Pastoral Musicians are always so busy between Thanksgiving and Christmas that they rarely take time to feed their own souls.........Take some time for yourself this Advent and join us for Advent Vespers. Following our prayer, we will break into two groups that will run concurrently. One group will participate in a choral reading session of tried and true Advent/Christmas anthems led by Mary Lou Bender and Kevin Maurer. There will be anthems for contemporary and traditional choirs. The other group will participate in a “Ring-Along” led by Mary Rita and Jim Rossetti. Mary Rita and Jim will share their vast knowledge of handbells with you.

After 40 minutes, the groups will switch so that everyone has the opportunity to sing and ring! Following the Breakouts, we will conclude the evening with Koinonia.

JANUARY PASTORAL MUSICIANS RETREAT
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 (3:30 PM) - MONDAY, JANUARY 16 (3:30 PM)
2017 NPM PITTSBURGH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Thursday, February 2, 2017:
A Celebration of Candlemas
Location: St. Winifred Church – Mt. Lebanon, PA (Vicariate 2, District 2)
Host: Dianne Falvo
Candlemas Mass at 6:30 PM followed by an Invitational Choir Fest of Music for the Season

Tuesday, February 28, 2017:
Mardi Gras Celebration – A Pittsburgh NPM Fundraiser!
Location: Our Lady of Grace – Scott Township 6:30 PM (Vicariate 2, District 3)
On this Eve of Ash Wednesday, we will pray..... and then party!
Event Coordinators: Ginny Ambrose and Kevin Maurer
Host: Kevin Trichtinger

Monday, April 3, 2017:
A Lenten Taizé Prayer Service including the Passion followed by a Lenten/Easter Choral Reading Session
Location: St. John Fisher Church – Churchill, PA 7:00 PM (Vicariate 2, District 1)
Host: Jon Zellhart

Friday, May 5, 2017:
A GIA 75th Anniversary Celebration
We will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Gregorian Institute of America where it all began at Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside (Vicariate 1, District 4)
Host: Béla Pater
Dinner at 6:30 PM followed by presentation by Dr. Fred Moleck and GIA

The Pittsburgh Chapter of NPM will celebrate Mardi Gras in style on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 beginning at 6:30 pm. The price of admittance for this fundraiser is $25.00 per person. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening with your choir members! All proceeds from the evening will benefit our local chapter.

SAVE THE DATE!

Live Musical Entertainment!
Basket Raffles!
50/50 Raffle!
Delicious Food & Beverage!
Music Rummage Sale!

2016-2017 Vicariate Coordinators and District Liaisons

Vicariate 1 Coordinator
Amanda Bruce
St. Mary of the Mount, Mt. Washington

District 1 Liaison - Neil斯塔Hurski
Assumption, Beaver

District 2 Liaison - Theresa Hammond
St. Cyril of Alexandria, Brighton Heights

District 3 Liaison - Juliana Haag
St. Catherine of Siena, Beechview

District 4 Liaison - Béla Pater
Sacred Heart, Shadyside

Vicariate 2 Coordinator
Dianne Falvo
St. Winifred, Mt. Lebanon

District 1 Liaison - Norm Chapman
St. Maurice, Forest Hills

District 2 Liaison - Dianne Falvo
St. Winifred, Mt. Lebanon

District 3 Liaison - Nicholas Will
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carnegie

District 4 Liaison - Terry Skelley
St. Robert Bellarmine, E. McKeesport

District 5 Liaison - Carol Accetta
St. Thomas A’ Becket, Jefferson Hills

District 6 Liaison - Tom Coyne
St. Maximilian Kolbe, Homestead/St. Agnes, West Mifflin

Vicariate 3 Coordinator
Ginny Ambrose
SS. Peter and Paul, Beaver

District 1 Liaison - Robin Schillo
St. Columbkille, Imperial

District 2 Liaison - Chrystal Shelvey
Good Samaritan, Ambridge

District 3 Liaison - Jane Chmiel
Ave Maria, Bentleyville/St. Joseph, Roscoe

District 4 Liaison - Anthony Milbower
St. Hilary, Washington

District 5 Liaison - Mary Rita Rossetti
St. Frances Cabrini, Center Township

Vicariate 4 Coordinator
Jackie Williams
St. Joseph, Cabot

District 1 Liaison - Brenda Kostial
Christ the King, Bessem/The Apostle, Pulaski

District 2 Liaison - Alyssa Yealy
Mater Dolorosa, Chicora

District 3 Liaison - Susan E. Cadwallader
St. Peter, Butler

District 4 Liaison - Jessica Bucci
St. John Neumann, Franklin Park

District 5 Liaison - Dawn Pawloski
Transfiguration, Russellton

District 6 Liaison - Mary Lou Bender
St. Susanna, Penn Hills
Meet our Vicariate 2 - District Liaisons

