

St. Landry Catholic Church – Immaculate Conception Bell The Angelus, Call to Worship, De Profundis, Hours of the Day, and Other Times

By Monsignor J. Robert Romero (revised March 21, 2011)

All information at <http://StLandryBell.org>

As parishioners have noticed, our bell, donated to St. Landry Catholic Church by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Number 119, cast in April 1912, and installed in November 1912, is back in operation. We may remember some time ago it stopped ringing as a result of lightning striking some of the equipment. We were able to get it running on October 30, 2009 using 1960's technology. Recently, we removed the 1960's technology and have installed a 'state of the art' computer system to manage the ringing of the bell. This allows us to have the one bell do several types of ringing. These are the Angelus, Call to Worship, De Profundis, Hours of the Day, and other times. I would like to update parishioners about these.

Angelus

The Angelus is a ringing of the bell at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. This custom of ringing developed over many years in the middle ages. It is a ring where there is a toll for three times, then a space of time followed by another ring of three tolls, then a second space of time followed by a third ring of three tolls, then a third space of time followed by a swinging ring.

The word Angelus means Angel. It is a prayer coming from the Bible calling to mind the Incarnation of Jesus. This is taken from St. Luke 1:26-38. "The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary." In Latin it is "Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariæ." Thus the naming of the prayer and ring of the bell is called Angelus.

In the development of the custom of three rings of the Angelus, the first development was to ring the Angelus at the evening. This ringing was focused on the Incarnation of Jesus which happened in the evening. Later the custom developed to ring the Angelus also in the morning. Here the focus was on Jesus' resurrection which happened in the morning. As time continued, a third ringing at noon was added. This third ringing was focused on Jesus' death which happened around noon.

During the year the Angelus is said. During Easter time the Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven) is said.



Annunciation by Botticelli, 1490

The Angelus

(Prayer starts with bell ringing 3 times here)

V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(Bell rings 3 times here)

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

(Bell rings 3 times here)

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

(Bell swings here)

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Queen of Heaven – Regina Caeli

(Said during Easter Season)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anyone who would like to see the bell ringing the Angelus can see it on YouTube. The link to St. Landry Catholic Church's YouTube channel is <http://www.youtube.com/user/StLandryCatholic>. The testing of the bell on October 30, 2010 can be seen.

De Profundis

At 9:00 p.m. the bell rings nine times but at a slower pace than the other hours. It takes 90 seconds to ring. It is a slow toll ringing. This is the last time the bell rings during the day. It will ring again beginning at 6:00 a.m. the next day.

At this time the slow tolling is designed for us to remember the Holy Souls and to pray for them. It is also a good time for us to also remember our day and see how we have lived God's Kingdom during the day.

Prayer for the Holy Souls

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

We may follow with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be Prayers.

To use this time to also remember our day in our service of God, we may use from the night prayers of the church, **the Canticle of Simeon** (Luke 2:29-32).

The Canticle of Simeon

Antiphon: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace (alleluia).

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.

Glory be ...

Antiphon: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace (alleluia).

Why do we use the Latin term 'De Profundis'?

It comes from Psalm 130, which is the sixth of the Penitential Psalms used in the liturgy of the church as a prayer for the faithful departed. It comes from the Latin text of the Bible. The Latin text was the text the church used for many years. The Psalm begins, "De profundis clamavi ad te, Domine." "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord." In deep sorrow the psalmist cries to the Lord, begging pardon for his sins; as he himself trusts in God's mercy, so also should Israel [that is we, ourselves, too] wait in hope for the Lord's redemption. We may also choose to pray the whole of Psalm 130 at this time.

Call to Worship

The bell rings in a swinging fashion to call us to worship at mass on weekends five minutes before mass. It rings for two minutes. The bell rings in a swinging fashion to call us to worship at mass on weekdays four minutes before mass for one minute. (Here we had to let some time separate the ringing of the Angelus at 12:00 p.m. and the ringing of the call to worship before the 12:05 p.m. weekday mass.)

Hours of the Day

The bell rings the hours of the day on the hour beginning at 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., resumes at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Remember at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. the bell rings the Angelus. The hour at 9:00 p.m. is a slower ring than the other hours of the day because it is the De Profundis. At these times of the day, when we hear the hour ring, we can let the words of the Antiphon of the Canticle of Simon guide us, "we may keep watch with Christ": we can think of the good we did within the hour. We can in a short prayer ask God to help us keep doing good, to persevere in our discipleship of the Lord Jesus through the trials we face, or to pray for a person we may have met who needs our prayers. We can even be specific on the need, like, "God give him/her wisdom, patience, kindness, etc."

Other times the bell rings and does not ring

The bell can ring at funerals where the custom is to toll when the body of the deceased is brought into the church and to swing when the body of the deceased is taken out of the church. We pray for the deceased in church. While we are sad our loved one has past (we toll the bell), we are happy our loved one has gone to God (we swing the bell).

The bell rings at the singing/praying of the Gloria during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and then remains silent until the singing of the Gloria during the Easter Triduum on Holy Saturday night. This silence accompanies the spirit of the Easter Triduum as the church remembers Jesus' death, burial and waits for His resurrection.

The bell also rings at other times of church and civic needs.

Follow our bell on the internet:

You can see what the bell is doing all day as well as read interesting articles related to bells and the Catholic Church.

Webpage: <http://StLandryBell.org>
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/StLandryBell>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/StLandryBell>
Blog: <http://StLandryBell.blogspot.com>

