Audition Reads

Note: We may not use every side during auditions, and additional sides may be used during callbacks.

Note: Open auditions for kids will focus on Vocal Parts, with Reads being done at callbacks.

Adults

1. **Sister Mary Regina** *("Carnival Christmas" Song Intro)*
2. **Father Virgil** *(Julia Child Impression)*
3. **Sister Mary Hubert** *(Nutcracker Narration)*
4. **Sister Mary Robert Anne** *("Jesus Was Born In Brooklyn" Song Intro)*
5. **Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia)** *(Secret Santa)*
6. **Sister Mary Regina** & **Father Virgil** *(Home Shopping Bit)*

Kids and Adults

7. **Maria, Louise, John, Billy, Hubert, Robert Anne, Rev Mother, Virgil** *(Nutcracker Accident)*
8. **Maria, Hubert, Virgil** *("Christmas Box" intro)*

1. Sister Mary Regina (Carnival Christmas Intro)

REV. MOTHER. *(sitting in living room)* Good Lord, deliver me. There may not be a lot to drink at this party, but we've certainly got plenty of mixed nuts!

You know, this reminds me of the time my Mom and Dad were doing their act in Key Largo. Talk about everything going wrong that could go wrong. They were with the circus, ya know. Well, there was a storm... I mean a real lalapalooza! The tent collapsed on one side. So we were all stuck in the trailers. And it was Christmas.

At the same time that the circus was there, Sophie Tucker was in town. She was supposed to be doin' her club act, but, of course, there weren't any customers. That storm was raging like it had been directed by Cecil B. DeMille. Anyway, the hotel people invited all of us over for Christmas. I must've been about 12, I guess. Well, when Sophie Tucker started telling stories, I thought my Mom was gonna die. Soph says, "I thought about going to church with ya-but the last time I went to a church, the priest said, 'I'm sorry, Soph, but you can't come in here with that low-cut dress.' Soph said, "but Father, I've got a divine right!" He said, 'You've got a pretty good lookin' left, too, but ya still can't come in here in that dress.' I tell ya, I don't think we ever laughed as much as we did that Christmas.

When it was time for dinner, they brought us all into this fancy dining room. I never saw so much food. I guess the chef knew my Mom and Dad weren't called Two Tons on a Tightrope for nothin'! And, of course, Sophie Tucker was no will-o-the-wisp! After dinner they had entertainment the likes of which I'd never seen. Come to think of it, that may have been the very first dinner-theatre (thee-ay-ter) presentation!

2. Father Virgil (Julia Child Impression)

SR. JULIA, CHILD OF GOD (PLAYED BY FR. VIRGIL). *(Impersonating Julia Child)* Hello, friends. And welcome to Sister Julia's Festive Food Fantasy Frolic. And you thought nuns couldn't use the F-word! Ha, ha.

… *(becoming tipsy over the course of this paragraph)*

But friends, let's get to the real reason I'm here today. Fruitcake! That's right! Today we are going to make fruitcake! Yes, the Christmas gift that lasts a lifetime. And friends, it's simple. I have put together here a verý basic batter. Now before I add the fruit, I like to add just a smidgen of rum. Of course, we want to taste our rum to be sure it hasn't gone bad. *(tastes)* Ummmm, perfect. Rum should always go down smooth. Speaking of going down, I was going down to the market yesterday and happened to spot some lovely fruit and then I said to myself, Julia, why waste good fruit when nobody eats a fruitcake? So I came right back to the convent and found this bowl of perfectly beautiful plastic fruit. No one will ever know the difference. This fruit looks a little dry. Let's give the poor dears a little drink. *(pours rum over fruit)* And one for Julia. *(tastes a bit more)* Oh, yes, very smooth. *(maybe getting a teeny tipsy)* Now let's see. Did I put the rum in the batter? *(pouring a lot in and slurring speech slightly)* Oh well, better safe than sorry I always say.

… *(totally sloshed by this point)*

You know, I just **s**ought of **th**omesing. Do you realize if Eve had taken that apple and put it in a fruitcake Adam never would have touched it. We'd still be living in Paradise today. Because the first fruitcake is still in existence. Look. *(pulls out a fruitcake from under the counter)* Here it is friends. The first fruitcake! No wonder fruitstops make such good doorcakes. I mean, fruitdoors make, I uh... is the oven on? I'm sweatin' like a pig up here. Oh, Mommy needs a little pop *(takes another swig of rum.)*

3. Sister Mary Hubert (Nutcracker Narration)

SR. HUBERT. *(narrating)* Once upon a time there was a very nice family in a very nice town. They lived in a very nice house complete with very nice mice and a very nice cat… except when it came to mice... then the cat was... well... there's no other way to put it...a killer! The mice lived behind the living room wall and they never came out because of the cat. They worked there, they ate there, they slept there, they even voted there! And that's where our story begins. T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

What's happening? Well, it seems the cat is away starring on Broadway in her own show so the mice are celebrating!

