

### **Bulletin Article #12 = Alleluia!! (*Are we happy/joyful?*)**

After the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, the Psalm, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, we are now ready to launch into the Gospel Reading, which is a passage from one of the four Gospels. Because of the grand importance of proclaiming the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and because of the reverence we should have towards hearing these most sacred words about Jesus' life and our eternal salvation, the Church asks us not only to stand for respect, honor, and attention, but also we sing the **Alleluia** in praise to God in order to prepare our hearts for the Gospel reading. The Alleluia is always repeated at least twice (often times more than twice), but it is an ancient Hebrew word that is made of two other Hebrew words: *hallel* meaning 'to praise' + *yah* meaning 'God's name.' Therefore, Alleluia means 'praise God' or more literally 'All praise to Him who is.'

We see this word throughout the Bible in a number of places, including the Psalms (Psalm 146) and the Book of Revelation (19:1-6). In the Book of the Revelation, St. John the Apostle sees a vision of heaven and the heavenly choir of angels cry out in this way: "the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals" as they proclaim Alleluia, Praise God! If we are willing to praise God using this ancient exclamation, we can be filled with thanksgiving, wonder, and joy, which can help us to prepare our minds and hearts for these most sacred words of the Gospel. One last reminder is that we don't use Alleluia during the Lenten season before Easter because we are remembering that we are not in heaven yet, and so the cry of Alleluia at Easter rings out for all to hear from the belief in the Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead!