



Newsletter

The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and DC chapters
Fostering the art of musical liturgy

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St. Cecilia, pray for us!

Congratulations! Cardinal Wilton Gregory!



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory receives his biretta from Pope Francis as he becomes the first African-American cardinal during the consistory at the Vatican on Nov. 28, 2020.

"We've produced holy, generous, zealous Catholics from our cultural and racial tradition. And I hope they get more attention in many respects than I do because their contribution to the life of the church is already a proven treasure."
-Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory

Article submissions:

Do you have an event coming up in your parish? Do you have an idea to share with other Chapter Members? Please submit all articles and inquiries by the 15th of the month to: Katie Evans at music@ccjgs.org. All submissions subject to review. Thank you.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Year A, 2020 is one for the history books – singing with masks, no choir, live-streaming Masses, digital worship aids, safely-distanced seating – on and on it goes. How is it possible that we have done this for almost an entire liturgical year? Mercifully, we have reached Year B, a new spiritual start, the *yes* of Mary, a re-telling of the salvation story, and the hope that we will make music again in our parish communities.

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror and Advent just ahead, the question “What am I thankful for in 2020?” reared its ugly head. Surprisingly, the answer came quickly and definitively: Music.

In a year when almost everything changed for pastoral musicians, the beauty and meaning music brings to the liturgy became even more clear. My call to be a music minister in the Church was confirmed time and time again as I experienced the deep sadness of having it stripped down to the bare minimum of what was allowable during the pandemic. And more than ever, I appreciate the deep bond and love that is shared among those who minister together in music. Seeing these faces only through zoom or at a distance in the pews helped me to understand how I need these voices in my life week to week. Finally, without a full congregation, I now have a deeper understanding that a cantor and choir are only a chapter of the music ministry story. Singing into what felt like a vacuum for the last seven months made me painfully aware of the necessity of the worshipping assembly to the leaders of song.

“Without a full congregation, I now have a deeper understanding that a cantor and choir are only a chapter of the music ministry story.”

We leave a difficult Year A behind us. As we light the Advent candles and prepare for Christ's return, may we remember what we have learned and bring those lessons with us when we are able to fully sing together again.

- Amy Massey, D.C. Chapter Director





“By naming Archbishop Wilton Gregory as a Cardinal, Pope Francis is sending a powerful message of hope and inclusion to the Church in the United States. As a former president of our national bishops’ conference, Archbishop Gregory displayed generous and principled leadership. The naming of the first African American cardinal from the United States gives us an opportunity to pause and offer thanks for the many gifts African American Catholics have given the Church. Please join me in praying for the continued ministry of Archbishop Gregory.”

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



"Pope Francis has chosen one of our most beloved and successful pastors in appointing Father William D. Byrne as the new bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Massachusetts. Father Byrne will bring the heart of a pastor to his new appointment and enrich that local Church with his talents and energy. We wish him well even as we acknowledge his loss to the Archdiocese of Washington. He will always carry with him our prayers and deep admiration."

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington

"Our Lady of Mercy Parish could not be prouder of their pastor Bishop elect William D. Byrne. While we are saddened by losing a great pastor, we are happy for the Springfield, MA Diocese. They have gained a marvelous shepherd who will do great things in that diocese."

-Jayne Traynor Rose, Our Lady of Mercy Church <https://www.olom.org/>

FALL LITURGY DAY RE-CAP:

“Music, Liturgy, and Sacramental Celebrations during COVID-19”



What happened at your church during lockdown? How have our jobs changed? What has COVID forced us to do, to continue to gather and worship in prayer? These were some of the opening conversations we had with Michael Ruzicki, Training and Events Manager at Liturgy Training Publications, on the morning of November 7th, when Arlington and Washington, D.C. local chapters of NPM gathered on Adobe Connect for Virtual Liturgy Day.

Redefining Who We Are: drawing from Pope Francis, who shares his vision of renewing the parish community in the Joy of the Gospel, then we as liturgists and musicians are helping to create within our parishes: “an environment

for hearing God’s word, growth in Christian life, dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 28). How are we doing? Who are we missing now that we have limited return? Are we reaching them? Many parishes are livestreaming and recording masses, using digital worship aids, having Zoom meetings. Michael Ruzicki contends that how we do this technology matters. Participants shared best practices and frustrations.

If a liturgy is particularly evangelizing, it should awaken, nourish and deepen discipleship.

The Church’s task is evangelization: We need both the celebration of the good news in liturgy AND the sharing of good news in the world. Our people who can’t come to Mass, they still need the word of God. As Michael said, “being a Catholic Christian is more than ‘I go to Mass,’ or ‘I don’t go to Mass.’” We need to find ways to connect with our folks so that they can be strengthened in the world with the good news. What is the role of formation, education, instruction, catechesis from our pastors at this time?

