

Holy Redeemer Choir Guidelines

Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish

These guidelines are simply a listing of expectations for members of the music ministry. We thank you for giving of your time and talent and look forward to praising God through music with you.

The Adult Music Ministry (Junior High and older) provides music for the weekend Masses as well as Holy Days of Obligation, Christmas, The Triduum, Easter Sunday and other events such as Confirmation and First Communion. Though we sing at different Masses, we are one Music Ministry, singing the same hymns. The following are the ways you can participate in the music ministry.

1. During the church choral season, September through June, **music ministers** attend the Thursday General Music Ministry rehearsal. This practice goes over the hymns as well as any simple anthems. This rehearsal is also an opportunity to pull the entire music ministry together in order to take care of any business.

2. The first level of commitment in Music Ministry is to sing at one of the weekend Masses. At Thursday Rehearsals, each week's hymns are rehearsed 7 pm – 7:30pm (Special music Rehearsal 7:30pm – 8:30pm) Each Mass's choir practices 50 minutes prior to Mass, except the 7:30 am Mass.

- ❖ The Saturday 4:30 pm Mass choir practices at 3:40 pm in the St. Cecilia Room.
- ❖ The Sunday 9:30 am Mass choir practices at 8:40 am in the Church Choir Area.
- ❖ The Sunday Noon Mass choir practices at 11:10 am in the Church Choir Area.

- Everyone in the music ministry gets asked to sing for one of the Masses on any given Holy Day of Obligation or at a special Mass like Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.

3. The second level of commitment in the Music Ministry is **Sancti Chorus**.

- ❖ Anyone who sings for one of the weekend Masses is automatically a member of the Sancti Chorus. (Anyone can also choose to sing only at a Mass and not participate in the Sancti Chorus.)
- ❖ This combined choir practices every Thursday from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. including the General Music Ministry rehearsal on the first Thursday of each month.
- ❖ The Sancti Chorus is the primary choir for all the "special liturgical events of the parish". This includes Christmas and Holy Week as well as Confirmation and other opportunities during the church year.

4. Another opportunity to sing is with the **Schola**.

- ❖ The Schola Choir consists of singers that can easily learn more difficult music with minimal practice and sing in a style consistent with that music. They sing once a month at 9:30 am Mass as well as joining the Sancti Chorus for several liturgical events throughout the church year. Due to the difficulty level of music as well as the limited rehearsal time, it is an invite and/or audition choir only.

5. Cantors and psalmists are auditioned as needed.

Expectations of All Music Ministry Members

1. An openness to God in your life. This qualification underscores all others.
2. Willingness to practice and grow musicianship
 - ❖ Singing in a choir most often means singing in parts and for singers new to choral singing that can be difficult. Willingness to learn the parts and follow director's instruction is essential.
 - ❖ Corrections are done privately, though occasionally a correction will occur during practice where it is obvious whom is being corrected. Please do not take these corrections personally, but as opportunities to grow as a musician. No one is perfect, but not everyone sings well, either.
3. Attendance (Reliability & Responsibility)
 - ❖ Everyone is an important part of the choir. "Every voice matters." Your attendance effects the whole choir.
 - ❖ If you must take time away from the music ministry, please communicate this to the choir director as soon as you realize it. There will always be a seat available for your return. But if your leave of absence extends beyond a month with no definite idea of when you will return, please return your music. You will receive a new number and music when you return.
 - You will be kept in prayer while you are gone and always welcomed back.
 - ❖ If you are late, please enter the rehearsal or event with minimal disruption. Person next to you may let you know what piece we are working on.
 - ❖ If you will be late frequently, due to family conflicts, travel to and from your place of employment or other unavoidable reasons, please tell the choir director. This is allowable.
 - ❖ If you are unable to attend, let the music director (Angela or Janvier) know ahead of time. E-mail is preferred – angelay@holyredeemervanc.org
 - ❖ If the accompanist is not present due to last minute emergency, be ready to sing *a cappella* under the direction of cantors.
 - ❖ Keep in mind, the more rehearsals you miss, the more the entire choir misses you, too
4. Flexibility
 - ❖ Ability to "think on your feet" is a helpful skill in choir. Be open to inevitable mistakes or last-minute adjustments.
5. Behavior

Christian attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors are expected from all singers. Failure to follow these guidelines can lead to dismissal from Choir. Expected behaviors include, but are not limited to:

○ Love others	○ Rejoice with those who rejoice
○ Be sincere	○ Weep with those who weep
○ Hate evil/holt what is good	○ Exercise hospitality
○ Anticipate in showing honor	○ Live peace with all

Scandalous Behaviors are not allowed. Behaviors that are considered scandalous include but are not limited to:

- Public Correction or Humiliation
- Using Foul and Discriminatory Language
- Attempt to Manipulate Others
- Gossip, Spreading Rumors through text, verbally, etc...
- Referencing or condoning drug use
- Aggressive behavior, physical or verbal
- Ethnic, Sexual, Racial, Age, Life Status Discrimination
- Discouraging Attendance of Mass at Holy Redeemer or altogether
- Refusal to Follow our Conflict Resolution Procedure

6. Proper Attire

- ❖ Dressing appropriately, in all seasons, is important in contributing to this prayerful atmosphere. “You should be drawing attention to the Word of God and not yourself. You should dress in a simple and respectful manner, which shows that you recognize the dignity of that which you are doing.”

7. Communication

- ❖ E-mail is the preferred means of contact for Music Director

Angela Yang: angelay@holyredeemervanc.org

360 – 885 – 7780 (ext. 19)

Janvier Kwizera-Masabo: kwizeramasabo@gmail.com

- ❖ If you need to schedule a meeting, please e-mail or call the office.

MINISTRY OF HOLY REDEEMER THANKS YOU FOR JOINING US. MAY YOU FIND SINGING WITH US LEADING YOU TO A DEEPER LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. IN RETURN, WE WILL ALL BE BLESSED BY YOU AND THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT THAT YOU SHARE WITH US.

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC PARISH CHOIR AGREEMENT

I, _____ (Name of Individual) have read the Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish Choir Guideline and understand all that is required of me. I solemnly promise to follow rules and praise God's name with a rightful mind.

Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date