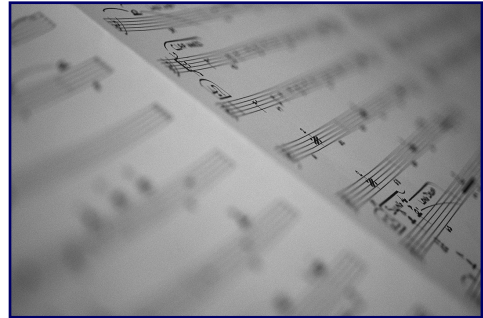


St. Mary Music Ministry Program

Revised on June 29, 2009

Mission: The mission of the Music Ministry is to set the tone for the assembly in the worship of God. Through prayerful song and inspirational instrumental music conducive to meditation and thanksgiving, we lead the assembly in the praise of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As cantors, choirs, ensemble members, and instrumentalists, we rehearse diligently to prepare artistic and uplifting spiritual music to engage the assembly in worship. We provide a welcoming and joyful atmosphere at each Mass, and send forth our parishioners and visitors with a song in their hearts.



Organization: The Music Ministry of the parish is organized and implemented on a weekly basis by the Music Director. Special liturgical programs for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and major sacramental celebrations are coordinated by the Pastor, in consultation with the Music Director, the Liturgy Coordinator, and other staff members as appropriate. The selection of liturgical music and the scheduling of all church musicians are handled by the Music Director. Choir directors, substitute organists, Youth Ministry musicians, and other occasional musicians are provided by the parish as needed for the Music Ministry, in consultation with the Pastor.

The Music Ministry provides a prayerful and praise-filled, spiritually-uplifting environment for worship through music. The goal is the full, conscious, and active participation in worship of the entire parish community that is present at the liturgy. Music ministers encourage and engage the congregation, inspiring them, through instruments and voice, to sing prayerfully and enthusiastically in praise and thanksgiving. The active participation of the majority of the congregation in the singing is the foremost goal of the music ministers. Excellence in leadership by all in the Music Ministry will be the means by which this is achieved. Developing an enlarged and continually improving Choir is another goal. The Music Ministry will recruit more instrumentalists of such a level of competence as to enhance the quality of the liturgy, and will upgrade the present organ to one of wider tonal palette and even more enhanced versatility.

Music Program: This is a summary of the various liturgical musical styles that are available at St. Mary Parish during the six regular weekend Masses:

- Masses with Organ and Cantors: each weekend at the 5:00 p.m., 7:30 a.m., and 12:00 noon Masses, the singing is led by cantors with organ accompaniment, sometimes with piano as well. From time to time, there is a quiet Mass at 7:30 a.m. without music.
- Masses with the Contemporary Ensemble: each weekend at the 9:00 a.m. Mass throughout the year, the singing is led by the contemporary ensemble with piano accompaniment, and a cantor. At Christmas and Easter, the 9:00 a.m. Mass is usually with organ and cantor.
- Masses with Organ and the Parish Choir: from the Sunday after Labor Day until Pentecost, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, and for special parish occasions, the singing is led by the Choir, with organ and piano accompaniment, and a cantor. Sometimes there are other instrumentalists as well.
- Masses with the Piano and Youth Ministry Choir: from the Sunday after Labor Day until Memorial Day weekend, at the 6:00 p.m. Mass, the singing is led by a pianist or another musician, with the assistance of a Youth Ministry choir and/or cantors, and other instrumentalists. During the summer months, this is usually a quiet Mass without music, just like a weekday morning Mass.

Parishioners are encouraged to sample these different musical styles by attending these different Masses. Parishioners, who are musically inclined, are invited to join the parish music ministries. All parishioners are encouraged to join in the singing of all the hymns, acclamations, and responses, as active congregational participants in the parish liturgical music program. As St. Augustine taught, "Those who sing, pray twice."