Our presenter gave the interpretation that if a liturgy is particularly evangelizing, it should awaken, nourish and deepen discipleship. This awareness, this identity as a disciple, extends through a liturgy into the midst of the worshipping Body of Christ. Then as we go out into the world, disciples are inspired to speak and act the message that they just heard.

We must prepare for the post COVID time when we can fully reunite with our parish family. In the meantime, there is work to do: preparing ourselves, our staffs, our choirs with ways to improve our community in mission.

“...a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language, and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Author Steven Beavens, who comments on *Ad gentes*, holds that the liturgy accomplishes its mission through the acts of all who fully participate in it: friendly greeters, welcoming assemblies, clarity of proclamation by lectors, beauty and relevance of music, sensitivity of presiding style. Good liturgy not only continues to evangelize regular members, but also welcomes inquiries by visitors.

In referencing the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, we know that “all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation...which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy.” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 14) This way of being should commit us to our work and to the world: it is the work of all God’s people; to be

more conscious, preparing mind and preparing heart, connecting to everyday life. Fully conscious and active participation is not just a goal of the liturgically formed, but transformational if we allow a deeper experience of the Paschal Mystery in our prayer life.

The role of music: a powerful part of fully conscious and active participation! Many parishes have different parameters for music now, for safety reasons. But we know that sharing playlists / singing on Zoom with persons muted / reminding people of why we choose specific songs for the liturgy of the day, helps to connect people to the music they love. Music Ministry is still needed outside of the liturgy! Of course, for streamed masses with music, a worship aid is a must, along with a reminder to download it before Mass. Finally, good music can help get the good news into the hearts of the faithful, who in turn go out into the world. As musicians, we never underestimate this.

In conclusion, Michael returned to *Evangelii Gaudium* 28, and Pope Francis’s dream of a missionary option:

“a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language, and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

Michael called us to be missionaries: to rearrange how we do evangelization, including: to equip ourselves with tools of technology; to do the self preparation by studying the church’s ritual texts for guidance and inspiration; and to consider the parish staff and liturgical team on what we can all be doing now to improve how we interact with our parish community both in and out of mass.

- by Diane Yendrey, NPM DC Secretary

Baptism: new ritual text for infant children during mass, mandatory usage since Easter Sunday 2020. Even if a single Cantor was assigned to each baptism when outside of mass, the sung acclamations are a sign of the vibrancy of the sacramental celebration.

First Holy Communion: Opportunity to stress the catechetical moments - introducing the students to the psalm, for example-- in lieu of often the overemphasis of pageantry.

Funerals and Weddings: From the GIRM 105B: the Commentator role should be brought back, guiding guests unfamiliar with the order of the liturgy is both welcoming and helpful. Or, QR code for a well-crafted worship aid!



[Ministry Monday #131: A Season of Change, A Season of Gratitude](#)

Liturgical composer Kathleen M. Basi discusses the lens of gratitude from which she's experiencing the chaos, division, and change that 2020 has brought to her and her family.

To subscribe, [click here](#).

To learn more, [click here](#).

Lunchtime Concert Series:



Every week, NPM holds Lunchtime Concert Series on YouTube, to showcase concerts, liturgical music and virtual choirs. Here are the latest and greatest in case you missed it! The videos are also archived and can be viewed [here](#).

- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise](#)
- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Songs of Healing & Praise \(with Todd Mesler, Jr.\)](#)
- [A Lunchtime Reflection in Dublin, Ireland](#)
- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Virtual Choir Showcase \(Part 3\)](#)



CHAPTER SOCIAL HOUR

“What is your church doing for Christmas?
Are you having singing and how?
What is the reaction of choir members?”

NPM/DC members gathered virtually again on Tuesday, November 10, for a Social Hour and Discussion about Christmas Plans for choirs and churches.

These online gatherings make it possible for pastoral musicians from throughout our archdiocese to gather. This meeting drew members from southern Maryland, northern Montgomery County, and Washington D.C. Our current discussion was around what parishes are doing for Christmas, how many masses will you have, and what music details are being discussed. For many of us, it was very affirming that we are all

in the same place of uncertainty but that we are working towards some form of Christmas Celebration, with many variations from multiple masses, to outdoor, to virtual advent lessons and carols.

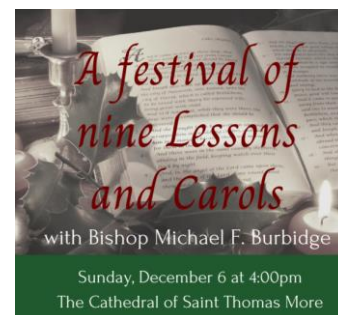
During our meeting, new ideas surface, spirits are raised, and supportive friendships are re-affirmed. We look forward to having another social at 7:00 p.m. on December 15. See details in the Calendar of Events for the zoom link to join! All are welcome! (eggnog optional).