SR. HUBERT. The Nutcracker, take two.

If you remember, I was telling you that every Christmas Eve, Mayor Stahlbaum gives a lavish Christmas party for his son Fritz and his daughter Clara. Soon Clara's godfather, HERR DROSSELMEYER (SR. ROBERT ANNE) arrives. This Christmas Eve the old man has brought a very special present for Clara. It is a Nutcracker.

…

SR. HUBERT. *(very emphatically)* Herr Drosselmeyer goes off into the night!

It is late and time for all to go to sleep. As the clock strikes midnight, Clara sneaks downstairs. What's this, her Nutcracker has come to life! But wait-the mouse king arrives and a terrible battle ensues.Goodness, the Nutcracker is a handsome prince. Since Clara doesn't have a boyfriend, she is ecstatic over having a prince.

They arrive at the land of the sweets. Unfortunately the Sugar Plum Fairy is not feeling well and so she won't be appearing in the…

FR. VIRGIL dances on left as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

...Oh, my Lord...

4. **Sister Mary Robert Anne** (“Jesus Was Born In Brooklyn” Song Intro)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Actually, Christmas back in Brooklyn meant a lot of different things to me. Like one year—Christmas meant a month of detention...

See, we couldn't afford much and my Mom had found this scrawny little Christmas tree... my brother said it woulda been better if we'd decorated the broom! Anyway, there was a tree in front of Finklestein's Pawn Shop that I knew would look great in our living room. I mean, what did the Finklestein's need with a Christmas tree, anyway? Well, it did look great in our house till Mr. Finkelstein called my Mom. I didn't even get a lump of coal that Christmas. But hey, I'm not looking for sympathy here. I was a tough kid. I could always handle it all. Except for the year my dad left. That was rough. It was the one time I'd really tried to clean up my act.

Music starts under.

The Sisters told me that if I could prove to them that I could change for the better, I'd be allowed to participate in the living nativity at St. James Cathedral. Ya gotta understand… St. James was the big time. It was like the World Series of Nativities, you know what I'm saying?

“Jesus Was Born In Brooklyn” begins.

5. Sister Mary Paul (Secret Santa)

SR. AMNESIA. All right. Eyes forward, sit up straight, pay attention. This is a test. Beeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep. I was just kiddin' ya. I heard that on the radio this morning. It's time for...Secret Santa! All right. This is how it works. Each of us got a present for a Secret Santa winner. Before the show, some of you received tokens. So will everybody who got a token, raise your hand. Okay, who's got 'em? I'm coming out there.

What is your name? Are you Catholic? *(if answer is yes: Me, too! If answer is no: That's all right. You still win.)* Do you know why the past and the future don't matter at Christmas? 'Cause we all wanna see the present! It's from Father Virgil and Sister Leo. Oh, look at this! It's a stick-on ten commandment set. *(to Stage Manager)* Can you get a close-up? Isn't this beautiful? If you have a problem with any of these, you can peel off the ones that you don't like. A lot of people seem to be having trouble with number seven these days. I hope you enjoy them.

This next gift is from Sr. Hubert. Oooooh wow! It's a golden ruler! See it has the golden rule on it. It's so cute. I just love this. It's only two inches long. If you already have one, you could give this to your husband. It's perfect for measuring little short things!

The last prize is from Reverend Mother. *(SR. HUBERT enters right to listen to Sr. Amnesia.)* I can't wait to see. Oh, wow. It's a beautiful angel ornament. See it has a picture in it. It's a scratch and sniff Nativity scene. Cool, huh? I wanna tell you something, though. I've sniffed in a barn and you do not want to scratch it. Reverend Mother has a scratch-and-sniff Mel Gibson but she doesn't know that I know.

6. **Sister Mary Regina** & **Father Virgil** (Home Shopping Bit)

REV. MOTHER. You know folks, we sang earlier about the trials and tribulations of Christmas shopping.

FR. VIRGIL. If you're behind in your search for that perfect gift, Rev. Mother has the answer for you.

