

Member Guidelines

The Parish of St. Peter Mixed Choir

PURPOSE

The purpose of the St. Peter's Choir, under the patronage of St. Caecilia of Rome and St. Dunstan of Canterbury, is:

1. To worship God through the Catholic musical tradition.
2. To enhance the beauty of the Divine Liturgy through well-sung music.
3. To facilitate a greater congregational participation in the sacramental Mysteries by using classical hymnody, chant, and polyphony.

MEMBERSHIP

The mixed choir is open to all adults and children who have reached their 12th year and wish to dedicate themselves to singing as an expression of Christian faith and devotion in the worship of the parish church.

MEMBER GUIDELINES

Attendance:

1. Commitment to the choir is a priority. Each member is expected to work other events around planned choral rehearsals and services. Every effort will be taken to ensure that all rehearsals and services are announced at least one month in advance.
2. Attendance is paramount. Choir rehearsals are held in the choir room, and begin promptly on **Wednesday evenings at 6 PM** and **Sunday mornings at 8 AM**. Each member is expected to be in his or her place with music ready, prepared to sing at the start of the rehearsal. Please arrive a few minutes early in order to pick up any new music, organize your folder, or to socialize.
3. If you are unable to attend a planned rehearsal, you must contact the Choirmaster at least 24 hours prior to that rehearsal. It is absolutely unacceptable, unless a legitimate emergency has occurred, to notify the Choirmaster of your absence on the day of the rehearsal or service. If you miss a rehearsal, it is your responsibility to find out what music was rehearsed and when it will be performed.
4. All scheduled rehearsals are mandatory. If you are unable to attend a mandatory rehearsal, you will not be allowed to sing for that service, unless special and explicit permission has been granted by the Choirmaster in advance.
5. Remain for the entire duration of the rehearsal, until dismissed by the director.
6. Excessive tardiness and/or absences will result in re-evaluation of your membership by the Choirmaster.

Music:

1. Each member is expected to have a choir folder in which loose-leaf music will be organized. Have all music ready and in order prior to the start of each rehearsal and service. This must be brought to every rehearsal and service.
2. A copy of the *Traditional Roman Hymnal* and the *St. Gregory's Hymnal* is required for each choir member. These will be provided by the parish, and must be brought to every rehearsal and service.
3. Though not required, a sign of responsible choir membership is private practicing of the assigned liturgical music outside the regular rehearsals. Please make every possible effort to practice between rehearsals.

4. Have sheet music ready and in hand prior to the start of the piece.
5. Always bring a pencil.
6. Current musical law for the universal Roman rite is established in the document *Musica Sacram*, issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in 1967. This is the final authority for Catholic music in either form of the Roman rite. It will be used by the Choirmaster to guide his selection and implementation of liturgical music. The documents *de Musica Sacra* and *Musicae Sacrae Disciplina* of Pope Pius XII will also influence musical selection. If there are concerns or questions over the nature of any music selected, these should be addressed directly to the Choirmaster in a professional and respectful manner.

Behaviour:

1. This is not a show choir. Egotistical attitudes and unwillingness to work as a group are unbecoming of Catholic choristers and will not be tolerated. These behaviours may result in re-evaluation of your membership by the Choirmaster.
2. Remain focused during rehearsals. Talking whilst the Choirmaster is speaking is unacceptable. If you have a question, please address it to the director.
3. Keep composure during rehearsals and services. From time to time, it is inevitable that you may not perform perfectly. When this happens, it is important to ignore the mistake and keep singing.
4. Remain quiet when the director stops.
5. Be attentive when voice parts other than yours are rehearsing. Do not hum or sing your part unless asked to do so.
6. Cell phones during rehearsals and services are unacceptable. Please turn them off.
7. Chewing gum is forbidden.
8. Drinks in closed containers are acceptable. Water is recommended.

Attire:

1. During services, modest attire is required for both men and women. Gentlemen should wear slacks and a collared shirt. Ladies should wear dress slacks, skirts, or dresses. Clothing should not be revealing or overly distracting. JEANS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. Whilst in church, ladies are required to wear an appropriate head covering, out of respect for the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Casual attire is acceptable during Wednesday rehearsals, though the rule of modesty remains.
3. During services, personal effects are to be left in the choir room, your car, or with family members in the congregation. The choir room will be locked for security. Women may not bring purses into the choir loft, as space there is already severely limited. Please only bring your music folder and hymnals to the choir loft.

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- QUI BENE CANTAT BIS ORAT -

"Whosoever singeth well, prayeth twice."