



Parish Choir

August 2022

Ministry Objectives

1. The ministry of the Parish Choir is defined in Church documents, including *Instruction on Sacred Music*, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *Sing to the Lord*, and *Chirograph on Sacred Music*.

- Properly perform the parts of the Mass belonging to the Choir
- Encourage the active participation of the faithful in the singing
- Help in drawing the assembly closer to the holy mysteries being celebrated
- Help members of the assembly raise their minds to God
- Evoke a sense of prayer, dignity and beauty

2. The Parish Choir helps to preserve and foster the Church's rich treasury of sacred music.

- The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value ... it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.
- Sacred Music adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites.
- The purpose of sacred music ... is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful.

3. The Parish Choir contributes to the life and well-being of the parish community.

The laity [may be called to] exercise different kinds of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord has been pleased to bestow on them.

Requirements

Choirs and ensembles, on the other hand, comprise persons drawn from the community who possess the **requisite musical skills** and a **commitment to the established schedule** of rehearsals and liturgies. Thus, they are able to enrich the celebration by adding musical elements beyond the capabilities of the congregation alone.

-- *Sing to the Lord*, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007

Requisite Musical Skills

- Suitable/adequate vocal range (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass)
- Ability to match pitch consistently
- Ability to “hold one’s own” against another voice part
- A pleasant singing voice that will blend with the ensemble
- Willingness and ability to minimize excessive vibrato and/or volume
- Good hearing (or functioning, silent hearing-aid)

Commitment

- Consistent attendance/participation on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the “Choir year” (Labor Day through Memorial Day).
- Willingness to sing for Holy Days, special events, and workshops.
- Willingness to practice outside of rehearsal (as necessary).

E-mail (Accessibility and Active Use)

Reliable transportation

Expectations

Prior to Weds. Rehearsal

Review music

Weds. Rehearsal

Check Choir Box for new music

Have music in order and pencil sharpened before 6:30 PM

Circle measures that need attention

Mark music with instructions and reminders (pencil only)

Follow-along (even when other voice parts are rehearsing)

Between Weds. and Sunday

Practice

Sunday Morning (9:30 Mass)

Arrive in the Choir Room before 8:45 AM

Dress for Sunday Mass (Men: coat and tie; Ladies: 'Sunday best')

Keep talking in the church to a minimum

Etiquette

Be punctual.

Bring a pencil and mark your music.

Stay home, when you're sick.

Refrain from using scented hairspray, fragrances, perfume, cologne, etc.

Schedule/Attendance

Rehearsal: Weds. 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Becknell Music Room

Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM (rehearsal at 8:45 AM in the Becknell Music Room)

Attendance at Weds. evening rehearsal is required for Sunday participation , except by permission of the Director.

Excluding unusual circumstances (vacations, illnesses, etc.), members are expected to attend a minimum of **3 rehearsals and 3 Choir Masses per month** .

Regardless of whether or not a member plans to sing for a given Mass or event, he/she should plan to attend rehearsals, so as to learn repertoire, develop skills, and stay abreast of Choir goings-on.

New Members

Persons interested in singing with the Choir should contact the Director before attending rehearsal.

Interested singers participate in a simple audition with the Director and Associate Director. The audition will determine whether or not the prospective choir member has the requisite musical skills.

Some auditionees fail to demonstrate the requisite music skills.

Some auditionees demonstrate weak musical skills, but show potential for improving. They are invited to join the choir on a *provisional* basis. Their progress is evaluated after a 6-week trial period. During the trial period, the singer will be assigned a temporary choir box.

Some auditionees demonstrate the requisite music skills. They are accepted for membership and assigned a choir box.

Music (Scores/Octavos)

Singers should take care of all music.

Markings should be made in pencil-only (no highlighting)

In general, unless instructed to do otherwise, singers should turn-in music after the Mass at which it is being sung.

Music that has already been collected should be placed in one of the empty un-numbered choir boxes (right side, bottom).

Issues involving missing music should be addressed before/after rehearsal.