

# Adult Choir

## Schedule



## When is the Choir singing?

### Weekend Schedule.

The choir sings primarily for the Sunday 11 am mass. It also sing at all major celebrations during the liturgical calendar year, Holy Days, Solemnities and special services.

### Holy Days and Special Celebrations.

The choir sings for all Holy Days during the year: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Mary Mother of God, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Triduum (Holy Week, Easter Vigil ). Easter Day masses are also Sunday masses (9 am and 11 am), Ascension Thursday, All Saints, Thanksgiving etc...

### Special Celebrations.

The choir may be also present for special celebrations. For example, Spring and Fall Marian Services or other celebrations. The choir also presents a yearly Service of Lessons and Carols during Advent.

## What style of music is sung by the choir?

The choir's repertoire is extensive and varied from the Renaissance era all the way to contemporary music.

The choir sings in 4 part harmony (SATB) whenever possible. We sing works by Palestrina, Bach and Mozart as well as works by contemporary composers such as John Rutter, David Hass and others.

## I want to join the choir but I don't know if I have what it takes?

Not to worry. If you have the desire to sing and want to join the group, you will make it! Talk to the Director of Music or other choir members to understand the requirements and commitment of a choir member.

## I don't read music? Can I join?

Absolutely yes, you can join. Many of the choir members do not read music. You will quickly learn skills how to recognize notes on a staff and other notation using simple techniques. In addition, you will also be singing alongside seasoned musicians who can read music and will help you along.



## (Adult Choir Schedule and Notes)

### **I want to join and sing but it is a bit intimidating.**

Don't be intimidated. In addition to being a group of dedicated volunteers, the choir is a fun group. Although the vocal work is serious and thorough, participating in the choir is rewarding. The camaraderie and the caring for each other is obvious to anyone who attends our rehearsals. The ambiance is terrific and despite the hard work, all is done in good spirit. We very often laugh.

### **I want to join but I am not sure I can make all of the rehearsals!**

Although being a minister and singing in a choir is a commitment, it is understood that all choir members are volunteers. As such, many things in our daily lives can interact and interfere with our commitment. It is totally understood and accepted.

The only important thing is to let the Director of Music know ahead of time if you are not going to be there (rehearsal or mass).

If you only find out at the last minute (due to work or family obligations or due to illness), you can always send a text message to the Director of Music on his cell phone or send him an email on his personal email address.

In any case, you will find great flexibility from the Director of Music regarding your ability to meet the rehearsal schedule.

### **I have attended churches where choir singing looked more like a performance!**

This is a danger with all church choirs. We always need to keep in mind that we are doing the work of God, not our own. As such we are only instruments of His Will and sing to His Glory.

Our focus is liturgical. The choir is not a performing group presenting a show at each of our celebrations. Our liturgies are not performances. With humility, we help lead the congregation in songs and in prayer. We are not performing to the audience (the assembly). We are in fact performing to God. Our primary focus is prayer. As you probably heard before, singing is praying twice.

### **I want to join. How do I do it?**

You need to contact the Director of Music either by mail or by telephone or see him after mass. He will want to hear your voice to determine which section is the best suited for your vocal range.



## (Adult Choir Schedule and Notes)

### Rehearsals.

The choir usually rehearses on **Thursday evening from 7 pm to 8:30 pm**. The rehearsal is extended to 9 pm when preparing for Christmas and Easter. The rehearsal always start with a prayer, followed by a thorough warmup. Then we rehearse the program for the upcoming Sunday and the following Sunday. Then we work on one anthem or anthems to be sung as choir-only works in the next weeks. We also work on the program for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Pentecost etc...

Please note that some weeks, the rehearsal is switched to Friday evening instad of Thursday evening. Timely notice is given when this is the case.

In addition to the regular weekly rehearsal, the choir also rehearses at **10:15 pm on Sunday morning prior to the 11 am mass**. It is important to be there on time as much as possible in order to warm up your voice, organize your music and rehearse some of the music for the day, especially the Responsorial Psalm and the Choir Anthem if one is sung that weekend.

For information. Two other groups are rehearsing on Thursday prior to the adult choir rehearsal. The younger cantors rehearse at 5 pm: This rehearsal is for the cantors who are not part of the schola. The older cantors rehearse at 6 pm. This rehearsal is for the cantors who are also part of the schola.

*During preparation for Christmas and Easter, all cantors are often asked to join the adult choir's rehearsal on Thursday at 7 pm.*

### Notes on liturgical particularities.

**The Penitential Rite** (*Confiteor and Kyrie*) (*I confess... Lord Have Mercy, Christ Have Mercy, Lord Have Mercy*) can be done in two different ways, at the discretion of the celebrant.

**Form 1:** The celebrant and assembly recite the Confiteor (*I Confess to God the Almighty....*) - followed by the Kyrie said or sung in antiphon (celebrant saying the stanza then the stanza being repeated by the assembly), (*Lord Have Mercy (2), Christ Have Mercy (2), Lord Have Mercy(2)*) - immediately followed by the *Gloria* with no invocation prayer in between.

**Form 2:** The Confiteor is omitted. Each of the three stanzas of the *Lord Have Mercy* is preceded by an invocation. At the end of the Kyrie an invocation prayer is said (*May the Lord Have Mercy on Us..... and Give Us Everlasting Life - Amen*) followed by the *Gloria*.

**Gloria (Glory to God):** Remember that during Advent we do not sing the Gloria to the exception of the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). We also do not sing the Gloria during Lent.

Sometimes the celebrant will sing the *Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy)*. Kyrie ie not Latin but Greek contrary to the other parts of the mass such as the Gloria, Sanctus-Benedictus. Agnus Dei which are in Latin.



## (Adult Choir Schedule and Notes)

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### Important

Preparing the Rehearsal at home: As much as possible please listen to recordings of the music to be sung prior to rehearsal when feasible. Also, if possible study the music ahead of time.

### Psalm Setting and Gospel Acclamation:

The greater part of the psalm settings sung throughout the year are found in the Respond and Acclaim book. However, for some masses different setting of the psalms of the day will be used instead of the settings in Respond and Acclaim. Please, listen to the music for the Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and also other songs if you are not familiar with it. Usually a link to YouTube is provided. When feasible, the recording will also be provided.

### Music organization:

Each choir member should have a three ring binder (white is possible) holding all the music susceptible to be sung and not in one of the three books (Breaking Bread Missalette, Respond and Acclaim Book, Choral and Praise hymnal).

### Organizing the binder:

It is recommended to organize the binder in sections. **The first section** will contain the choir anthems we are currently working on in preparation for future liturgies. **The second section** will contain the anthems we have in our repertoire and are susceptible to sing during any given mass (for example, *Magnificat*, *Look at the World*, *How Beautiful*, *Ave Verum*, and others). **The third section** will contain all the music already in our repertoire that we will sing during the season. For example in preparation to Advent and Christmas we will include in this section songs such as *O Holy Night*, *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Gesu Bambino*.

Once the Christmas Season over, the Advent and Christmas songs can be taken out of the binder and filed. They are then replaced by the anthems already in a repertoire to be sung for the Lent and Easter Season, *Tantum Ergo(s)*, *Ave Verum(s)*, hymns and anthem for Holy Week not in Choral and Praise, etc...

The **fourth section** will contain all service music: Kyrie, Gloria (excluding the Christmas Gloria after the Christmas season), Sanctus, Amen, Agnus Dei. In that section can also be kept Season specific responses such as the ones sung during the Easter Vigil (ex. responses in the Exsultet, in the Litany of the Saints etc...).

Patrick Botti,  
January 2018