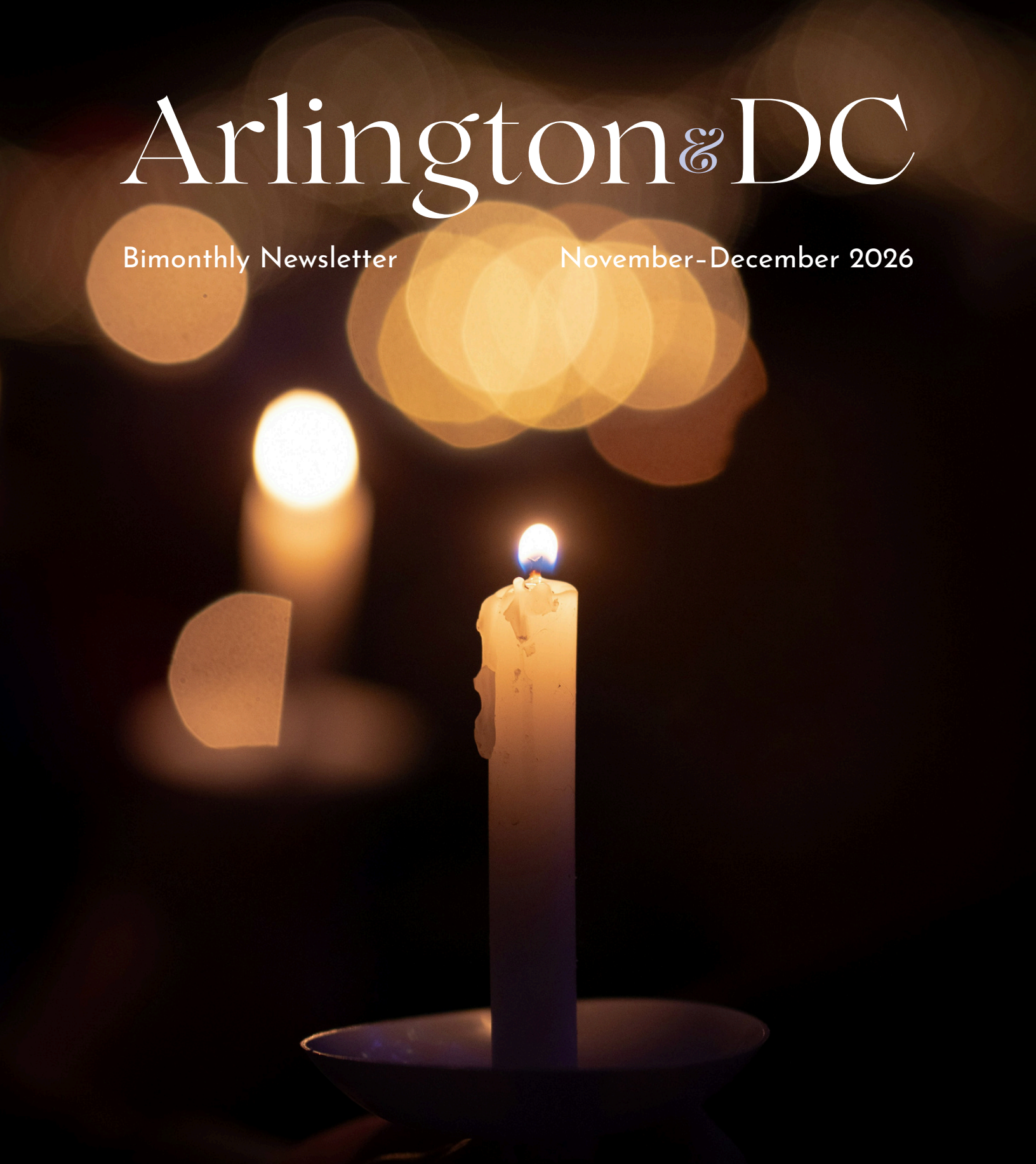
Arlington & DC

Bimonthly Newsletter

November–December 2026



NACCM

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CATHOLIC CHURCH MUSICIANS
PASTORAL•MUSICAL•LITURGICAL

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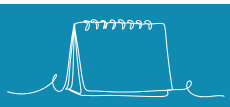
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November 2	Choral Concert for All Souls	Basilica of the National Shrine
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November 8	Daniel Sáñez Organ Concert	St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill
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November 15	Adam Chlebek Solo Organ Recital	Grace United Methodist Church
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November 22	Sacred Art and Song	St. Peter's Parish
December 6	Lessons and Carols	Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
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December 16	Kimberly Ann Hess Organ Recital	Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
December 19	Choral Concert for Christmas	Basilica of the National Shrine

