

Choir Guidelines

Singing should always be a joyous activity. The Ministry of Choir is one means by which joy is expressed through singing. The members of the choirs at St. Louis Catholic Church seek to celebrate the liturgy in a manner that promotes participation by all with joy and reverence.

These guidelines have been prepared and implemented after consultation with the directors of each choir and discussion with the pastor.

Through it we hope to accomplish unity and a sense of holiness among members of the choir.

All involved in the ministry of sacred music at St. Louis Catholic Church are expected to abide by these guidelines and help in opening the minds and hearts of the worshipping community, to give glory to God.

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Louis Catholic Church choirs is to enrich, inspire, motivate, and engage the community in hymns and sacred songs in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations.

Vision Statement

St. Louis Catholic Church choirs seek to achieve our mission by:

1. Being rooted in Catholic Spirituality that seeks the overall growth of the members;
2. Being committed to rehearsals;
3. Having discipline and respect for authority;
4. Learning new hymns; and
5. Being knowledgeable of the liturgy and various liturgical seasons of the church

Choir Membership Requirements

To become a member of a choir, one must:

1. Possess a love for music and a desire to sing;
2. Be willing to abide by the rules and regulations of St. Louis Catholic Church;
3. Have a positive attitude and a sense of great expectation;

4. Be over the age of 14

*Young persons under the age of 14 that demonstrate a high level of maturity and musicianship may join at the discretion of the music coordinator

5. Attend rehearsals.

Training

All who are interested in joining a choir must be willing to attend weekly rehearsals, as this is the means for training of members. Worship aids such as missalettes and hymnals will be provided.

Music Coordinator

Responsibilities of the music coordinator to the choirs and their directors:

1. Provide impartial and inspiring leadership to the choirs along with each director,
2. Serve as a liaison between the pastor, choir directors, and other liturgical ministers,
3. Encourage communication and harmony between directors and choirs,
4. Assist the choirs in working collaboratively for holy days of obligation and other special celebrations, and
5. Provide musical resources and instruction as needed.

Director

Responsibilities of the director are to:

1. Provide impartial and inspiring leadership to the choir along with the coordinator,
2. Set the day and time for rehearsal,
3. Assist the choir in preparation and delivery of its music,
4. Build confidence in every choir member and a sense of community among members,
5. Develop the quality of the choir's presentation and sound;
6. Appoint section leaders and soloists,
7. Conduct rehearsals and lead the choir during liturgies.

8. Carry out requests made by the pastor, including attending planning meetings when possible in the spirit of Catholic Church practices.

9. Submit to the Music Coordinator at least a week in advance of the first Sunday of the month the list of selected hymns and/or choral pieces for the following month.

Choir Uniforms

In order to promote harmony and unity among members of the choir, all within a particular choir will dress uniformly, preferably in robes. Acquisition of robes will be jointly decided by the members and director of the choir in consultation with the pastor. If wearing robes is not feasible, the alternatives are to dress in concert black, meaning all black attire, or other appropriate attire as decided by each director and group.

Rehearsals

Rehearsal is the key to success of every choir. Keeping this in mind, members are expected to be punctual for each rehearsal. If a choir member must be absent from rehearsal they should inform the Director in a timely manner. Considering the importance of time and the personal sacrifice each member makes, it is important to limit the rehearsals to a set time. Therefore, rehearsals shall not exceed one hour, unless an exception is suggested and agreed upon beforehand. All rehearsals and warm ups must be concluded no later than fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of mass, so as to preserve a prayerful atmosphere in the sanctuary.