



THE BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

214 EAST 8TH STREET, CHATTANOOGA, TN

DATE: August 5, 2015
TO: Parish Pastoral Council
RE: Update on the Sacred Music Program

Since the new Sacred Music Council was formed this Spring, here is what we have been working on:

- The 9:00 Parish Choir, led by Debi Crabtree, has become adept at chanting the Propers and several settings of the Ordinary as a choir, rather than the cantor alone. They led the singing at the Bishop's Mass after the tragic shooting incident in July. This choir wants to be able to sing choral music in parts regularly, and is urgently looking to add singers in all voice types to support this.
- Besides regular Sunday Masses, the Gloria Dei Schola prepared and sang three Missae Cantata and the Anniversary Mass, with combined choirs. This choir is looking to strengthen the men's section with new singers who can commit to the demanding rehearsal/Mass schedule.
- The Saturday Vigil has been enhanced to include Gregorian chant and sacred instrumental and vocal solos.
- We have made the transition to highlight the Entrance Antiphon as the proper entrance song for all Sunday Masses. The prelude hymn is reserved for special occasions with long processions.
- Beautiful May Crowning liturgy was like last year's, with choir/family participation
- Corpus Christi procession had pre-rehearsed/printed music, led by combined adult and youth choirs
- We hosted a historic 125th anniversary organ concert by Jim Fry
- We are educating the parish about singing the Ordinary of the Mass - via the bulletin, videos on our Joy of Tradition page, in-Mass announcements, and keeping Missa de Angelis cards available in the pews through Easter and the solemnities. We switched back to the Missal Chants in English for Ordinary Time.
- The bulletin now has more information about the Missal page numbers to follow the Creed and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- We have developed web content for the sacred music program and all our choirs. This content is now available on the new Basilica website and includes background information, photos, audio links, song lists, and educational resources. We have received an inquiry via the website about joining the music ministry. A couple came to the Missa Cantata all the way from the Basilica in Atlanta after learning about our youth schola and other offerings on our website.

- A group of Sewanee students recently found out about our Missa Cantata and made a pilgrimage to the Basilica.
- Maria attended the Church Music Association of America's 25th Annual Colloquium this summer. It was a good opportunity to learn, find resources, and make connections with other musicians.
- The Basilica was pre-selected as one of two or three parishes to be featured on an EWTN pilot program: *Extraordinary Faith*, for a special on sacred music and the Colloquium. It will air next summer.
- We are participating with other CMAA-connected parishes in a sacred music workshop in Georgia on August 15. There are about 100 attendees from various southeastern parishes. Fr. Carter will deliver the keynote address. Maria is helping with the workshop, too, and several of our parishioners are going.
- Adult music classes were held by our organist and music teacher, with the help of volunteers from our choir. There is interest in continuing the series in the fall, as well as repeating the class for those who couldn't make the first set.
- A new St. Cecilia Classroom has been prepared in All Saints Academy to host private lessons for piano and other instruments, and other parish music classes. The piano was donated by a parish family, and the labor has been provided by parish staff and volunteers. This is a step in supporting the fine arts, as a basilica is asked to do.
- The sacred music policy for weddings has been updated. Couples will now have a wider range of sacred music options, including the traditional propers and Ordinary for Masses in the ancient and modern form, as well as the flexibility for alternate Ordinary settings and hymns that non-parishioners are familiar with. A song list has been posted online, with lyrics and audio samples. Three couples have enlisted our schola to sing their weddings, as a private arrangement.
- A traditional set of funeral propers has been selected and is now offered as an option for funeral Masses at the Basilica.
- Our Jubilate Deo Youth Schola has had a lighter schedule this summer but is now advertising and recruiting for the new school year, which will start formally on Friday, Sept. 4. We will now have three teachers, and hope to be able to break out into beginner and advanced groups at times.
- A generous benefactor has underwritten our sacred music budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.
- During the Fall, we will start singing more of the dialogues at the principal 11:30 Mass, as called for in *Musicam Sacram*. This will be done very gradually, with just one new addition per month. We will put information in the bulletin to explain this. The choir will lead the responses, so that eventually the congregation knows them well.

Sincerely,

Maria Rist, Sacred Music Coordinator