

Cantors Schedule



When are the cantors singing?

Weekend Cantor Schedule.

The cantors lead in songs for the Saturday 4 pm mass, and the Sunday 9 and 11 am masses.

Holy Days and Special Celebrations.

Cantors lead in songs 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.

Cantors are also present for special celebrations. For example, Spring and Fall Marian Services with rosary, Stations of the Cross during Lent, CCD celebrations such as First Communion and Confirmation etc...

School Celebrations: First Friday Mass

First Friday Mass (first Friday of the month at 9 am): The cantors are also students from Our Lady's Academy since the other cantors will not be able to make it due to work and school requirements. Multiple cantoring is encouraged for that mass

Other School Celebrations.

All cantors, including OLA's students may be asked to lead the assembly in songs if the celebration is at night or on a weekend (mass with the cardinal, graduation, Junior National Honors's Society).

Rehearsals.

In the past, all cantors being part of the schola rehearsed as part of the scholar rehearsal on Thursday at 6 pm. Since the Fall of 2017, two different rehearsals:

Thursday at 5 pm: This rehearsal is for the cantors who are not part of the schola

Thursday at 6 pm: This rehearsal is for the cantors who are also part of the schola.

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



(Cantoring Schedule and Notes)

Notes on particularities for each celebration

Cantors for masses on Saturday 4 pm, Sunday morning 9 am and 11 am:

We will often have double-cantoring, either to help newer cantors to train alongside a more seasoned cantor or when the celebration requires it. Usually dual (double) or multiple cantoring is encouraged for the children's mass on Sunday morning at 9 am.

Particularities for each mass:

4 pm: It is a singing mass, where the assembly is more participatory than other masses. There is no choir, only the cantor and organist/pianist-music director providing the music for the celebration. If the cantor is capable and willing of doing it, he/she will be asked sometimes to sing a solo when appropriate (before mass, during communion or post-communion meditation).

9 am: This is the "Children's Mass" when sings the youth (children's) choir under the direction of Tom Fallong. The programming is somehow different for that mass with a greater emphasis on contemporary christian repertoire (not necessarily catholic) and participation from the congregation. Since the spring 2017 there has been a pre-mass singing by the youth choir. The cantor does not have to participate in it. However, he/she may be asked to introduce some of the songs if the assembly participation is possible and if the songs are in the missalette or the brown booklet.

The youth choir also typically sings a post-communion song where the children's choir director will sometimes engage the assembly in singing. See more precise instructions provided for those masses.

11 am: This is the mass where the adult choir sings. The choir will sometimes sing an anthem or canticle prior to mass, or during communion. Cantors may be asked to join the choir when possible. Solos by cantors are also possible for that mass especially during the prelude. Most often there will be soft piano music played during the prelude.

Important (see also specific documents on cantoring on this site):

Cantors are expected to prepare their ministry at home. This means studying the music ahead of time when possible. Especially of importance is the Psalm for the week as well as the 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.