



NEWSLETTER

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Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

NPM Arlington and NPM DC wish you an Advent full of hope and joy, a merry and holy Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

NPM Leader Treads Road to Emmaus

NPM Arlington/DC Annual Liturgy Day

Eugene Harper

In what he termed “our conversation for the morning,” the NPM President and CEO engaged more than 70 attendees at the DC and Arlington chapters’ jointly sponsored annual Liturgy Day Oct. 31.

“I’m happy to be here today to talk about liturgy and evangelization,” Rev. Msgr. Rick Hilgartner told the Washington area throng gathered at St. Agnes parish in Arlington, VA. Then he took the audience on the journey of Jesus’ disciples on the Road to Emmaus after the Resurrection.

“I want to talk a little bit about this transformative power of music. Music has the power to touch our hearts,” Msgr. Hilgartner said, invoking the encounter for the disciples and the Lord as “the model of something that is a transformative experience.”

He said “something more deeply and more profoundly happens to the disciples on the road.” They were grief-stricken and downtrodden, on their way back to their homes after his death, even amidst rumors about his Resurrection.”

“But it’s in this moment that they meet Jesus,” Msgr. Hilgartner noted. “He enters their into lives where

they’re at and doesn’t just say, ‘Hey guys, it’s me,’ but enters into this conversation, this dialogue, where they’re able to share their experience and identify for themselves where they’re at. He begins to break open the word and help them come along to that place where they can begin to understand exactly what’s happened. And then Jesus clearly gives them this gift as he stays with them, breaks bread with them.

“The transformation happens not in an instant, but in the whole experience. The disciples are then reoriented, they’re energized. They return to Jerusalem to begin their work as witnesses, because they go back and tell the other disciples that they’ve encountered the Lord and seen him in the breaking of the bread. So that transformative experience is what guides us in the celebration of the liturgy and particularly in our ministry, I think that music has the power to do this in a really, really powerful way.”

“We talk about Mass as being source of the summit of the Christian life,” Msgr. Hilgartner pointed out. “But Pope Francis tells us something even more: We need the transformational power of the liturgy because it’s not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.

“We know that liturgy is the heartbeat of

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Director's Corner

Welcome to the unofficial month of Mary!

December, last calendar and first full liturgical month of the year, count down to the Nativity of the Lord. And yet, it's also time also to fixate on the Blessed Mother. Mary's 17 feasts and solemnities grace the entire year. But December's five occasions exceed May's two Marian feast days and official "Month of Mary" designation and September's three Marian days.

The Dec. 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary launches our journey. From the most cradled Catholic to the most recent convert, there's still a nugget of misunderstanding that the Immaculate Conception is about the conception of Jesus. As we all know, this feast day is firmly rooted in Mary's own Immaculate Conception, brought to fruition nine months later on Sept. 8 with the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Immaculate Conception became a holyday in 1708. Its place in the U.S. Church was further firmly established in 1846 when 22 U.S. bishops met in Baltimore and decreed "the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, as the Patroness of the United States of America." Mary's special designation was cemented in the 1920s with the building of her patronal church in our backyard, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Next up is the Dec. 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, the Blessed Virgin appeared to peasant farmer Juan Diego several times in the Mexican countryside. Her image on his cloak stands today as an icon to millions of the faithful.

Pope Pius XII decreed Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of All Americas. Dec. 12 is a holyday of obligation in Mexico and is widely celebrated in the U.S. Church.

The *Hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe*, to the familiar tune of *Pescador de Hombres (Lord, When You Came)*, honors the feast day with this refrain: *O Maria, O most*

merciful Mother, Gentle virgin with the name Guadalupe. On a mountain we find roses in winter. All the world has been touched by your love.

Homage to Our Lady fills the Christmas season with the birth of her Son on Dec. 25 and continues Dec. 27 with the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and

Joseph. The pageantry of the crèche, decorated trees and the many melodies wafting through our parishes reflect on Mary's role in the birth and early life of Our Savior with the rich texts of *Virgin Born, We Bow Before Thee* and *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*.

And I claim the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, to round out the month's Marian feast days with its Dec. 31 anticipation of the Octave Day of Christmas, Jan. 1. Accordingly, the music revolves around both Mary's

role as Mother of God and Christmas songs about the baby Jesus.

As we move through titles such as *Immaculate Mary, Virgen de Guadalupe, Mary Had a Baby* and *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*, may we contemplate and engage in the importance of Mary this month and ensure our musical choices reflect upon her role in the life of Christ and the Church.

