



✠ St. Mary's Church
669 West Avenue ♦ Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 866-5546 ♦ www.stmarynorwalk.net



ASSUMPTA EST MARIA IN COELUM

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Thomas B. Heckel, Chairman, St. Cecilia Society

Tel.: (203) 656-2389

E-mail: theckel51@gmail.com

Free Concert at St. Mary's, Norwalk: "The Glorious Mysteries" (Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m.)

*Part of the Rosary Concert Series at St. Mary's,
this concert-meditation will feature a baroque violinist in Biber's "Mystery Sonatas"*

NORWALK, CONN., April 20, 2018—St. Mary's Church and the St. Cecilia Society are delighted to announce the third and final installment of the Rosary Concert Series, dedicated to the Glorious Mysteries, on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 669 West Avenue in Norwalk, Connecticut.

This final concert falls in Eastertide and in May, known as the "month of Mary," a doubly fitting time to highlight the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, which begin with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and end with the Assumption and Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The program for "The Glorious Mysteries" is drawn from a collection of violin sonatas by Austrian composer Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644–1704), which are usually referred to as the "Rosary Sonatas" or the "Mystery Sonatas." The collection contains fifteen sonatas, each of which is a meditation on one of the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary (presumably intended for performance at special rosary processions in Salzburg). Each sonata has not only a distinct character, but its own distinct re-tuning of the violin strings, or *scordatura*, allowing for unusual resonances on the instrument. The scordatura tunings and the technical difficulty of these pieces made them some of the most virtuosic violin compositions of their time. This concert will feature the final set (Sonatas XI–XV), which combine sacred reverence with joyful dances, reflecting the scenes of life, renewal and transcendence found in the Glorious Mysteries.

The soloist for this concert will be baroque violinist Leah Gale Nelson, who has performed the Mystery Sonatas widely for over a decade and has also recorded the complete collection for Lyrichord Discs. Nelson is particularly known for her refined and artistic interpretations of baroque and classical music. She is based in New York City and has performed throughout North America and Europe. Her artist website can be found at www.leahgalenelson.com. Nelson will be accompanied by Dongsok Shin on chamber organ and Daniel Swenberg on theorbo. Both artists are featured on Nelson's recording of the Biber sonatas, and are sought-after continuo players based in the New York metro area. Patricia Ann Neely (violone) will also join the players for Sonata XII, *The Ascension*.

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The concert will be performed in St. Mary's Church at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free of charge, though donations will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will benefit the sacred music program at St. Mary's and make more concerts possible in the future. A light reception in the church hall (school building) will follow the concert.

Solemn Vespers & Benediction will also be held in the church at 5:00 p.m. (as it is on the first Sunday of every month) after the concert and reception.

For further information, please visit the St. Mary's Church website at www.stmarynorwalk.net.

ABOUT SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

Saint Mary's Church is a Roman Catholic Church within the Diocese of Bridgeport. Parishioners in this unique multi-ethnic community are united in their devotion to the Trinitarian God through aesthetically beautiful and reverent celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in three languages: English, Spanish and Latin. The Traditional Form of the Roman Rite lies at the heart of the parish's liturgical life and its timeless essence infuses every Mass. The parish's mission of evangelization through authentic liturgical renewal is enhanced by a sacred music program of rare caliber featuring the acclaimed St. Mary's Schola Cantorum. Designed in Gothic Revival style and dedicated in 1870, this historic church was beautifully and lovingly renovated beginning in 2009 to support its essential and timely mission. For more information, please visit the parish's website: www.stmarynorwalk.net.

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