

### **Bulletin Article #10 = Responsorial Psalm (Psalm = Song!)**

**If you are flipping through the Old Testament, one of the longer books that you will most likely stumble upon is The Psalms. There are 150 chapters because there are 150 hymns or songs that were used by God's chosen people when they were worshipping Him in the Temple before Jesus came to this earth. In a sense, this is the first hymnal ever published!!**

**Over the history of the Catholic Church, the psalms were very quickly used within the Catholic Mass because of how beautifully they express and capture the human heart. Also, the Psalms act as a bridge between the First Reading from the Old Testament and the Gospel's explanation of how Jesus fulfills the faith of the Old Testament (i.e. you will probably also see profound connections and similarities between the Psalm and the First Reading – the theme will usually be similar!). Finally, the last essential thing to say is that the Responsorial Psalm is meant to help everyone present at Mass participate in the worship of God through call and response (back-and-forth prayer; also called antiphonal prayer). My main encouragement for you all during this part of the Mass is to really think about the words of each Psalm, both the words that we repeat and sing together as well as the words that the cantor sings alone. If truly read closely and pray with the words of the Psalms, we will be shocked at how well they describe our own experiences of both joy and sorrow, hope and difficulty, suffering and redemption (and so much more!). May we see this small part of the Mass with new eyes this weekend, so that we can praise God as a united voice with the same words that Jesus would have prayed as a faithful Jewish Rabbi 2,000 years ago, while also remembering that Jesus fulfills these words perfectly, which is explained to us in the Gospels and the New Testament that we are about to hear in the next two readings!**