We bid a fond farewell to former Arlington NPM board member Bill Atwood, who relocated in mid-November to a parish in his home state of Connecticut in the Diocese of Bridgeport. We thank him for his awesome contributions and achievements here. During the few short years that we served in NPM/A together, we witnessed his brilliant musicianship, his doctoral degree attainment and the birth of two children with spouse and talented musician, Julia.

Be Blessed and Be About Mary!

/gene/
Eugene Harper
Arlington Chapter Director



Scenes from the Annual Liturgy Day held on Saturday, October 31, 2015 at Saint Agnes Church in Arlington, VA. Clockwise from top left: Participants at John Romeri's breakout session; Arlington's Chapter of the Year award on display; keynote speaker Msgr. Rick Hilgartner; Participants after Morning Prayer in the parish hall.



12th Annual Gathering of the Musicians of Southern Maryland
Saturday, January 30, 2016

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Ann Duchesne's home on Breton Bay



This year we'll look at parish repertoires, including the role of African American Sacred Music in anticipation of the February workshop.

FEE: None – includes Ann's delicious lunch

REGISTRATION: Call Ann (301-475-6915) by January 25 to give her a head count and to obtain directions.

**Thanks to All Who Paid
 Their Chapter Dues!**

Your membership keeps our chapters alive. Haven't signed-up/renewed yet? It's never too late. Just go to our websites: NPMARlington.org or NPMDC.org. Contact a member of either the DC or Arlington Boards (details in the newsletter and on the websites).

NPM Arlington has a new email address!

You can now email us with questions, events in your parish, job postings, and so forth at arlingtonnmp@gmail.com.

Add our new address to your contacts today!



EMMAUS *continued from page 1*

the life of the Church. Everything we do prepares us for, and leads us to, the liturgy.

In some ways it's the goal of our day, our week, of our Christian life. It's the heavenly banquet, of which the Eucharist is a foretaste, a hint. It's the source of everything we have, of everything we are. It's where we find grace and strength; it's that transformative moment."

The NPM president also connected evangelization to liturgy's transformative power. While noting that the door-to-door view of evangelization is not something that Catholics are comfortable with, he said "liturgy itself is a source of evangelization."

He said liturgy "builds us up, strengthening us, renewing us, and transforming us to send us forth on mission just as the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. The liturgy is basically the road-to-Emmaus encounter for us. There may be moments where we don't feel compelled or empowered or convinced. Liturgy has the power to touch and transform us, to make us ready, to make us effective witnesses so that when we're sent to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord, to go, glorify the Lord by the living of our lives, that we are ready to do that."

Msgr. Hilgartner also recalled an address by Pope Francis at a Rome conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium (the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)* from the 2nd Vatican Council. "He was talking about the power of worship that has to be transformative. We have to enter into a being a living sacrifice in worship that is in spirit and in truth, because if it's not, then all it is is shallow, empty rituals that may be beautiful but are not transformative.

"So beauty can't be this external manifestation of 'Isn't that pretty, or isn't that technically interesting?' But if it doesn't get to the level of the heart and really touch us and inform us and transform us, then there's a piece that's missing. It really has to do with how we participate in the liturgy."

What we sing has the power of communicating something of God, said Msgr. Hilgartner, so "we have to take seriously what we sing during the liturgy."

He spoke about how songs make the connection to God through a series of criteria. On what to sing and how to sing it, he worked his way through official liturgical documents such as *Musicam Sacram* and *Sing to the Lord*, reviewing objective and subjective criteria in judging the appropriateness of music in the liturgy. He discussed text, structure, style, and culture as objective criteria and judging what to sing: Is it musically worthy of the liturgy? Is it pastoral for the occasion for this particular assembly? He covered the ritual dimension of connecting music to the liturgical action as well as the cultural con-

text of how a particular assembly responds to the type of music – not only referring to ethnicity and language, but also delving into the subculture of the local parish's many Masses.

"What works for one assembly in one culture may not work for another assembly in another culture," Msgr. Hilgartner said, whether it's choir, contemporary or even quiet Mass.

He used his own eclectic tastes in describing the musical possibilities: "I want all of it. I want chant, I want early sacred polyphony, I want highly classical, I want the pipe organ. And I want talented contemporary musicians; I need drum kit. I want all of it – not in the same liturgy, I'm not that schizophrenic."

Msgr. Hilgartner ended his presentation by talking about the goals of liturgy and music in the liturgy. "This has to do with taking us back to the road to Emmaus. It has to do with that dialogue, that encounter and the gift. It has to do with receiving something, and it has to do with our being sent on mission – this orientation to mission...this living out...putting the gift to use, and applying it to the living out of our lives. That essentially is the point of the dismissal: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Take the experience here and allow it to transform your life."

It's all about "about leading the assembly into the transformative experience," he said. "The real transformation is moving from 'What's in it for me?' to 'Thy will be done.'

"We don't end [Mass] with 'Thanks for coming, have a nice day, glad you were hear,' the monsignor said, "but it's this orientation for mission – that we leave different, we leave transformed."

Music is a key in that, he concluded. "When it's not done well, it's an obstacle to the transformative experience. But it's not make it, break it: There's also God's role in this. It's not all about what we're doing...We're setting the stage and preparing hearts so that God can enter into them... We're helping lead people to that encounter [on the road to Emmaus] where the Lord enters into their lives."

Eugene Harper is Chapter Director of the Arlington NPM Chapter and Choir Director at Saint Joseph Church in Alexandria, VA.



The more than 70 participants listening to Msgr. Hilgartner's presentation.

HANDBELL WORKSHOP REVIEW



On Saturday, October 24, over 30 people gathered for our Handbell Workshop with Donna Kinsey at Holy Redeemer Church in College Park, MD. The room was filled with tables of bells.

The participants ranged from those who had never rung a bell to those who have been ringing for many, many years and from high school age to more senior members. Donna started by having us move to the beat of *Celebration* by Kool and the Gang as she used different percussion sounds to get us to stop and start and change directions - all in an effort to get us moving since playing handbells properly is about moving the bell in rhythm. She helped us work on a variety of handbell playing techniques by using two pieces of music to demonstrate and practice those techniques. She also showed how to use hand chimes in our music. Everyone who came had a great time. Thank you to those churches who lent us the use of their handbells and chimes and to Holy Redeemer for use of their space.

From one of the participants at the workshop:

Several of the Saint Agnes Bell Choir members (Arlington, VA), along with their director, Tim Lewicki, attended a handbell workshop on October 24th at the Holy Redeemer Church in College Park, Maryland. Donna Kinsey, a nationally renowned clinician, led the ringers from parishes all over Maryland and Virginia. She refreshed the ringers' techniques on bells and chimes. She arranged the ringers in concentric circles which moved in opposite directions to promote following the director's lead and encouraging the ringers to feel and keep the beat with their whole body. Her enthusiasm and energy was inspirational.



Coordinator of Spanish Music Ministries

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling, VA 20164

Phone: 703-430-0811 • www.ctrcc.org

Seeking an individual with a passion for Spanish music ministry who can coordinate and lead music for three Spanish Masses per weekend. The ideal candidate will have experience in a liturgical setting, and be fluent in both Spanish and English. S/he will have received professional training in music ministry, and will have strong skills in keyboard and choir direction. The position is part time, approx. 15 hours/week. If interested, please send a cover letter, resumé, and three references to Fr. Patrick Cogan at patrick.cogan@ctrcc.org.

Part-time Organist

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Fredericksburg, VA

9151 Ely's Ford Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Responsibilities will include providing musical accompaniment for 3 Sunday morning Masses one or two weekends per month. The Church also seeks a Part-time Organist to provide musical accompaniment for the Saturday Vigil Mass one or two weekends per month. The position requires proficiency in playing organ service music and repertoire, knowledge and proficiency in Catholic liturgy and music, and a faith-filled practicing Christian. The instrument is a well-maintained two manual Moller pipe organ. Competitive compensation rate per Mass. Audition will be required.

Please contact Maureen McClure, Director of Music, for more details. Email music@saintpatrickparish.org or call 540-785-5299 (please leave a message). St. Patrick Catholic Church is located in the midst of the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

* Sunday morning Masses are at 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12 noon.

** The anticipated (vigil) Mass is at 6:00 pm each Saturday.

Interested organists may apply to play for all 4 Masses on the scheduled weekend. <http://saintpatrickparish.org/organist>

Annual Shrove Tuesday Luncheon



Tuesday, February 9, 2016
12:00 NOON



Brion's Grille
 10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

*Share a meal and relax with friends, old and new,
 before we plunge into our Lenten preparation for Easter.*

Questions? E-mail us at arlingtonnpm@gmail.com



Newsletter 

Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter. Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month. Please email Claire Caruso at clmcaruso@gmail.com.