2027

January 23	Southern MD Gathering	TBD
April 17	Mid-Atlantic Pueri Cantores Festival	Basilica of the National Shrine

Cover photo: Tim Umphreys on Unsplash

Director's Corner

Dear DC and Arlington Members,

By now, you have heard the news that our association is rebranding as NACCM, the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians. I hope you are as pleased with the rollout and communications from the national office as the Chapter Directors are! If you have not been able to look at the landing site on the web, you can do so here: https://naccm.org/. This is the beginning of a new and improved website that will support membership, resources, and chapters and is already a major facelift from the previous site.

Both our local Arlington and DC chapters have been busy updating our websites, social media, and email signatures with the new name, logo, fonts, and colors. Thank you for your patience as we continue to align with NACCM branding. The national office has supplied wonderful graphics and tools for Chapters, and we are grateful.

As we approach the month of remembrance of the dead, we wish to pray for our own members and faithful music ministers who have passed on from this life to the next:

"God, the source of all creation and art, we ask for Your divine mercy for the souls of deceased artists and musicians. May they, who used their God-given talents to bring beauty, harmony, and reflection to the world, now rest in Your eternal peace. Comfort those who grieve their loss, and lead them safely into Your heavenly presence."

https://catholicvote.org/all-souls-a-personal-prayer-for-departed-artists/



Katie Evans
DC Chapter Director

With the close of the liturgical year, we prepare for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. As Music Directors, we are preparing for two marathon weekends this year. When Christmas Eve falls on a Thursday, it means four days of liturgies! Tim and I hope you stay healthy and stress-free during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Katie Evans

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Washington, DC Chapter

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Arlington Chapter



Arlington and DC Chapters Celebrate Annual Mass and Dinner

Photos by Lorraine Kuchmy
Captions by Diane Yendrey

Past and Present Chapter Directors Tom Stehle, Tim Lewicki, Rick Gibala, and Katie Evans joined some of the many chapter volunteers from the July 2026 National Convention to share memories, and to celebrate with an opening Mass and dinner. Many thanks to our gracious hosts, Fr. Guest and St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean, VA.



DC Chapter members and volunteers celebrated a successful convention, and gave thanks to the Lord for His goodness as we began another year of service to our churches and to NACCM.



Arlington Chapter Chaplain, Fr. Don Rooney, presided at the Mass for the joint Arlington and Washington, DC chapters on Friday, September 18. At the Ambo, Tim Lewicki, Arlington Chapter Director, and co-Chair of the 48th National Convention held this summer at The Catholic University.



Katie Evans, DC Chapter Director and co-Chair of the 48th National Convention, reads the scripture for the Mass.



The St. Luke Choir, led by Michael Cedrone, Director of Music and Liturgy. From prelude to liturgy to postlude, their excellence in music was matched only by their generosity in hosting our event.





An excellent meal was had by all, as both chapters enjoyed Friday night refreshment to rededicate to ministry, to renew friendships, and to make new acquaintances.



Tom Kendzia Brings Stories and Song to St. Rose of Lima

By Marcela Aguilar, with Remi Fonseca Bauer

Parishioners and guests from around the Beltway gathered at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, MD, on October 6 for an evening of music with composer and musician Tom Kendzia. Accompanied by the parish's adult choir directed by Remi Fonseca Bauer, Kendzia led a 16-song program that blended well-loved favorites with lesser-known pieces from his catalog. Jennifer Kluge, Executive Director of the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (formerly NPM), was among those in attendance.