Vicariate 2, District 1 - Norm Chapman

Norm Chapman is the Director of Music Ministries at St. Maurice Parish in Forest Hills, a position he has joyfully held since August 2011. There he directs the Adult Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Bell Choirs, Children's Choir and Resurrection Choir. Norm is also the weekday organist for the Sisters of Mercy Convent at Carlow University, and Pianist and Choir Director at Temple David Synagogue in Monroeville. During Norm's 35 year career, he has served as DMM at Word of God Parish in Swissvale, Trinity Lutheran, Avalon, Emanuel's Lutheran, Bellevue and Providence U.P. Church in Brighton Heights. After receiving B.S. degrees in Industrial Management and Managerial Economics from Carnegie Mellon University, Norm held several "real jobs" before abandoning the business word for a life of service to the church - a decision he has never regretted (well, almost never). Norm lives in Forest Hills with his two canine children, Petey and Leo.

Vicariate 2, District 2 - Dianne Falvo

Dianne Falvo got her start in music ministry at age 13, playing for the (6:15 am) daily mass at her home parish, St. Michael, located in the town of St. Michael, 12 miles east of Johnstown. Stipend? $2.00 !!! She pursued her love of music at Duquesne University, graduating with a B.S. in Music Education as an organ major and student of Anne Labounsky. Dianne has been musically involved for many years on many levels in the Diocese and in NPM, serving on the NPM Board in numerous positions. She is presently a member of the Diocesan Schola. Primarily serving in South Hills parishes, Dianne has had the privilege of ministering at St. Germaine and St. Joan of Arc Parishes, as well as St. Regis in South Oakland, and St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and Retreat Center. To this day, she has been the only female Music Director serving the Passionists and the faith community at the Monastery in its 160+ year history! Through the years, Dianne also worked in the musical theater genre with the CLO Gallery of Heroes educational program and at the Center for Theater Arts in Mt. Lebanon. From 2004 to the present, Dianne has served as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Winifred Parish in Mt. Lebanon. In her spare time, she enjoys framing and matting. Dianne and her husband, Greg, are empty nesters and parents of three children, Stephen, Jessica, and Luke, and two perfect grandchildren, Wyatt and Quinn. The Falvos reside in Bethel Park, PA.

Vicariate 2, District 3 - Nicholas Will

Nicholas Will is an Assistant Professor of Music at Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio), Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, Assistant Organist at Heinz Memorial Chapel, and Organist/Instructor at St. Paul Seminary. A graduate of Duquesne University and Peabody Conservatory, Nicholas is a prize-winning organist and is active as a recitalist, accompanist, and conductor, having performed at Notre Dame Cathedral, The American Cathedral (Paris), the Westerkerk (Amsterdam), St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, and National City Christian Church, Washington. His debut recording, "Laudato Si: In the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi," a collaborative effort with soprano Charlene Canty, countertenor Andrey Nemzer, and composer Eli Tamar, was released to critical acclaim in April, 2016. In his spare time he enjoys auto repair and restoration. He and his wife, Kate, and daughters live in Crafton.
Meet our Vicariate 2 - District Liaisons

Vicariate 2, District 4 - Terry Skelley

Terry (Theresa) Skelley holds an NPM Performance Certificate, and has attended many NPM-sponsored workshops/clinics. Most of her education is experiential, having held many positions in music throughout the Diocese since 1976. She is currently the Director of Music Ministries at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, East McKeesport. In addition, she directs the music ministry at Robert Morris University Campus Ministry, and has long-term substitute positions at Mother of Mercy Chapel, Mercy Motherhouse and St. Bonaventure Parish, Glenshaw. She also serves the residents at Marian Manor in Green Tree through her music. Recently widowed, she has three grown children. Personal musical mission statement: "Blessed the steward who can bring from the storehouse both new and old".

Vicariate 2, District 5 - Carol Accetta

Carol Accetta is currently director of music ministries at St. Thomas a Becket Church in Jefferson Hills, and has worked at many churches in the diocese as a music minister. As a teenager she began her career as organist at her parish church playing for benediction and accompanying the men’s choir. As a student at Duquesne University, Carol served on a committee that provided demonstration masses in the diocese to assist parishes with the changes in the liturgy after Vatican II. Carol feels blessed to be married to her husband Carmen for 50 years, raising 7 beautiful daughters, and now has 16 grandchildren.