2016
CALENDAR of EVENTS

February 9 - Shrove Tuesday Luncheon
 12:00 NOON
Brion's Grille, Fairfax, VA

February 13 - With Hands Lifted Up: a Journey through African American Sacred Music
 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
St. Matthias the Apostle Church, Lanham, MD

April 15 - Easter Celebration with Christopher Walker, 7:30 PM
St. Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington, VA

April 16 - Spirituality for the Pastoral Musician with Christopher Walker
St. Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington, VA

Be sure to visit the Washington, DC and Arlington, VA Chapters' websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings, registration forms, and events:

www.npmdc.org
www.npmarlington.org

WITH HANDS LIFTED UP: A JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICAN AMERICAN SACRED MUSIC



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



SAINT MATTHIAS CHURCH
9475 ANNAPOLIS ROAD, LANHAM, MD

PRESENTER: LYNNÉ GRAY

- + *Explore the history of African American Sacred Music*
- + *Understand that, while its origins are from another time and place, it speaks to all today*
- + *Discover ways to incorporate the genre into our parish repertoires*
- + *Sing, sing, sing*

Lynné Gray, Music Director at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Washington and Faculty Member (Piano Theory & Music History) of Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

With Hands Lifted Up
A Journey Through African American Sacred Music
February 13, 2016

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

PARISH _____

NPM/DC CHAPTER MEMBER? YES NO

**Fee: Chapter members pay \$10; non-Chapter members pay \$15.
The registration deadline is February 8.**

Return this form with your payment to:

NPM/DC, 10406 Barrie Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902
(Please make checks payable to: NPM/DC)

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, December 6, 2015 7:00 PM

Advent Festival Lessons and Carols

Saint Agnes Church

1910 N Randolph Street, Arlington, VA 22207

703-525-1166 • www.saintagnes.org

www.saintagnesmusic.weebly.com

Saint Agnes Music Ministry presents an evening of Scripture lessons and beloved Advent carols, hymns, and motets to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All are welcome. Admission is free. Please bring a canned good to benefit Arlington Food Assistance Center (www.afac.org).

Friday, December 11, 2015 7:00 PM

Christian Music Cafe

Saint Jude Activity Center

10725 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

This monthly ecumenical event is held in the Activity Center at St. Jude, which is centrally located in the Fredericksburg Region. It is an "Open Mic" format. Each person or group can perform up to three Christian-based songs. This spiritually fulfilling gathering has seen many kinds of music performed: Praise & Worship, Contemporary, Gospel, Traditional, Classical Motets, etc. If you sing, but do not play instrument, you can bring a CD with your music on it.

Friday, December 11, 2015 7:30 PM

Advent Lessons and Carols

Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church

1009 Stafford Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22401

540-373-6491

A service of scripture and music celebrating the Advent season, featuring adult and children's choirs of Saint Mary and hymns for all to sing!



Sunday, December 13, 2015 4:30 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

8710 Mount Vernon Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309

Good Shepherd's Music Ministry presents music and reflections in celebration of Advent and anticipation of Christmas. Admission is free.

Sunday, December 13, 2015 7:00 PM

Lessons and Carols

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling, VA 20164

The Adult Choir and Youth Choir at Christ the Redeemer will offer a service of nine lessons and carols; open to the public. All are welcome to come to this musical service in preparation for Christ's coming at Christmas. Contact Music Director Claire Caruso at clmcaruso@gmail.com for more information.



Sunday, December 13, 2015 7:30 PM

Advent Lessons and Carols

Saint Thomas More Cathedral

3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA 22203

After 6 months of renovation, Saint Thomas More Cathedral will reopen on Sunday, December 13. Beginning at 7:30 pm, the annual Service of Lessons and Carols will take place, featuring the Cathedral choir, Youth choir, and handbell choir. The Bishop of Arlington and Cathedral clergy will participate. A reception will follow in the parish hall. All are most welcome to attend.



Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:00 PM

Saint Joseph Church

750 Peachtree St., Herndon, VA 20170

Sarah Hart, an acclaimed Christian songwriter, singer, and retreat leader will give a Lenten recital. All are welcome.



Friday, March 11, 2016 8:00 PM

Advance Always: A Celebration of Frank

Battisti and Garwood Whaley

The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

Parish choirs are invited to join Bishop Ireton and the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in this special music event. For more information contact Brandi Vasquez vasquezb@bishopireton.org or 703-212-5176.

Hats Off!

The following choirs have provided music for the TV Mass for Shut-ins during November. 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.

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux English Choir, Riverdale, MD
- St. Francis de Sales Parish Choir, Purcellville, VA
- St. John the Baptist 10:30 Choir, Silver Spring, MD



Lord our God,
 we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
 he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
 he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
 he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
 let your blessing come upon us
 as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light
 be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
 May he come quickly and not delay.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Blessing of an Advent Wreath; *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

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