

The Psalmist (from Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship)

34. The psalmist, or “cantor of the psalm,” proclaims the Psalm after the first reading and leads the gathered assembly in singing the refrain. The psalmist may also, when necessary, intone the Gospel Acclamation and verse. Although this ministry is distinct from the role of the cantor, the two ministries are often entrusted to the same person.

35. Persons designated for this ministry of the psalmist should possess “the ability for singing and a facility in correct pronunciation and diction.” As one who proclaims the Word, the psalmist should be able to proclaim the text of the Psalm with clarity, conviction, and sensitivity to the text, the musical setting, and those who are listening.

The Cantor (from Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship)

37. The cantor is both a singer and a leader of congregational song. Especially when no choir is present, the cantor may sing in alternation or dialogue with the assembly. For example, the cantor may sing the invocations of the *Kyrie*, intone the *Gloria*, lead the short acclamations at the end of the Scripture readings, intone and sing the verse of the Gospel Acclamation, sing the invocations of the Universal Prayer, and lead the singing of the *Agnus Dei*. The cantor may also sing the verses of the psalm or song that accompany the Entrance, Preparation of the Gifts, and Communion. Finally the cantor may serve as a psalmist, leading and proclaiming the verse of the Responsorial Psalm.

38. As a leader of congregational song, the cantor should take part in singing with the entire gathered assembly. In order to promote the singing of the liturgical assembly, the cantor’s voice should not be heard above the congregation. As a transitional practice, the voice of the cantor might need to be amplified to stimulate and lead congregational singing when this is still weak. However, as the congregation finds its voice and sings with increasing confidence, the cantor’s voice should correspondingly recede. At times, it may be appropriate to use a modest gesture that invites participation and clearly indicates when the congregation is to begin, but gestures should be used sparingly and only when genuinely needed.

39. Cantors should lead the assembly from a place where they can be seen by all without drawing attention from the liturgical action. When, however, a congregation is singing very familiar responses, acclamations, or songs that do not include verse for the cantor alone, the cantor need not be visible.

40. The cantor exercises his or her ministry from a conveniently located stand, but not from the ambo. The cantor may dress in an alb or choir robe, but always in clean, presentable, and modest clothing.



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JUDE

DEWITT, MICHIGAN

St. Jude Cantors & Psalmists

2018-2019

Office of Music Ministry | Patrick Paddock, Director
517-669-8335 ext. 20 | patrickpaddock@stjudedewitt.com
www.stjudedewitt.com/music-ministry

Greetings!

Welcome to the St. Jude Cantors & Psalmists Ministry! Thank you for choosing to share your vocal talent with our parish and with this ministry specifically. I am so glad that you are here. To serve as a cantor or a psalmist is an amazing opportunity to share your faith through song while engaging the assembly to lift their voices to new heights. We look forward to an exciting year of liturgies! We also look forward to the completion of the parish building expansion because it will include a music suite: director's office, music library and rehearsal room all together. God is good! The following is some guidelines and highlights to bring to your attention.

Musically in Christ,

Patrick

Guidelines & Highlights

The Weekend

- ◆ Arrive 30 minutes before scheduled Mass and be prepared to rehearse the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation verse and other hymns or songs you believe are needed.
- ◆ Review the pre-Mass announcements and be ready to begin announcements with the wave of the presider's hand.
- ◆ The cantor is responsible for announcing the hymns and songs for the Entrance, Preparation of the Gifts, Communion and Sending Forth. (Example: "Our song for the Preparation of the Gifts is number 1-2-3, God is Good, 123)

The Weekdays

- ◆ Practice your music prior to your scheduled Mass.
- ◆ Need additional rehearsal time? Schedule a 30 minute lesson with Patrick.

The Schedule

- The schedule is maintained using Google Drive. You are given access to the schedule and the opportunity to choose what Masses you'd like to serve at on a first come, first serve basis before Patrick starts assigning.
- Order of Services, Psalms and Gospel Acclamation verses are available on the Music Resources page of the Music Ministry section of the parish website. Order of Services are also e-mailed out on an as needed basis.
- ◆ Should an emergency prevent you serving at the Mass you signed up for, please contact Patrick as soon as possible.

The Cantor/Psalmist Workshop (NEW!)

- ◆ Every first Tuesday of the month will be an opportunity to come together and proclaim and pray the Psalms together. A great way to grow musically and spiritually through the Psalms.
- ◆ If you are signed up during a particular month, attendance at the workshop for that month is expected.
- ◆ The workshop schedule is posted on the Music Ministry page of the parish website.