

ON CELEBRATING THE DIVINE OFFICE: Allowing our prayers to rise like incense

The celebration of the Divine Office is the framework for the Church's daily life of prayer, which culminates in the offering of Holy Mass. In earlier centuries, this prayer cycle was a part of daily parish life. Its popularity waned in the 20th century, despite the regular urging of popes and the Fathers of Vatican II that pastors return it to parish churches.

Over the past several years, the Oratory has celebrated various hours of the Divine Office publicly: for the feast of St Louis the King, for Christmas, and for Tenebrae, the Office of the Triduum, sung during Holy Week. In order to prepare for a return to this great and ancient form of prayer to our Oratory life, these series of three presentations will provide an orientation to praying the Divine Office.

These three evenings will provide an overview of the history, theology, structure, and spirituality of the Office, and its intimate relationship to Holy Mass. Each presentation will begin at 7:00pm and end by 8:30pm. We invite everyone to join us and hope as many as possible will be able to attend.

WHO: Mr. Stan Metheny: Stan Metheny earned a Master of Arts degree in Theology in 1976 and in the decades since has pursued further post graduate studies in liturgy and Gregorian chant in various universities and in various monasteries of the Solesmes congregation. His primary focus has been on the manuscripts and chants of the Divine Office. He has been a schola director for over 40 years and has led workshops in the US and the UK devoted to teaching the chants of the Office.

WHEN: Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE: The Church of the Oratory of Ss. Gregory and Augustine (this venue will allow us to accommodate large numbers)

TOPICS:

- Tuesday 9 November: The Divine Office: an introduction
- Tuesday 16 November: The Divine Office: the calendar
- Tuesday 23 November: The Divine Office: the structure

FURTHER DETAILS: To properly prepare study aids and to reserve a place for these evenings please email the Oratory at oratoryevents@gmail.com with your name and how many are attending.

Besides, there is in the Psalms a certain wonderful power for stimulating zeal in men's minds for all the virtues. For although all our Scripture, both the Old and New, is divinely inspired and useful for doctrine, as it is written, the Book of Psalms, like a paradise containing in itself (the fruits) all the others, gives forth songs, and with them also shows its own songs in psalmody (cantus edit, et proprios insuper cum ipsis inter psallendum exhibet). Such are the words of Athanasius (Epist. Ad Marcell. Op. cit. no. 2), who rightly adds in the same place: "To me it seems that the psalms for him who sings them are as a mirror in which he may contemplate himself and the movements of his soul and, under this influence, recite them" (op. cit. no. 12). Pope St. Pius X, Divino Afflatu