Kendzia is familiar in Catholic liturgical music, and the audience clearly knew his work. The familiar refrain of "Lead Us to the Water," which opened the concert, drew immediate recognition from the pews, and many in the congregation joined in. The program also made room for quieter, less familiar works such as "Pietá," a reflective piece composed for Good Friday.

Before each song, Kendzia explained how it came to be and what he hoped it would express. These introductions gave the music added depth. The concert also showed the range of Kendzia's musical interests. His compositions draw on blues, jazz, and gospel, and he talked about his affection for these genres and how they shape his writing for worship. Seated at the piano, he moved easily among styles, from soulful, bluesy passages to jazz-inflected harmonies to the uplifting energy of gospel. His singing was warm, and it carried a clear sense of prayer.



The St. Rose of Lima choir and instrumentalists, uner the direction of Remi Fonseca Bauer, accompany Tom Kendzia during an evening of music and prayer.



Soloist Joy Foust Colburn sings "Pietá" during the Tom Kendzia concert.



From left: Remi Fonseca Bauer, Music Director, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Tom Kendzia, and Jennifer C. Kluge, Executive Director, NACCM.

The choir was an essential part of the evening. Alongside Kendzia, the singers supported his playing and gave the arrangements a fuller sound. Their preparation and enthusiasm were evident. A number of choir members also delivered powerful solos, including Ogo Ugeh on "Stand By Me," Joyce Foust Colburn on "Pietá," Erin Magee on "May the Road Rise Up," and Luis Figueroa on "By Our Love."

> It was a wonderful experience for me working with Remi and the Music Ministry of St Rose of Lima. All of the singers and instrumentalists were a great joy to be with, both spiritually and musically. I pray that we will have the opportunity to do this again!
>
> It was such a blessing for everyone!
>
> —Tom Kendzia

The evening also featured talented instrumentalists on flute, violin, clarinet, and bass, who joined Kendzia's piano playing.

Kendzia made the audience part of the performance. Throughout the program, he invited them to sing, and the church filled with voices. For those who attended, the evening was both entertaining and prayerful. It offered beautiful music, thoughtful commentary, and the shared joy of singing together. For St. Rose of Lima, it was a reminder of the power of music to gather a community and deepen its faith.

> It's always a delight to spend an evening with Tom Kendzia; his stories and music encourage all of us to turn our lives to Christ. The choir and soloists from St. Rose were wonderful!
>
> —Jennifer C. Kluge
> Executive Director, NACCM

Make a Joyful Noise: First International Week of Sacred Music Held in Rome

By Luc B. Renaux

The wall of sound emanating from the nave of the church for our first Mass together told me that this is where I need to be! I had the great privilege to attend the very first International Week of Sacred Music hosted at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music based in Rome, held from September 27 through October 4, 2026, under the direction of Father Robert Mehlhart O.P. You might recognize Father Robert from his social media postings “Sing with the Pope.”

The program included three tracks: choral singers, teachers, and clergy led by various professors from the Institute. I was part of the choral track, working under the direction of Walter Marzilli preparing for a concert of sacred music ranging from the renaissance motets to modern compositions and sung for the participants of the other tracks.

It was an exhausting but exhilarating week of music, starting with sung Lauds and warmups in the morning, moving to rehearsals, ending with mass and vespers, all interspersed with



Luc Renaux stands with Fr. Robert, the rector of the Pontifical Institute, in St. Peter's Square.



Luc Renaux at the entrance to the Pontifical Institute for Sacred Music in Rome.

espresso breaks, lunch, and dinner. One of the amazing opportunities was the chance to connect with church musicians from all over the world. In addition to the United States, attendees included choral singers, music directors, and religious from around the world, including Brazil, Philippines, Nigeria, Australia, and Europe. It truly gave the feel of the “universal” church, sharing our faith through song.

The highlights of the week included singing Haydn’s Saint Nicolas Mass with a baroque orchestra at the Institute, singing for a Sunday morning Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the altar of the Chair of St. Peter, followed by the Angelus on the Square with Pope Leo who acknowledged our group in his remarks. As a cantor and bass section leader for Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown, MD, the week was an affirmation of the spiritual richness and joy that sacred music brings to the Catholic Faith. Throughout the week-long experience of chant and polyphony singing, the words of Psalm 100 rang through my ears; “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.”

