead us to our one true home, where we'll see each other face to face. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. I will meet you, I will hear you, I will hold you, I will receive you, I will see you in the Eucharist.

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On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life; say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust."

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagle's wings; bear you on the breath of dawn; make you to shine like the sun; and hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you and famine will bring you no fear. Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Text: Adapt. from Psalm 91; Michael Joncas, b.1951. Tune: Michael Joncas. Text and Music © 1979, New Dawn Music.

REFLECTIONS *by* Mary Rose Datu

FINAL PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION

May the Angels Be Your Guide

Cantor first time: Michele MacAller
Kathy McGrath

May the an - gels be your guide, may they lead you in - to
par - a - dise, and take you home to the new Je - ru - sa - lem.

The musical notation is for a cantor's first time. It consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and lyrical, with lyrics written below the notes.

Text: Based on In Paradisum and Psalm 27:4, 7, 9, 13-14. Text and music © 1998, Michele MacAller and Kathy McGrath. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

SENDING FORTH

Sing with All the Saints in Glory HYMN TO JOY

Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song! Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, To the former days belong. All around the clouds are breaking, Soon the storms of time shall cease; In God's likeness, people waking, Know the everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived! Holiest hearts for ages pleading, Never that full joy conceived. God has promised, Christ prepares it, There on high our welcome waits; Every humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Life eternal! heaven rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead; Join with all the heavenly voices; Child of God, lift up your head! Patriarchs from distant ages, Saints all longing for their heaven, Prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages, All await the glory given. Text: 87 87 D; 1 Corinthians 15:20; William J. Irons, 1812-1893; fr. Psalms and Hymns, 1873, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867.

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