EVENTS CALENDAR:



Wednesday, December 2 at 12:40 pm: Live organ recital with **James Wetzel**, Director of Music and *Organist* of the Parish of **Saint Vincent Ferrer** and Saint Catherine of Siena, New York City, on the completed Lively-Fulcher Great Organ of St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave NW WDC 20036 in a 40 minute concert. Featured works include **Alexandre Guilmant** (1837-1911), Organ Sonata No. 4 in D minor, Op. 61; **J. S. Bach** (1685-1750) Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 546; and Sir **Ernest MacMillan** (1893-1973) Cortège Académique. Masks and social-distancing will be observed. Also to be [live-streamed](#). For more information, visit the Cathedral [website](#). Donations accepted, but not required. Contact: Tom Stehle at tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org

Sunday, December 6 at 4:00pm: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Join Bishop Michael Burbidge for this traditional Advent offering on December 6 at 4:00pm in the Cathedral. Hear God's words and man's songs heralding the coming of our Savior. COVID restrictions for social distancing and mask wearing are in place. Please use the following link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3f1MeZY>, this event will also be live-streamed on the cathedral's social media. <https://www.cathedralstm.org/>



Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.
Social Hour with NPM Pastoral Musician of the Year, Tom Stehle
Notes: Eggnog optional!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78236209418?pwd=SINLdjBIN3dTR0RieDZ1a1kzMWdUQT09>
Meeting ID: 782 3620 9418
Passcode: n0vviB

December, Anytime, anywhere: Take a virtual Tour of St. Matthew's Cathedral: Have you ever been to St. Matthew's? COVID has you homebound? Take a virtual tour of the cathedral, along with an interactive map, 3-D camera, and beautiful singing, right from your home! <https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/tour/index.html>





Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent

(from the NPM weekly reflection of our Sunday Word)

Today’s Gospel reminds us to continue to be alert. After so many months of dealing with the coronavirus, many are feeling “pandemic fatigue” and saying, “How much longer, Lord?” But we must continue to be alert and watchful taking all the necessary precautions to protect our brothers and sisters. This Scripture reminds us that Advent is more about preparing for Christ’s return than about celebrating his birth. May our music help us to remain alert for the coming of the Lord of the house—whenever that may actually be.

Prayer

O Lord of hosts, we give you thanks for the grace bestowed upon us in Christ Jesus, may we be enriched in every way, so that we may not be lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us firm to the end. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Henry Bauer
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes
Spokane, WA*

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Members of the Board

Arlington, Virginia Chapter

Tim Lewicki, Director
tlewicki@allsaintsva.org
703-393-2146

Fr. Donald Rooney, Chaplain
frdonrooney@stbermpar.org

Richard Gibala,
Diocesan Music Coordinator
rickpgibala@gmail.com
703-524-2815

Anne Shingler, Secretary
a.shingler@gs-cc.org
703-360-8029

Bob Malinowski, Treasurer
r1m7680@gmail.com
703-569-4092

E.J. Cochran, Membership
ejcochran@aol.com
703-590-0030

Claire Schweppe, At-large
clmcaruso@gmail.com
703-430-0811, ext. 123

Hannah Masson, At-large
hmasson@pbcconline.com
540-825-8945

Nelson Caballero, At-large
nelson_caballero@yahoo.com
703-346-2131

David Mathers, At-large
dmathers@stbermpar.org
703-451-8576, ext. 112

Eugene Harper, Past Director
gwppapi@gmail.com
703-862-7822

Washington D.C. Chapter

Amy Massey, Director
npm.dc.chapter@gmail.com
301-924-3838

Fr. Agustin Mateo Ayala, Chaplain
fathermateo@strose.com
301-948-7545, ext. 229

Mark Kozeal, Treasurer
markkozeal@gmail.com
202-329-1701

Diane Yendrey, Secretary
dyendrey98@gmail.com
301-349-2213

Remi Bauer, Membership
npmcdmembership@gmail.com
301-926-7263

Mary Beaudoin, Program Coordinator
m.beaudoin3@verizon.net
301-762-2143, ext 124

Jayne T. Rose, Program Coordinator
jayne.rose@aol.com
301-365-1415, ext. 102

Susan DeCamp, Hospitality
Coordinator smdecamp@yahoo.com
240-601-5750

Mary McCullough, So. MD
Representative
mary.mccullough70@gmail.com
301-274-4017