Chapter and Local News

A Concert for Peace

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church warmly invites everyone to an uplifting afternoon of music, faith, and fellowship. On Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 3 p.m., gather at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, 9601 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD, 20814, for "A Concert for Peace" in occasion of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

Led by Dr. Giuliano Grisi, Director of Music and Liturgy, the concert will feature the St. Jane de Chantal Parish Choir. Parishioners, families, friends, and guests are warmly invited to share in the joy and unity music can inspire.

One hallmark of this vibrant and growing parish community is its celebration of the sacred in artistic expression. All musical programming at St. Jane de Chantal Church is supported, in large part, by the generosity of the "Friends of Music" at St. Jane. Please consider a contribution to this musical ministry, benefiting both the parish and the wider community. All gifts are tax deductible and based on the program year. Support this ministry at https://tinyurl.com/StJaneFriendsOfMusic.

For any questions, please send an email to parish.office@stjanedechantal.org.

Southern Maryland Gathering

By Susan England, Southern MD Rep.

Chase the chill away on January 23, 2027, by heading south to beautiful historic Southern Maryland to enjoy delicious food and fellowship with other members in music ministry. Bring something to share for this potluck feast along with dreams and ideas. You'll return home inspired, ready to tackle the New Year in song.

RSVP by January 9
Susan England: englandsj@hotmail.com
or Katie Evans: washingtondc@npm.org

Sacred Art and Song

Join St. Peter's Parish, 2900 Olney-Sandy Spring Road Olney, MD, 20832, for an afternoon of Sacred Art and Song on November 22, 2026, at 1 p.m. This solo vocal recital will feature members of the St. Peter's choir and Kevin O'Brien as pianist. The concert is free, but a free will offering is accepted.



Strengthen Your Youth Choir Through Pueri Cantores

By Kathleen Prina, Executive Director, American Federation Pueri Cantores

The annual Mid-Atlantic Pueri Cantores Festival brings Catholic school and parish choirs together to experience the Church's rich sacred music tradition, grow in musicianship and faith, and discover the joy of singing as one Church. For music teachers and parish directors, Pueri Cantores provides meaningful repertoire and a powerful goal that can energize and enrich your choral program throughout the year. Join us April 17, 2027, at the Basilica of the National Shrine! (See page 16 for additional details.)

Details and Registration
https://www.pcchoirs.org/sites/default/files/2027%20Mid-Atlantic%20Festival%20Brochure.pdf

> Pueri Cantores is a mountaintop experience for our choir each year—socially, spiritually, and musically. Singing for our Lord in the Eucharistic celebration of the Mass reminds our students of the highest calling of a choir. They make new friends, are inspired by one another, and strive for a greater level of musicianship, reverence, and beauty. The Festival repertoire also strengthens our choir, enriching the music we sing at our school Masses throughout the year.
>
> —Kelly O'Connor, Choir Director, Divine Mercy Academy Choir, Pasadena, MD

Lessons and Carols and More: Kimberly Hess in Concert

Organist Kimberly Ann Hess and the University of Marymount Chamber Singers perform a Lessons and Carols service at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, 1400 Quincy St. NE. Washington, DC, on December 6, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Then, on December 16, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., Hess will play an organ recital at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC.



> Pueri Cantores gives our young singers a broader picture of their shared Catholic faith beyond their own parish or school community. For years, my choirs have eagerly anticipated the annual festival, knowing they are learning sacred music along with many other children and will be able to sing together in a beautiful larger church or cathedral. The meeting of hundreds of angelic voices in an awe-inspiring setting leaves an imprint upon them as they grow.
>
> —Maria Balducci, Choir Director, St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill Chorus Angelorum, Washington, DC

All Souls Day

November 2

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

Requiem Mass Concert

Nov. 2 - 7pm

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill

Please join us in the church at 7pm on All Souls Day to listen to a Requiem Mass (*Missa de profunctis, setting by Claudio Casciolini*), presented by the St. Joseph's Choir.

