

# DOME'S DAY

## SCRIPT



## PRELUDE

### MUSIC

*\*JA from HV organ*

Allegro vivace from Symphony No. 5  
Charles Marie Widor

### MUSIC

*\*women of the Cathedral Choir from font*

*Terribilis est locus iste*  
chant, Mode II

Women then proceed to seating in West Nave.

## PROLOGUE

**Youth Narrator:**

**There wasn't supposed to be a Cathedral in Seattle.  
The Cathedral was in Vancouver, because Bishop Blanchet thought**

**Dave Ross:**

Seattle is a lost cause.

**Youth Narrator:**

**But Seattle was growing fast.  
After the fire of 1889, it grew even faster.  
In 1896, Seattle's pioneer priest, Father Prefontaine,  
wrote to the newly-appointed Bishop O'Dea in Vancouver to say...**

**Dave Ross:**

I beg to submit to your consideration and superior judgment  
our earnest request  
that you establish your episcopal residence in Seattle.  
Its future prospects are the brightest  
of any city on the Pacific Coast.  
In addition, Seattle has become and will remain  
the headquarters and chief battleground  
of all the elements hostile to the church.  
The morale of the church militant  
requires the inspiring presence of her leader  
where the battle wages fiercest.

**Youth Narrator:**

**By 1903, Bishop O'Dea was in Seattle.**

**Dave Ross:**

We think the time opportune to seriously consider the subject  
of building a cathedral. The need of such a building is urgent,  
and I have every confidence  
that we will be able to carry out our present plans.

**Youth Narrator:**

**In 1904, Bishop O’Dea chose his architects:  
the highly-respected New York firm of Heins and LaFarge,  
architects of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.  
They created an ambitious Italian Renaissance design,  
with 170-foot twin towers and a great central dome.  
The local press reported:**

**Dave Ross:**

The front of the cathedral will be a picture of architectural design.  
The roof over the nave  
will be supported by six granite columns on either side  
and by steel trusses.  
The great dome will be borne by the side walls entirely  
and when it is in place it will be a beautiful piece  
of mechanical construction.  
This dome will be constructed of steel, terra-cotta, and brick  
and covered with copper.  
It will be practically indestructible.

**Youth Narrator:**

**Not everyone was happy about the new Cathedral,  
which dominated First Hill and the city’s skyline.  
What did such a small number of Catholics  
need with such a big Cathedral, people wondered?  
The Cathedral was dedicated on December 22, 1907.**

**HYMN**

*Come, Holy Ghost*

**MUSIC**

**\*Cantorei from West Gallery**

“Gloria” from Missa “Puer natus est nobis”  
Franklin Sawyer Palmer

## THE GREAT SNOW

Youth Narrator:

Nine years later.  
The Seattle Times.  
Tuesday, February 1, 1916.

Dave Ross:

Seattle in Clutch of Snow King!  
Her streets piled high with mountains of snow,  
Seattle writhed today in the grip of the Storm King,  
all business practically at a standstill  
and with the suburban portions of the city  
almost completely isolated.  
If there is an idle man in Seattle,  
it is because he has been cleverly concealed  
or is unable to lift a shovelful of snow.  
The heavy snow of yesterday and today has given Seattle  
its worst problem in years and hundreds of idle men  
were pressed into service to clear the streets,  
keep street car tracks open for traffic,  
and remove accumulations of slush from curbs and drains.  
The greatest menace  
is from accumulation of snow on roofs of buildings.  
Seattle buildings are not constructed  
to carry heavy weights of snow  
in addition to the actual weight of the roofs.  
Worse still, there is no probability that conditions will change  
in the immediate future,  
the indications being that the storm will last through tonight  
and well into tomorrow, at least.