Vicariate 2, District 6 - Tom Coyne

Thomas Coyne is currently music minister at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Homestead and Saint Agnes Parish in West Mifflin. Tom is a Lay Ecclesial Minister for Music and Outreach/Evangelization. He is actively directing the parish schola cantorum, parish choir, instrumental ensemble and seasonal choir at Saint Max and provides music for the liturgies at Saint Agnes. In addition, he mentors song leaders and coordinates an outreach music ministry. This ministry brings various musicians to the parish to perform a variety of musical forms. This opportunity allows people to attend concerts at the local parish. Tom is currently working with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to raise funds to aid the poor and needy in the Steel Valley Area this Christmas Season. He also organizes fundraising events throughout the year to provide the funding for this particular ministry. Tom works at the Hamilton Presbyterian Church as the contemporary service music coordinator on Thursday evenings, leading their worship and worship team. Tom attended Duquesne University where he studied voice, private piano and music therapy. In addition, Tom studied voice at Lincoln Center, NYC, for two semesters. Tom is an active member on the board of the Pittsburgh Irish Festival and coordinates the liturgy at the yearly festival. He created a local passion play, “The Last Days of Christ”, which has been in existence since 1995. Tom enjoys working with the members of the NPM, fellow musicians and plans to be more active in the coming year.
Thank you to our presenters, Fr. Jim Gretz and Fr. Jim Chepponis for our October Workshop on The New Order of Celebrating Matrimony. Thank you also to our host, Thomas Rishel and his music ministry folks at All Saints Church, Etna, and to our members that donated cookies for a scrumptious “Pittsburgh Cookie Table” reception! We also enjoyed listening to organists, Neil Stahurski and Nick Will, as they showcased some wonderful wedding processions and recessions.

ALMOND BISCOTTI – a Rossetti family favorite! (submitted by Mary Rita Rossetti)

6 eggs
1 cup butter
1 ⅜ cups sugar
2 T. anise seed
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla
6 c. flour
2 cups whole almonds

Cream butter and sugar then add eggs one at a time; add vanilla and anise seed. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Add almonds. Remove from mixer and knead a few turns as you would bread dough. Shape into 6 logs. (I fit 3 on each cookie sheet) Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes, until browned on top. Remove from oven and cut diagonally into slices. Put slices on cookie sheet and toast for 5 minutes. Turn cookies over and toast another 5 minutes.

Optional – I usually melt 1 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips and spread on cooled biscotti.

BISCOTTI DOLCI (submitted by Jennifer Gorske)

2 c. sifted flour
4 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt (opt.)
3 eggs
5 T. granulated sugar
⅔ c. corn oil
1 tsp. vanilla extract (or anise)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sift together the first 3 ingredients. In a large bowl, lightly beat the sugar, oil, eggs and extract. Stir in flour mixture. With floured hands shape dough into 1-inch balls (if hard to handle add a little more flour). Place 1 ½ inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 9 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to cooling rack. Makes about 24 cookies. Cool then frost.

Frosting:

2 c. confectioners’ sugar
2 T. milk
1 tsp. anise or vanilla extract
Dab of food coloring or leave white
Sprinkle for decoration

Stir all in small bowl until smooth. The consistency should be such that will not drip of the cookie. You can adjust the mixture by adding more confectioners’ sugar or more milk. If using sprinkles, make sure the frosting has not hardened.

LEMON BARS (submitted by Kevin Maurer)

2 ¼ c. sifted flour (divided 2 c., ¼ c.)
⅓ c. confectioner’s sugar
1 c. butter or margarine, softened
4 eggs, beaten
2 c. sugar
½ c. lemon juice
2 tsp. grated lemon peel
⅓ tsp. baking powder

• Shari Whitico - was recently appointed as the Director of Music at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Church, Blawnox, PA
• Michael McGrath - was recently appointed as the Music Director/Organist and Emily Wardle was recently appointed as Choir Director/Organist at St. Barbara Church, Bridgeville, PA
• Adam Fehrenbach - was recently appointed as Director of Music at St. Juan Diego, Sharpsburg, PA
• Dennis Johnson - was recently appointed as Music Director/Organist at Our Lady of Lourdes, Burgettstown, PA
• Anthony Milbower - will begin his new position as Director of Music on December 25, 2016 at St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg, PA
• Nick Will - Director of Music Ministries at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carnegie; Vicariate 2, District 3 Liaison; and his wife, on the birth of their daughter, Cecilia Marie
• Jessica Bucci - Director of Music Ministry at St. John Neumann, Franklin Park; Vicariate 4, District 4 Liaison; and her husband, on the birth of their son, Frederico Josef