A sung requiem Mass contains the proper and ordinary parts of a Mass for the dead. It includes the Introit (*"Requiem aeterna"*), Kyrie, Graduale, Tract, Sequence (*"Dies Irae"*), Offertory (*"Domine Jesu Christe"*), Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei, Communion (*"Lux aeterna"*), and the *"Libera Me"*.

We will pray for all those who have died from our parish in the past year, as well as for those whose names are written in the Book of Our Beloved Dead.



MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE.



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St. Cecilia Vespers and Dinner

The NACCM DC Chapter, together with the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Worship, warmly invite you to join us for St. Cecilia Vespers in the newly renovated Pastoral Center chapel. Honoring the patron saint of musicians, this celebration is a beautiful opportunity to gather in prayer and fellowship. Dinner catered by mezeh will follow.

REGISTRATION

naccmdc.org/events
$35 for non-members
$20 for members

Special Discount

Bring another musician or guest from your parish and pay $35 for two people.

November 20, 2026
6:30–9:00 p.m.

Archdiocese of Washington
Pastoral Center
5001 Eastern Ave. NE
Chillum, MD 20782

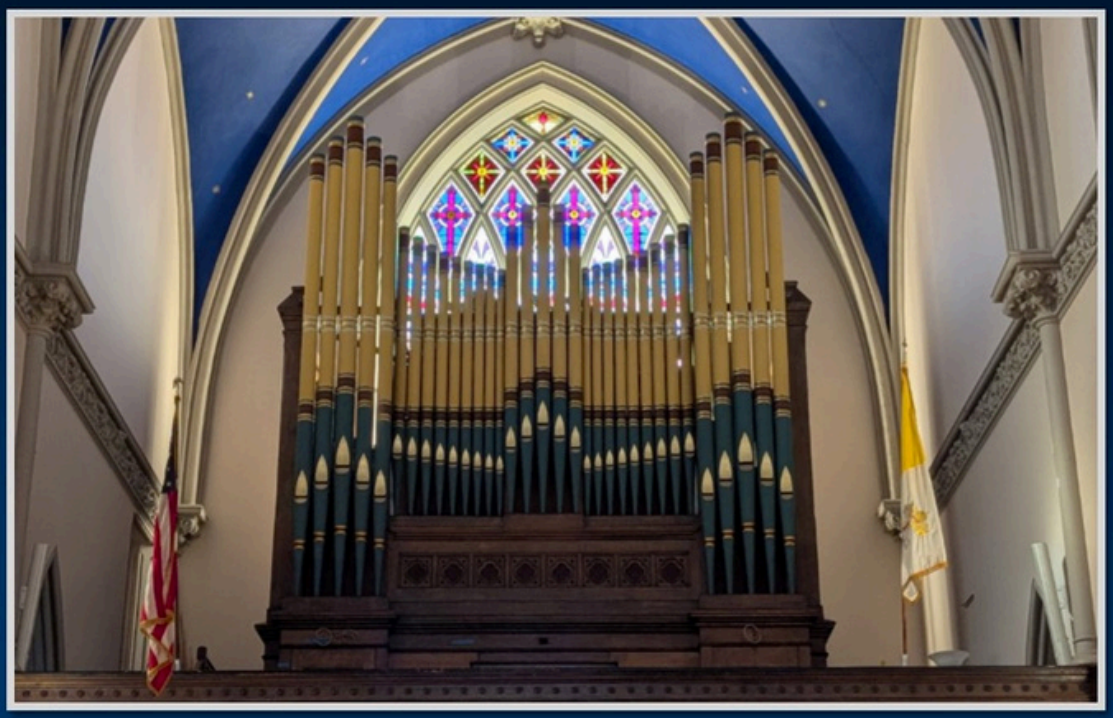
Orazio Gentileschi and Giovanni Lanfranco, *Saint Cecilia and an Angel*, c. 1617/1618 and 1621/1627, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.


Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
Bowie, MD
FAURÉ
REQUIEM
In Commemoration of
the Feast of All Saints and All Souls
Saturday, November 7
7.00pm
Sacred heart
Catholic Church
Tickets sold online
SacredHeartBowie.org
Danielle Connelly, Soprano
Ryan Connelly, Baritone
Anne Clancy, Violin
Brendan Harper, Conductor
In Collaboration with
Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Organ Concert

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 4pm

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill



Daniel Sáñez, *organ*



First-generation American and Hollywood, CA, native Daniel Benjamin Sáñez is Director of Music and Liturgy, Organist, and Choirmaster for the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, VA, serving liturgical celebrations at the parish and for the Diocese of Richmond. With the clergy and staff, he endeavors to unite artistry and spirituality, where sacred music and liturgy create the space where Christ can be encountered. During Daniel's appointment at the Cathedral, three new pipe organs were installed. The continuo, choir, and gallery organs were each hand crafted by Juget-Sinclair Organbuilders of Montréal. The third organ (Op. 55) is the firm's magnum opus. This trinity of instruments enhance the Cathedral's liturgies and concert offerings through their rich tapestry of sounds.

Before his appointment to the Cathedral, Daniel served as Director of Music, Organist, and Choirmaster for the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena in New York City, Associate Director of Music for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and Assistant Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, D.C. He is a graduate of Jesuit schools Loyola High in Los Angeles and Boston College. As a Fulbright Fellow in Leipzig, Germany, he continued organ studies at the famed Thomaskirche. He earned the Master of Music in Historical Performance from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he studied organ, harpsichord, fortepiano, voice, and choral conducting.

Daniel's program will include a variety of both written works and improvisation.

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill - 313 Second Street NE - Parking available - Free & open to the public -

Adam Chlebek



FALL 2026 ENGAGEMENTS

Solo Organ Recital • AUGUST 30, *6pm*
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

Solo Organ Recital • SEPTEMBER 13, *4 pm*
St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
Washington, DC

Music at Midday • OCTOBER 2, *12:15 pm*
National City Christian Church,
Washington, DC

Solo Organ Recital • OCTOBER 16, *7 pm*
St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
Alexandria, VA

Choral Concert for All Souls • NOVEMBER 2, *6 pm*
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

Solo Organ Recital • NOVEMBER 15, *3 pm*
Grace United Methodist Church,
Hagerstown, MD

Choral Concert for Christmas • DECEMBER 19, *6 pm*
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill
Organ Concert Series 2026

featuring the fully restored 1891 Hook & Hastings Op. 1487

by the David E. Wallace & Co. LLC Pipe Organ Builders



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 - 4PM
REDEDICATION CONCERT

Maria Balducci, *director of music, St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill*
with the St. Joseph's Festival Choir & Brass

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - 4PM

Ben LaPrairie, *associate director of music, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 - 4PM

Richard Spotts, *organist, Doylestown, PA; author of "Charles Tournemire's L'Orgue Mystique: La Haute Mission"*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - 4PM

Ronald Stolk, *organist, St. Patrick's Church, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Marian Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 - 4PM

Todd Fickley, *organist, National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC; founder of "The Bach Project"*

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026 - 4PM

Kevin Birch, *organist, St. John's Catholic Church, Bangor, ME; Director, St. John's Organ Society; Faculty, University of Maine*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026 - 4PM

Paul Hardy, *organist, Cathedral of St. Matthew, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

Adam Chlebek, *assistant director of music, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 - 4PM

Samuel F. Rowe, *director of music, Basilica of the Assumption, Baltimore, MD*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 - 4PM

Daniel Sáñez, *director of music and organist, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, VA*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Lessons & Carols Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

for program information, please visit the St. Joseph's sacred music website

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill - 313 Second Street NE - Parking available - Free & open to the public -



2027 MID-ATLANTIC PUERI CANTORES

YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS

for Mixed Voice & Treble Choirs (grades 4-12)

Saturday, April 17, 2027

10:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

400 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Celebrant
Dr. Bryan Zaros, Guest Conductor





8 Professional Development Credits are available for school music teachers & MP3 rehearsal tracks of the Festival repertoire will be available for participating choirs

Board Members

Arlington, VA Chapter

Name	Title	Email
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