

Introducing *The St. Paul's Hymnal*

"Christmas has come early" this year with the arrival of an extremely exciting new hymnal, written especially for St. Paul's! *The St. Paul's Hymnal* is by any musicological measure the best Catholic hymnal to be created in at least thirty years. Such a comprehensive new hymnal is the result of the experience and expertise of many people, both of our outstanding expert committee, and of a wider pool of consultants. The hymnal has been beautifully researched, produced, and edited by our own Dr. Jonathan Wessler, with Mr. John Robinson and Fr. Drea acting as executive editors.

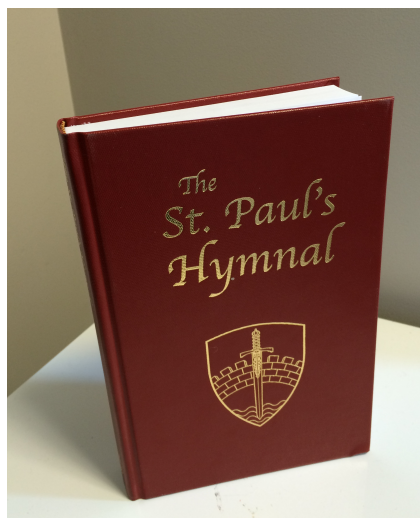
As one would expect, *The St. Paul's Hymnal* draws on the rich hymn traditions of the early Church, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Roman Catholicism, and Anglicanism, Lutheranism, and Methodism. It continues our custom of singing the psalms to the Gregorian tones, and now also includes pointing for choral fauxbourdons by truly great composers in this form, such as Byrd, Tallis, Morley, and Lassus. A useful number of congregational settings of the Ordinary of the Mass has been selected, including both Gregorian chant and some well-known compositions which will help our transient and student community worship together with the rest of the Parish. A rich selection of Gospel acclamations completes the new hymnal. *The St. Paul's Hymnal* replaces the white Mass books, the red *Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Canticles*, and our seasonal hymn booklets. This is a profoundly exciting milestone in our musical history, as we embrace the great hymns which have been prayer and inspiration to countless worshipers, some since the early Church.

The St. Paul's Hymnal is also of wider importance, since it brings together truly great hymnody as well as a practical way for the congregation to sing the Psalms and Ordinary of the Mass. Hymnody is one of many forms of full

and active participation that we experience at St. Paul's. The congregation should always join joyfully in the responses at any Mass, as well as the Psalm, Credo, Memorial Acclamation, Lord's Prayer, and hymnody. Just as significantly, uniting our hearts and minds in prayer with the beautiful singing of any of our choirs in their singing of the Ordinary, Propers, or Motets to the great

music of the Church is an essential part of full, conscious, and active participation at St. Paul's. We are always delighted to provide the congregation with all the music they are expected to sing, and it's a great help to visitors to hear our regular worshipers singing robustly during hymns and responses. It is our hope that *The St. Paul's Hymnal* will serve the St. Paul's community exceptionally well in the coming years.

John Robinson, Director of Music



We are very grateful to our distinguished advisory committee:

Msgr. Andrew R. Wadsworth

Executive Director, International Commission on English in the Liturgy

Fr. Michael E. Drea

Pastor and Senior Chaplain, The Parish of St. Paul

Fr. Jonathan M. Gaspar

Director of the Office of Divine Worship,
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Richard J. Clark

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Director of Music, St. Helena's Episcopal Church
(Boerne, TX)

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