**STORM MUSIC -** *SHORT* Improvisation

## THE DOME COLLAPSES

**Youth Narrator:**

**From the Chronicle  
of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary,  
who staffed the Cathedral Grade School.  
Wednesday, February 2, 1916.**

**Sister Ilene Clark, SNJM:**

**Shortly after the classes were dismissed this afternoon,  
we were startled by what we thought was a heavy snow slide—**

**MUSIC – SOUND EFFECTS!!! Timpani roll plus organ pedal stops  
SNOW AND LIGHTS!**

**Sister Ilene Clark, SNJM:**

**...upon looking out we soon realized  
that the great dome of the Cathedral had fallen.  
Priests and people were on the scene in an instant,  
and as usual in such cases,  
the priests risked their lives to save the Blessed Sacrament.  
It was a touching sight to see them wade through the deep snow  
carrying our Eucharistic God to a safe abode in our little chapel.  
As far as is known no lives have been lost,  
but that cannot be ascertained until the debris has been removed.**

**We have God and our Blessed Lady to thank  
for our almost miraculous protection,  
as we knelt for Mass under the scene of calamity  
only this very morning.  
We all are in sorrow over the destruction of our beautiful Cathedral  
and in sympathy with our Bishop and his assistant priests.**

**Youth Narrator:**

**The Cathedral's pastor at that time was an Irishman by the name of William Noonan who was very leery of Protestants—and newspapers.**

**The story goes**

**that when he looked at the snow-covered wreckage of the dome, he turned to Bill O'Connell, a young reporter from the Catholic Progress, and said:**

**Father Ryan:**

**Not a word of this to the press!**

**Youth Narrator:**

**February 3, 1916.**

**The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.**

**Dave Ross:**

**Cathedral Dome Falls!!!!!!!!!!**

**The great dome of St. James' cathedral, at Ninth avenue and Marion street, fell yesterday afternoon at 3:15.**

**A roar like the boom of a heavy cannon brought priests and laymen to the cathedral from the nearby parish school and the bishop's residence.**

**They saw a huge, jagged hole in brick and masonry where the massive dome had soared.**

**Viewed within, the beautiful building of Italian Renaissance architecture, looked like the scenes of destruction wrought by the cannons in Belgium.**

**The area roofed by the dome, eighty feet square, lay open to the sky,**

**while on the floor beneath was a mountain-heap of debris, masonry, twisted steel girders, terra cotta**

and fragments of the benches.

Through this jagged hole the blizzard poured in its white clouds and rapidly, drifts began to sift over sacred images and objects of great beauty in bronze and onyx and marble.

**Youth Reader:**

**The Seattle Times.**

**Dave Ross:**

Why this dome, declared by architects to be of the strongest principle of construction, collapsed, is a question architects cannot answer.

“It is my opinion,” said local architect Mr. Louis Beezer, “after investigation, and the opinion of those in authority, that no blame can attach to the bishop’s building committee or the local supervising architects.

All plans for the structure were made in New York.”

**Youth Reader:**

**The Catholic Northwest Progress.**

**Dave Ross:**

Bishop O’Dea said:

“The great calamity which has recently visited us in the destruction of the cathedral is no doubt a source of intense sorrow to us all, and while we feel greatly afflicted, still we must accept it from the hands of God, who will in His own good time convert our sorrow into joy.”

**SNOW SLOWLY FADES AWAY**

**MUSIC**

**\*men of the Cathedral Choir. From East Apse**

*Adoramus te Christe*  
G. P. da Palestrina

**Youth Reader:**

**The Seattle Daily Times Editorial Page.**

**Dave Ross:**

Whatever the cause of the accident to St. James' Cathedral, the damage sustained through the collapse of its dome will be regretted by all residents of Seattle.

Disaster to an edifice of this character constitutes a public loss. Great churches are a part of the intimate life of a city.

They mold the every thought and deed of worshipers and in their calm confines men and women gain renewed hope and reach out after higher aspirations.

To a great many thousands in Seattle the mishap yesterday constituted a personal loss, just as much as if the individual had owned the stately pile himself.

However, after all, an accident of this kind is merely a passing episode in the life of such an institution.

St. James' undoubtedly will rise again in the not far distant future, mightier, more attractive, and more inspiring than in the past.

**MUSIC**

**\*full choir around altar**

*Locus iste*  
Anton Bruckner

**Choir then moves to East Apse where they will remain.**

## FUNDRAISING

### Youth Reader:

Spring came. The snow melted.  
Bishop O'Dea began raising money to rebuild the Cathedral.  
June 11, 1916.  
The Seattle P-I.

