

Ministry Description

Title: Pastoral Musician (Vocal or Instrumental)

Supervisor: Director of Liturgy

Description:

The role of the Pastoral Musician (whether as Singer or Instrumentalist) is to increase the beauty of our worship and to assist the assembly's participation in the liturgy. The Choir serves as Songleader for the mass, encouraging the people to feel confident and to find their voice. Instrumentalists lend a special quality to liturgical music which helps connect us to God in profound ways.

Specific Tasks:

All musicians arrive early for mass, set up the space, and lead the music detailed on the liturgy planner. If new music is to be introduced the Choir may help rehearse this with the assembly. All musicians praise God throughout the mass. When worship is finished they put all equipment away or make the space ready for the next musical group.

Skills or Attributes Required:

Musical skill is a pre-requisite for the ministry of Pastoral Musician. Ability to read music is a plus (although not a requirement), as is prior experience with other choirs or bands/orchestras. An ability to find joy in music and a willingness to learn new selections are important. An appreciation of liturgical music and a desire to share it to enhance worship is crucial.

Time Required:

At least a 2 hour weekly rehearsal for most Singers and Instrumentalists, depending on which Choir they are a part of, plus early arrival at mass and participation during mass, as assigned. Additional personal time rehearsing may be needed when learning new pieces. During the time period leading up to major feasts (such as Christmas or Easter) extra rehearsals may be required.

Training:

Training for Singers and Instrumentalists is predominantly "on the job" as part of a Choir or Ensemble. The learning curve to become Pastoral Musicians, rather than only secular musicians, is mastered through experience.

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.