



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

1101 AMSTERDAM ROAD ✿ PARK HILLS ✿ KENTUCKY ✿ 41011

Church Bells — Christ's Call to Prayer

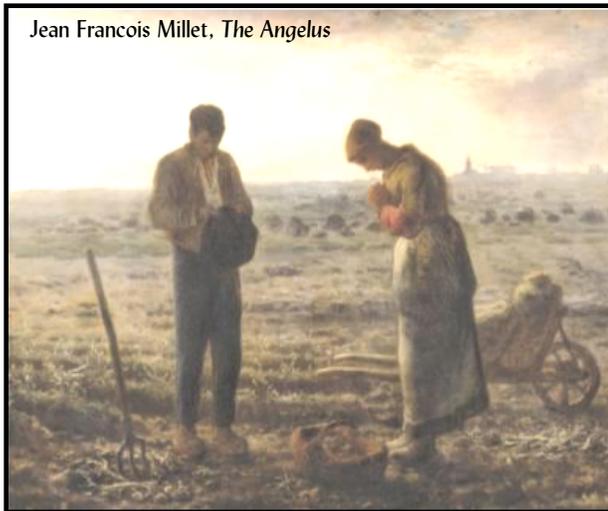
AT THE 11TH HOUR of the 11th day of the 11th month one hundred years ago, 1918, the armistice or truce was signed that suspended hostilities between the opposing armies of the First World War. Perhaps you heard bells in your town or city ringing in remembrance of that special day and hour. Thousands of churches throughout the country had agreed to participate in what organizers called the *Bells of Peace*. It is said that every military ship, base, post, station and installation had received notifications by their command to toll bells or render honors 21 times during the eleventh hour to commemorate all who wore the uniform 100 years ago.

There is a beautiful poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which is called *Christmas Bells*. The first stanza reads: *I heard the bells on Christmas Day / Their old, familiar carols play, / And wild and sweet the words repeat / Of peace on earth, good-will to men!* But as the poem continues it is found that while the belfries of Christendom sing of peace, the canons of war seek to interrupt the peaceful peal of the bells. As Longfellow put it: *And in despair I bowed my head; / 'There is no peace on earth,' I said; / 'For hate is strong, / And mocks the song / Of peace on earth, good-will to men!' We hope and pray that the renovation of our bell tower and bells may soon be completed so that a song of peace may peal forth to remind men the Prince of Peace seeks to bring all men into His Heavenly Kingdom.*

Our church bell tower is like a finger pointing heavenwards, reminding men of their supernatural destiny and forbidding them to be so engrossed in the pleasures and cares of earth as to forget their only true home. But our tower is not meant solely for ornament. From its lofty chambers there should float down upon

our land the melodious harmony of bells, calling men to worship within the sacred building, and expressing, as well as bronze may, the sentiments both of joy and sorrow which alternately sway human hearts. Bells announce the coming or arrival of an event, activity, or occasion. They toll for good times. They toll for bad times. They ring out warnings. Bells herald in the New Year. Bells are rung to announce the union of a man and a woman or to remember a soul that has died. They peal during Christmas to announce the arrival of the season, to proclaim the birth of Christ and peace to men of good will.

Jean Francois Millet, *The Angelus*



The prayers for the ceremony of the exorcizing and blessing of bells summarize the importance of bells: *Let the people's faith and piety wax stronger whenever they hear its melodious peals. At its sound let all evil spirits be driven afar; let thunder and lightning, hail and storm be banished; let the power of your hand put down the evil powers of the air, causing them to tremble at the sound of this bell, and to flee at the sight of the holy cross engraved thereon... O Christ, the almighty ruler, as you once*

calmed the storm at sea when awakened in the boat from the sleep of your human nature, so now come with your benign help to the needs of your people, and pour out on this bell the dew of the Holy Ghost. Whenever it rings may the enemy of the good take flight, the Christian people hear the call to faith, the empire of Satan be terrified, your people be strengthened as they are called together in the Lord, and may the Holy Ghost be with them as He delighted to be with David when he played his harp. And as onetime thunder in the air frightened away a throng of enemies, while Samuel slew an unweaned lamb as a holocaust to the eternal King, so when the peal of this bell resounds in the clouds may a legion of angels stand watch over the assembly of your Church, the first-fruits of the faithful, and afford your ever-abiding protection to them in body and spirit. ✿

Overall Budget for our Bell Tower: \$235,000

Bell Tower Drawing courtesy of William Heyer Architect



\$5,000	Bells
\$24,530	Bell Restoration & Installation by The Verdin Company
\$35,000	Stained Glass Window Restoration with added Storm windows (estimate)
\$16,500	Design & Engineering (estimate)
\$153,970	General Construction Contract by Millay and Company (estimate)



Novena for Christmas

December 16

O SHEPHERD that rulest Israel, Thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep, come to guide and comfort us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 17

O WISDOM that comest out of the mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and orderest all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 18

O ADONAI, and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 19

O ROOT of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory...*

December 20

O KEY of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 21

O DAYSPRING, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 22

O KING of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof! O Corner-stone, that makest of two one, come to save man, whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 23

O EMMANUEL, our King and our Law-giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof, come to save us, O Lord our God! *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

December 24

O THOU that sittest upon the cherubim, God of hosts, come, show Thy face, and we shall be saved. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...*

Our gift to our benefactors is this: daily prayer and the offering the Holy Mass for them all on Christmas Day through its Octave. Furthermore, we continue to provide a beautiful home for the Traditional Liturgy as well as a budding religious community with two novices, religious dedicated to preaching missions, conferences, and retreats. In the future we will have a Grotto for prayers & processions. Please consider helping us with this important work for the glory of God, the honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the salvation of souls.



NOVENA is nine days' of prayer said as a preparation for some particular feast, or in order to obtain some special favor. The model and the first of all novenas was that made in the Cenacle, after Our Lord's Ascension into heaven, by the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles in preparation for the coming of the Holy Ghost. The earliest ecclesiastical novena of which we have record is the Christmas Novena, which commemorates the nine months during which the Christ-child was carried in the womb of His Mother.

Please consider contributing to this work, making checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist or MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)

