

Ministry Description

Title: Cantor

Supervisor: Director of Liturgy

Description: The ministry of Cantor is an important facet of a strong parish music ministry. The Cantor leads sung prayer at each mass. The Cantor's main purpose is to animate the assembly, help them feel confident, and enable their participation in the singing of the psalm and other music.

Specific Tasks:

The Cantor sings the Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation & Verse and the Lamb of God litany, leading the people gathered for worship to respond in song. Without a choir or ensemble the Cantor also serves in the role of Songleader for all other music of the mass. Once assigned, each Cantor is responsible to contact their assigned accompanist mid-week and to schedule and attend rehearsals with accompanist / choir as needed. They arrive early, run through any music necessary, and set up the music area with chairs and musical equipment. They make sure the audio system is on and all musical needs are in place. If new music is to be introduced they rehearse with the assembly. They praise God while singing all the proper parts of mass. When worship is finished they put all equipment away.

Skills or Attributes Required:

Parish cantors are expected to be Catholic Christians, registered and active parish members, able to share their faith with others willingly, and available to the parish community as leaders of prayer and music. Musical skill is a pre-requisite in this ministry.

Time Required:

Each Cantor is expected by the parish to prayerfully prepare for their assigned ministry dates and to rehearse musically as much as is needed to be confident and effective in leading the people in prayer.

How much time this takes will vary from one assignment to another, depending on several factors. A general rule of thumb is to expect one 2 hour rehearsal per week plus whatever personal time is needed.

Training:

Cantors are approved at an initial audition. Only those on the parish Cantor list perform this ministry. Monthly group rehearsals for Cantors are provided at which upcoming Psalms and Gospel acclamations are rehearsed and recorded. Additional rehearsals should be scheduled as needed between each Cantor / Accompanist pair, as assigned.

Benefits (How does it fulfill the parish mission):

Music ministry flows from the Eucharist – those with musical skills to share are called out from the Body of Christ to help nourish the Body of Christ. Music has the capacity to either enhance or weaken liturgical worship. Good music nourishes the parish.

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