

Rorate Caeli Mass

Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos

invites everyone to join him for the celebration of a Rorate Caeli Mass at

6:00 a.m., on Saturday, December 19.

This is a traditional Latin Rite Mass held in Advent in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is celebrated just before dawn and is lit solely by candlelight.

Meaning and Origin:

- **Name:** *Rorate Caeli* is Latin for "Drop Down, Ye Heavens," taken from the opening words of the entrance chant (Introit) from Isaiah 45:8.
- **History:** It began in the Middle Ages and became especially popular in German-speaking regions during Advent. It is seeing a revival in parishes and shrines today.

Key Traditions and Symbolism

- **Candlelight to Dawn:** The liturgy starts in the dark using only candles. As sunrise arrives, natural light gradually fills the church. This shift symbolizes Mary preparing the way for Christ, the "Light of the World."

COME, LORD JESUS

MARANATHA