### Dave Ross:

Catholic Youngsters will perform in entertainment to benefit Cathedral Fund.--  
Uniting in one of the most ambitious programs ever attempted by a Seattle school, pupils of the St. James Cathedral will appear at the Metropolitan Theater in a big dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the St. James Cathedral fund. From the standpoint of magnitude the entertainment will easily approach the largest theatrical productions in recent Seattle history. Directors of the production promise that it will be one of the most elaborately staged affairs ever seen in Seattle. Two hundred well-drilled children will take part. Tickets of admission are 50 cents and the public is urged to obtain these early. The proceeds will go to the cathedral.

### MUSIC: KAZOO BAND OF CHILDREN

Enter from reserved seating at west, perform on west steps of altar, then return to west nave seating

## BETTER AND GREATER

### Youth Reader:

July 23, 1916.

The Seattle Daily Times Editorial Page.

### Dave Ross:

The people of St. James Parish are to be commended for their speedy rally from the misfortune of a few months ago, and are to be congratulated on the successful achievement of building better and greater than before. Not only does the parish itself exert a wide influence in the public uplift, but its house of worship maintains and will continue to maintain a foremost place in the architectural beauty of the city.

### MUSIC: BAGPIPE PIECE ON MINI-PIPE

## **A BIG CATHEDRAL FAIR**

### **Youth Reader:**

**The fundraising continued.**

**October 8, 1916.**

**The Seattle Daily Times.**

### **Dave Ross:**

Everything is in readiness for the opening of the big cathedral fair, for the benefit of the building fund of St. James Cathedral.

Tomorrow evening Rt. Rev. Bishop E. J. O'Dea and Mayor H. C. Gill will deliver addresses at the formal opening.

Those in charge of the event this year declare it will be better than anything of the kind ever held in the city.

No pains have been spared.

Elaborate preparations have been made to amuse those who attend.

Bishop O'Dea is confident that a great number of Seattle citizens, irrespective of religious creeds,

will attend the fair and aid in swelling the fund.

Many contests will be held for special prizes and novel devices will be used to amuse the patrons.

In the evening, there will be music and step-dancing.

### **MUSIC-- IRISH MUSIC AND STEP-DANCING**

**Tara Academy of Dance – with fiddler.**

**Fiddler plays at ministers' pier, using cantor microphone as needed.**

**Dancers come from North Transept seating, form circle around altar.**

**They will perform three short dances.**

## THE CATHEDRAL REOPENS

### Youth Reader:

Saturday, March 17, 1917. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

### Dave Ross:

Rebuilt Church to be Dedicated  
Catholics on Sunday Will Celebrate Restoration of St. James'.  
St. James' cathedral, the dome of which was destroyed  
in the severe storm more than a year ago  
and which has been reconstructed  
at a cost estimated at upward of \$150,000,  
will be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies Sunday, March 18.  
Cathedral Rector Father W. J. Noonan, said:

### Father Ryan:

**"God will in His own good time convert our sorrow into joy."  
These were the courageous words of resignation and hope  
addressed by Bishop O'Dea to a dismayed and sorrowing people  
following the collapse of the St. James' cathedral dome.  
All marveled at Bishop O'Dea's spirit of fortitude  
and it was to all a source of inspiration,  
but few dared to hope for an immediate realization  
of a better and more magnificent St. James' cathedral.  
Nevertheless, that promise is about to be fulfilled.  
When the doors of the cathedral are reopened tomorrow,  
then, truly will sorrow be converted into joy.**

### CANDLE-LIGHTING

### MUSIC during candle-lighting

*\*Full choir from east. Will need light*

*Adoremus in aeternum  
Gregorio Allegri*

**During this piece, servers spread light to congregation, then servers go to west.**

**MUSIC** - HYMN

*Holy God, we praise thy name*

During the hymn, servers lead Schola Cantorum from west.

Servers with candles go up on altar, stand near altar, facing out.

Schola stands on floor around altar from west around to south side.

At the same time, Irish dancers process out from north, stand around altar from west around north side, facing out.

**PROCESSION**

Following applause (?), bagpipe starts at font, comes up west aisle, then right and out south side (ramp) door, leading everyone to Cathedral Hall.

**Organ postlude begins as bagpipe goes out ramp door**

*\*JA using both organs*

*Toccata from Symphony No. 5*  
Charles Marie Widor