REV. MOTHER. Yes, friends, if Christmas shopping gets you down, now you can do all your shopping from the comfort of your own Lazy-Boy Lounger. As a matter of fact, you can purchase all your gifts right here on WCON's all-new Catholic Home Shopping Service.

FR. VIRGIL. Now, you don't even have to open a catalog to shop. Just sit back, relax, opena beer…

REV. MOTHER. Virgil!

FR. VIRGIL. I mean, open an account... open an account and start shopping!

REV. MOTHER. First of all, friends, when you shop with our Catholic Home Shopping Service you don't have to worry about back orders, delays or out-of-stock items because we have at least fifty of every one-of-a-kind item that we sell! Virgil, what is our first sensational selection?

FR. VIRGIL. Hark! Your herald angel will sing when he or she opens the Home Halo Kit! Simple assembly will turn any ordinary child into an angelic specimen in just minutes.

REV. MOTHER. And to be certain your little angel lives up to the saintly requirements, be sure to request the special remote control that sends a harmless electric shock through the halo anytime your little angel starts acting devilish.

MOTHER takes her remote control and zaps them all. They yelp as indicated above and they exit right.

REV. MOTHER. *(holding up remote)* Just $39.95.

FR. VIRGIL. When it's time to choose that special toy for those little angels, you can't beat the first video game from the Little Sisters of Hoboken. "Moral Kombat"- Watch Saint Michael the Archangel teach your child to fight fair and win using the power of prayer, guilt and intimidation.

REV. MOTHER. A must for every good Catholic family.

7. Maria, Louise, John, Billy, Hubert, Robert Anne, Rev Mother, Father Virgil (Nutcracker Accident)

A huge offstage left crash is heard, followed by a scream.

SR. HUBERT. What the heck was that? Stop the music! Music out.

SR. HUBERT exits left.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *(enters right)* What happened?

MARIA. *(runs on stage from left with a baton wearing her "Nutcracker" nightgown)* I didn't mean to hit her. Sr. Leo's knee just ran into my baton.

MARIA runs off left. REV. MOTHER enters with FR. VIRGIL, right.

REV. MOTHER. Stop tape! Stop tape!

JOHN and LOUISE, dressed as mice, BILLY wearing his "Nutcracker" jacket enter left.

JOHN. Reverend Mother, Sister Leo got hurt.

FR. VIRGIL. Oh, no.

REV. MOTHER. Go to her, Virgil.

FR VIRGIL exits left.

LOUISE. Now we can't do our ballet.

JOHN. And we practiced so hard.

LOUISE. And my Grandma's here.

BILLY. It's not fair.

REV. MOTHER. All right, all right! Now calm down. First we have to see if Sr. Leo's okay. Then we'll figure out something. Don't you worry. You just get ready for your next song. And tell Maria it's all right.

The KIDS exit left.

8. Maria, Hubert, Father Virgil (“Christmas Box” intro)

SR. HUBERT. *(entering right)* Virgil, I've been thinking maybe we could do the "Nutcracker" without the Sugar Plum Fairy. I mean there's plenty of other...

MARIA enters left, sobbing quietly.

Maria, what's the matter?

FR. VIRGIL. Did you get hurt when the lights went out?

MARIA. No.

FR. VIRGIL. What's wrong?

MARIA. They say I ruined the ballet.

SR. HUBERT. Who said that?

MARIA. The other kids. But, I didn't mean to do it.

SR. HUBERT. We know that. It was an accident.

FR. VIRGIL. Sister Leo told me herself.

MARIA. Then, why are they making me feel bad?

FR. VIRGIL. Sometimes people just say things without thinking. And then we get our feelings hurt. Sit down, Maria. I want to tell you a little story. *(she sits on the floor by Fr. Virgil)* Sister Hubert, can you get that Christmas box I was showing you this morning?

SR. HUBERT. Sure.

SR. HUBERT exits right. FR. VIRGIL sits on one of the large boxes by the tree.

FR. VIRGIL. When I was about your age we had a party at our school right after Christmas vacation. All the kids brought their favorite Christmas presents for show 'n' tell. But that year my dad lost his job and we couldn't afford any presents. So I didn't have anything for show 'n' tell. At recess some of the kids were making fun of me and that made me feel really bad. Sister Helen, our teacher, made them stop. But I still felt awful. The next morning, Sister Helen called me aside and she gave me a special present.

SR. HUBERT enters right with the little Christmas box and gives it to Fr. Virgil. There is a card under the ribbon.

(to Sr. Hubert) Thank you, Sister.

(SR. HUBERT exits right.)

I've kept this present all these years. Look, it has a card with it. And this is what it says: