



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Music Ministry

ADULT CHOIR HANDBOOK

September 2023 to December 2024

Erin Barrett, Director of Music
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Called to Ministry

All members become members of the choir because they are first called by God (Stewardship) to share their time, treasure and talent. This “calling” is in response to being a baptized member of the Christian community.

In essence, members in the choir are “committed” members of the body of Christ, whose first calling is to praise God in song! *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, states, “Every ministry is rooted in the Sacraments of Initiation which form the people of God into community...” (No. 47).

Sing to the Lord, Music in Divine Worship, states: “Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are servants of the Liturgy and members of the gathered assembly” (No. 32).

Team Work

Music Ministry is “Team Work.” Singing in a choir or playing in an ensemble is very much like being a member of an athletic team. Here are some commonalities:

- o No one person on the team is more valuable than another, though it is true that some people are called to leadership within the team;
- o The combined effort of each person on the team determines the degree of success of the team;
- o Hours of preparation time must occur in order for the group to function efficiently as a “coordinated whole”;
- o All choir members should be able to blend with the other voices singing around them. If you can’t hear the others around you, try singing a little softer;
- o It doesn’t matter how well the group sang last week. The present is the only thing that counts in both sports and music. A good performance last week does not negate a poor rehearsal this week;

Thank you for being part of our team. We need you!

Musicality

Choir members should be able to:

- o match pitch;
- o learn their voice parts and sing them independently;
- o blend their voices with others in the section;
- o be present and willing to learn;

Caring for the Music

The hymnals and all printed music are essential if we are to use our gifts to praise and glorify God. The printed music entrusted to each choir member should receive thoughtful care and consideration. Each choir member is assigned a music number, which corresponds to the slot where choir folders are stored. This number will be on the front of all the music choir members are given to use. When you arrive for rehearsal or any music ministry event, check your music slot. It will contain any new music and communication (flyers, info sheets, Choir Notes, etc.).

Use pencil for marking your music. Please take good care of your music, as if you yourself had purchased it. Use pencil only to write in any notations and never use markers or ink of any kind on the music. Remember that the music is here permanently. In the future it will be used by other members who have different needs and other directors who may have different ideas.

Music is to be returned as specified by the Director. Overall, enjoy your music, guard it well, and keep it in good condition so that it will serve us for many years to come. When new octavos are ordered, we offer the opportunity for choir members or friends to memorialize the printed music. For a donation of \$50, which offsets the cost of the music, a label is placed on the front of the music. This is a lovely way to memorialize a loved one who has died or to remember a special birthday, anniversary, or other occasion. See the Director of Music if you are interested in memorializing a piece of music.

Cell Phone Use

Please do not use cell phones for phone calls or texting during rehearsals or Mass as it is distracting to those around you.

Dues

Each choir member is asked to contribute \$20 a year (or \$10 twice a year) in dues. The dues allow us to send flowers to members who are ill or to memorialize music for family members who die. We have a jar that we put out at rehearsals to help supplement the dues.

Dress

We dress up for Mass because it is such a special occasion. Even though we are sometimes hidden in the choir loft, we are part of the assembly and as liturgical ministers, we are also role models. Please wear your Sunday best as we give God our best. Please do not wear casual clothing to Mass (ie: no jeans, sneakers, sweatsuits, etc.).

Please take note of dress requirements for the following events:

Advent Lessons and Carols and Taizé Prayer

Ladies - solid black top and bottom (skirt, slacks or solid black dress), black dress shoes
Men – solid black dress shirt, black jacket, black tie, black dress slacks, black dress shoes

Spring Concert

Men - solid black dress pants, solid pastel button down dress shirt (no tie), black dress shoes
Ladies - solid pastel top (yellow, pink, blue, ...), solid black bottoms (skirt, slacks), black dress shoes

Palm Sunday Procession and Vigil Mass, Pentecost Vigil Mass, Confirmation

Ladies - solid red top, solid black bottoms (skirt, slacks), black dress shoes
Men – solid black dress shirt, black jacket, black dress slacks and red tie, black dress shoes

If the cost of these dress items present a difficulty, please do not hesitate to let the Director know.

Inclement weather

If parish events are cancelled, choir rehearsal is cancelled. If you don't feel safe driving in inclement weather, don't come. The Director will send an email by 4:00pm if rehearsal is cancelled that evening.

Mass

Singers are asked to arrive at least fifteen minutes before the start of Mass, unless a different "call time" is announced. If you are late, do not join us until after the prelude is finished. Do not attempt to join the group once when we are singing a piece of music.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are generally held weekly (September to May) from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the church choir loft. Please use the side door of the church closest to the rectory. If you miss two or more rehearsals in a row, please don't sing with the choir until you are able to come to another rehearsal. If you are away for a period of time, please return to one rehearsal before coming to sing at Mass again.

If you know in advance that you can't make a Mass or a rehearsal, please sign out using the sign-out sheet. If something comes up at the last minute, please email or call at the rectory: (631) 226-7725, ext. 210. It is very helpful to know when someone will be missing from the choir.

If, in the opinion of the Director, the number of absences or late attendances becomes excessive, a member may be asked to take a leave from the choir until the time their schedule allows them to attend more regularly.

Please do not talk with other choir members during rehearsals, especially when the Director is working with another section.

Sickness and Germs

If you are not feeling well, please do not come to rehearsal or Mass. Germs are spread easily in choirs because everyone is in close proximity to one another. Please be sure not to leave behind any used tissues.

Social Events

We try to schedule a Christmas Party and an end of the year dinner so that we can be with one another on a social basis. Please try to participate as much as possible. The cost of attending the party should never preclude a member from attending.

Special Events

There are special liturgies and concerts that the choir sings for throughout the year – Taizé Prayer (October/March), Advent Lessons and Carols (early December), and our Spring Concert (May). Singing at these events is an important part of our ministry. Please be sure to consult the annual calendar and take special note of these dates.

Steering Committee

We have a choir steering committee which consist of both appointed and elected members. The committee meets three to four times a year to discuss issues relevant to the choir and to advise the Director of Music. If you have a concern that affects the entire choir, please bring it to your section leader or directly to the Director.

VIRTUS Requirements

All choir members are required to go to a one time VIRTUS training session and fill out the required volunteer forms. This is part of our diocesan effort to protect children. If you are not already VIRTUS Trained, please see the website below to schedule your appointment. Any questions can be directed towards the Director of Music, or contact the Rectory.

[VIRTUS® Online \(virtusonline.org\)](http://virtusonline.org)

Website and Social Media

Check the parish website www.olphlindenhurst.com for updates.

Fall 2023 Schedule

Thursday, September 7	7:30pm Rehearsal and Social
Thursday, September 14	7:30pm Rehearsal
Friday, September 15	6:30pm Sorrowful Mother Devotions and 7:00pm Mass
Sunday, September 17	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, September 21	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, September 24	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, September 28	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, October 1	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, October 5	7:30pm Taizé Prayer Around the Cross, 8:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, October 8	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, October 12	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, October 15	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, October 19	Rehearsal, 7:30pm
Sunday, October 22	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, October 26	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, October 29	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, November 2	7:30pm All Souls Day Mass and Rehearsal
Sunday, November 5	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, November 9	7:30pm Rehearsal

Sunday, November 12	12:00pm Mass
Tuesday, November 14	7:15pm Rehearsal, 8:00pm K of C Memorial Mass <i>(date is tentative)</i>
Thursday, November 16	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, November 19	12:00pm Mass
Tuesday, November 21	7:30pm Rehearsal
Thursday, November 23	9:00am Thanksgiving Day Mass
Sunday, November 26	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, November 30	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, December 3	12:00pm Mass, 7:30pm Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 10	12:00pm Mass
Thursday, December 14	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, December 17	11:15am Rehearsal, 12:00pm Mass
Thursday, December 21	7:30pm Rehearsal
Sunday, December 24	12:00pm Mass
Sunday, December 24	11:15pm Lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass
Sunday, December 25	12:00pm Mass
Sunday, December 31	12:00pm Mass

Acknowledgment

In an effort to update the Roster, please fill out the information below and return to the Director of Music at your earliest convenience.

Name (print): _____

Choir # (if assigned one): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____



St. Cecilia

Virgin, Martyr, Patroness of Church Music
230 A.D.

*Holy Cecilia, Heroic martyr
who stayed faithful to Jesus, your divine bridegroom,
Give us faith to rise above our persecutors
and to see in them the image of our Lord.
We know that you were a musician,
and we are told that you heard angels sing.
Inspire musicians to gladden the hearts of people
by filling the air with God's gift of music,
and reminding them of the Divine Musician
who created all beauty. Amen.*

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY
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