**St Dominic Parish, 630 E Street SW, Washington DC, 20024**

**Principal Organist Job Description**

Interested candidates should contact JC Cantrell, Director of Music, Liturgy, and Liturgical Ministries for additional information: Email: [music@stdominicchurch.org](mailto:music@stdominicchurch.org)

**Summary:**

The Principal Organist directly supports the Director of Music / Choir Director and works in a collegial manner with all other Liturgical Ministers.  The Principal Organist will typically serve as primary accompanist/instrumentalist for three designated weekend liturgies as well as scheduled Holy Day, Feast Day and special event liturgies and music ministry rehearsals as scheduled.  The Principal Organist will generally be offered the opportunity to provide support for Weddings and Funerals on an as available basis when organ repertoire is requested and as coordinated by the Director of Music.  Nominally, the anticipated level of effort related to supporting the weekend/weekday liturgies and rehearsals is ten-to-twelve hours per week which includes individual rehearsal/practice time (which is a personal and professional responsibility).

1. For the typical weekend mass, arrival time is scheduled 20-60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the liturgy (or as coordinated with the Director of Music) to support vocal warm-up, cantor and/or choir music review.
2. Generally, the Roosevelt Organ is used for Preludes, and the Gathering Rites, Recessionals and Postlude Music.
   1. The Principal Organist will typically select and prepare appropriate prelude and postlude selections.  With the exception of the Season of Lent, Prelude and Postlude music is a normal musical element of most Liturgies.  If specific prelude or postlude music is needed/requested for the liturgy, the Director of Music will provide as much advance notice as possible.
   2. Mass responses and music used for Preparation of the Gifts and Communion Songs, Psalms, and Canticles are also typically accompanied on the Roosevelt Organ, but when liturgically/musically sensible, the sanctuary piano or Moeller Organ may be used (unless instrumentation is specifically assigned by the Director of Music).
3. The Principal Organist will usually be offered the opportunity to provide support for Weddings and Funerals when organ repertoire is requested and as coordinated by the Director of Music.   Barring a direct request by the involved family (families), the Principal Organist is provided “first acceptance/declination” as accompanist/instrumentalist in support of scheduled weddings and funerals.

The following list of Liturgies is typical for a calendar year as based on parish history and a 50-week work year.  NOTE:  THE NUMBER OF SERVICES IS NOT GUARANTEED.

Financial compensation will be offered based on experience and number of services performed.  Specific compensation information will be shared/negotiated with interviewed candidates.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Event/Tasks** | **Estimated Number of Events on an Annual Basis** |
| Weekend mass   * Saturday, 5:00 p.m.  (warm-up at 4:30 p.m.) * Sunday, 8:00 a.m.  (warm-up at 7:45 a.m.) * Sunday, 10:30 a.m.  (warm-up at 9:45 a.m.) | 150 (based on a 50-week work year with two weeks scheduled off) |
| Weeknight Rehearsals (7:00 p.m.) As scheduled by the Director of Music (usually Wednesday and/or Thursday) | 12-16 |
| Weddings (as scheduled) | 12-18 |
| Funerals (as scheduled) | 8-10 |
| Holy Day (Triduum, Special Event Masses, etc.) and other Liturgies | 16 |
| Weekday noon mass  (Holy Days of Obligation and  Special Feasts as scheduled) | 15 |

Roosevelt Organ information:  <http://www.stdominicchurch.org/roosevelt-organ.html>

**Here is a summary of our goals and the current work (upgrades) we are accomplishing for the Roosevelt Organ**

**In this organ project, we want to:**

* Preserve and maintain the historic nature, namely the sound, of our historic 1885 H. L. Roosevelt Pipe Organ;
* Replace the current console and control system with modern technology and specifications. (The current console and control system currently utilizes 1980’s technology.)
* Identify and fix all known problems with pipes or other mechanical equipment within the organ that have been neglected in the past, fix it and ensure the organs life for another generation.

**NEW CONSOLE and CONTROL SYSTEM**

* A new console is in the process of being designed just for us with a historical nod to the past (visual appeal), but will be built with all the modern specifications/standards as set forth nationally by the American Guild of Organists.
* The console will be custom built locally from White Oak, or similar value species and keyboards will be of premium grade.  The console will  be designed to be easily movable to allow for greater flexibility in use of the loft by parish musicians/choristers and visiting musicians.
* The new Organ Control System will have 100 levels of Memory for the organists’ stop/sound combinations (currently there are only 4) and other modern tools (transposition and recording).

**TONAL CHANGES**

Due to the new control system for the organ, we are going to be able to expand the instrument by about 20 stops/sounds. These will be all wind-blown organ pipes, and will be done primarily by “borrowing” existing stops/sounds and adding pipes from other parts of the organ, allowing them to play on different keyboards allowing a greater palette of sounds to choose from.

* A set of tubular Chimes with striking actions will be added.
* A NEW solo “Tuba” stop will be added to the organ. This stop will be on high wind pressure to allow it to be heard over the rest of the organ.

**MAINTENANCE/RENOVATION/RESTORATION**

* New wind lines (that carry the air from the blower to the respective divisions within the instrument) will be installed (current flexible lines will be converted to “rigid” wood and/or PVC pipe).
* Surface vacuuming, and wiping of surfaces (organ case, façade pipes, top of the organ, blower room, etc.…)
* Cleaning and washing of exposed pipes
* Re-cabling of the entire instrument and wrapping of said wires in protective sheaths.
* A full cleaning and restoration of all 5 reed stops by an industry specialist (clean, repair, apply clear coat of lacquer to needed pipes, etc.)
* There will be “Tonal Regulation” of many of the stops/sounds to ensure authentic and accurate sounding (volume and mix levels)

**TIMELINE** : Project completion is expected in time for mid-year 2020.