



NEWSLETTER

The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and NPM DC Chapters.

Fostering the art of musical liturgy.

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Let Us Pray
Board Member List



Louisville  Kentucky

NPM 43rd Annual Convention • July 7-10, 2020

*Get the latest on the virtual
2020 NPM Convention!*

#NPMLouisville

- See page 4 for more!



*St. Cecilia,
pray for us!*

How are you ministering?

With the COVID-19 pandemic, how are you ministering to your communities and your choirs? Are you providing music for live-stream or pre-recording liturgies? Are you calling your choir members to check in? Maybe a "virtual" rehearsal or hang out?

Share your successes with us! We know this is a tough time for everyone, but in a special way for those of us who are in the people business. Share your thoughts with us on Facebook ([NPM Arlington](#) or [NPM DC](#)) or send a board member an email (See page 6 for email addresses)!

Director's Corner

So here we are amidst our final weeks of the Easter season, the longest of the liturgical year – and certainly the hardest, strangest one yet for us. The pivot from Stay-at-Home mandates to returning to public worship is ever closer.

How and when do we get back to normal?

With moments of great anticipation and high anxiety, musical ensembles are faced with the prospect of coming together again in the Body of Christ – without coronavirus infection looming over our heads.

Questions abound as we gravitate toward full, active participation. The answers are descending from our God, government officials, from our (arch)bishops, from our pastors.

Along the way, I pose these considerations:

What's a reasonable amount of time for musical organizations to resume rehearsals before rendering service in a public liturgy? Music directors should work closely with their pastoral staffs in determining a reasonable practice period before ensembles return to public ministry. Most members will savor coming back. Some will need coaxing and encouragement from their hiatus.

What degree of medical suitability must pastoral musicians exhibit before returning to their ministry? Maybe sharing individual results of widespread coronavirus testing and tracing within the rules of privacy will settle the matter. And connected to that

is how uninfected immunocompromised pastoral musicians (the gamut of choral and instrumental ensembles) will be accommodated.

How effective will a choir sound and look wearing face masks? I've noticed TV news reporters on location speaking behind face masks – some sounding crystal clear, others muddled. And when you see someone speaking or singing, you're inclined to want to see their full faces.

With or without masks, how comfortable will ensemble members feel sitting or standing close to one another? A few members might refuse to sit next to a person who's been infected or been around those with the virus. And we must deal with a member who refuses to wear or insists on wearing a face mask regardless of the policies and rules.

You are sure to have your own lingering questions and concerns. Know that the Lord's hands will guide us all along the way.

Keep on praying. Call upon our many saints for prayerful intercession. Pray for patience, guidance and comfort, especially among our pastoral musician community.

Eugene Harper
NPM Arlington
Chapter Director



The Faces of Music Ministry

In late 2019, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians sponsored a parish music ministry survey. The survey reached churches and faith communities in every state and Roman Catholic diocese in the United States.

*More than 2,800 responses were gathered from English- and Spanish-speaking musicians, regardless of affiliation with NPM.**

The results represent the broadest view to date of the landscape of parish music ministry – and the evolving needs and challenges of those committed to this rich and demanding vocation.

See the [NPM website](#) for a presentation on the results.



Jesus, Son of God,
you were sent by the Father
to bear our weakness;
be with us in this time of crisis.

Merciful Savior,
heal and comfort the sick,
so that, with health restored,
they may give you praise.

Divine Physician,
accompany our caregivers
so that, serving with patience,
they may heal wisely.

Eternal Wisdom,
guide our leaders
so that, seeking remedies,
they may follow your light.

Christ, the Anointed,
protect us in body and spirit,
so that, freed from harm,
we may be delivered from all affliction.

Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

A prayer from the Office of Divine Worship, Diocese of Arlington. All rights reserved.

**Did you know - Your local chapters are on
Facebook? Find us and like us today!**

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[Washington, DC Chapter](#)
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2020 National Convention

#NPMLouisville



For a complete FAQ, see the [NPM Website](#).

For new pricing for this convention, see [Convention Fees](#).

Thanks to All Who Paid Their Chapter Dues This Year!

*Your membership keeps our chapters alive and helps fund our many events each season! **Invite someone new to join our local chapters!** See our websites (NPMarlington.org or NPMDC.org) for the membership forms. If you have questions, please contact a member of either the DC or Arlington Boards (details on the back page of the newsletter and on the websites).*



ministry
Monday

MINISTRY MONDAY is the podcast for today's parish minister. Weekly episodes provide opportunities for anyone engaged in pastoral ministry to learn, engage, grow, and be renewed.

Content includes interviews with featured guests alongside a treasure-trove of articles, presentations, plenum addresses, workshops, and recordings from NPM publications, conventions, and events. Ministry Monday is a service of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

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Virtual Liturgy



A view at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA taken during the livestream Mass for the Third Sunday of Easter.

During this current pandemic, liturgy, like most parts of our lives, is very different. My parish, like many others, has been live-streaming Sunday Mass in English and Spanish each week. This presents many challenges. We are fortunate that a parishioner is a photojournalist/videographer for a living and has assisted us these months. (Other pastors and musicians have become very familiar with their iPhones!) Our parish church seats 1500 people; on a typical weekend (10 Masses) more than 8,000 people sing, pray, and receive the Eucharist. It was strange for me to play a full organ (so it would be picked up by the various microphones for broadcast) for a congregation of 10! While these virtual liturgies help to keep a connection with parishioners, I long for the days a full church can sing again.

How have you been serving your communities? Your choirs and ensembles? Are you caring for

yourself and your family? Your elderly parents or neighbors?

Share with us your successes, and even your mistakes, as we journey through this time together. Some choirs have "virtual rehearsal" with mixed success; others may not have seen each other since the last public Mass in March. If you provide music for your parish's virtual liturgies, share your setup or experience with it. Take a photo of your video set up or of the empty church during (or before/after) Mass; or even a screen shot of your virtual choir rehearsal. Send your reflection and/or photos to tlewicki@allsaintsva.org for possible inclusion in the newsletter or on our Facebook page. Be well!

Tim Lewicki is the Director of Music and Coordinator of Liturgical Ministry at All Saints Church in Manassas, VA.

**Hats Off!**

The following choirs have provided music for the Sunday TV Mass recently. Mass is celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW-TV (DCW50) each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Check your local cable or satellite provider's listings. Click the image of the Shrine's dome to view recordings of these Masses.

St. John Paul II Seminary Choir, Washington, DC
St. Bartholomew Parish Choir, Bethesda, MD



Regina caeli laetare, alleluia:
 Quia quem merusiti portare, alleluia.
 Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
 Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia:
 For he whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
 Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
 Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

9th century Marian antiphon for Eastertide



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