It was well worth the trip up the many steps to the choir loft on Monday, November 7 for the “Night at the Cathedral – The Beckerath Organ,” at St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. A very informative presentation on the history of the organ was followed by organists Don Broderick, Daniel Kovacic, Kenneth Danchik, Jacob Temple, and Donald Fellows, featuring practical preludes and postludes for the parish organist. A complete list of the selections that were presented can be found on our website – http://www.nmpgh.org. Thank you to Don Fellows and Ken Danchik for hosting this fabulous event!
UPCOMING EVENTS

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016, 4:00 PM – J.S. Bach’s Glorious Magnificat in D presented by the Chorus and Orchestra of Waynesburg University at Sacred Heart Church, 310 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh (Shadyside), PA 15206.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016, 7:00 PM - African Children’s Choir Concert
Saint Kilian Parish proudly hosts the African Children’s Choir on December 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Saint Kilian Church Sanctuary, 7076 Franklin Road Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. This concert will last about 80 minutes and features 19 energetic young singers between 7-11 years old. They will have costumes, instruments and bring much fun to the audience. The African Children’s Choir tours to raise funds to support Music for Life as it faces the challenges that the continent brings, including the devastation wrought by the AIDS pandemic and the suffering of the 12 million orphans. For more information, please contact David Dreher at ddreher@saintkilian.org or visit the African Children’s Choir webpage at https://africanchildrenschoir.com.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016, 7:00 PM - “A Journey to Christmas” a concert presented by Shari Whitico at All Saints Church, 19 Wilson St., Etna, PA 15223. This beautiful evening of Advent & Christmas music, as well as reflections of the season, will help people discover the true meaning of this awesome time of year. Admission is free and all are welcome. Please bring a non-perishable food item to support the All Saints food bank.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016, 7:30 PM - Fifteenth Advent Lessons and Carols presented by the Music Ministries of St. Alphonsus Church and Perry Highway Lutheran Church at St. Alphonsus Church, 201 Church Rd., Wexford, PA 15090 featuring combined Adult choirs, Handbells, instruments and Children’s choir.

• SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016, 7:30 PM – Advent Christmas Concert featuring Children’s choir with piano accompaniment, and solo pieces on cello, flute, violin, classical guitar at St. Thomas More Church, 126 Fort Couch Road, Bethel Park, PA 15241. This concert is a fundraiser that will benefit Hekima Place, an orphanage in Kenya.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, 4:00 PM - “A Journey to Christmas” a concert presented by Shari Whitico at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish (St. Edward Church), 450 Walnut St., Blawnox, PA 15238. This beautiful evening of Advent & Christmas music, as well as reflections of the season, will help people discover the true meaning of this awesome time of year. Admission is free.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, 4:00 PM - Choral Vespers with Benediction for Gaudete Sunday presented by parish festival chorus and guest musicians at Sacred Heart Church, 310 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh (Shadyside), PA 15206.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, 6:00 PM - Holiday Concert 2016 by the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra (PYCO) with the Saints John and Paul Adult and Children’s Choirs, at Saints John and Paul Parish, 2586 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley, PA 15143. The program includes selections from Vaughn Williams’ English Folk Song Suite, Emile Waldteufel’s The Skaters’ Waltz, and classic holiday favorites, ending with a Christmas Carol Sing-Along, and the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel. Admission is free, but donations are deeply appreciated.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, 6:00 PM – A Procession with Lessons and Carols An evening of Scripture, Song, and Prayer that reflects upon the coming of the Messiah, the anticipation of Christ’s second coming, and the welcoming of Jesus to our hearts. Organ prelude begins at 5:45 PM. Wassail bowl reception afterwards. Incarnation of the Lord Church (Observatory Hill), 4071 Franklin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214 (412) 931-2911.

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016, 7:00 PM - Sixth Annual “Festival of Lessons and Carols” presented by the Music Ministry at St. Valentine Church, 2710 Ohio Street, Bethel Park, PA 15102. A Moravian Style Social begins at 7:00 PM followed by the service at 7:30 PM. For more information, please contact Daniel Kovacic, Minister of Music, at dkovacic@stvals.org.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016, 7:30 PM and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016, 2:30 PM - “At Last Noel” - Free Community Christmas Concert presented by the Dreher Chorale at the Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School Auditorium located at 1617 Route 228 in Cranberry Township. This family-centered choral concert is free of charge to all. A free-will offering will be taken at all performances to benefit local charities and food banks. “At Last Noel” is a brand new cantata composed by Randy Vadar, Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall and contains familiar holiday music as well as newly composed pieces. They are all woven together with narration and video to present a unique and beautiful story of the birth of Jesus and all of God’s glory revealed in the face of a Baby. The Chorale is directed by Mr. David Dreher, Director of Music Ministries at Saint Kilian Parish.

• WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016, 7:00 PM - Festival of Lessons and Carols presented by the St. Thomas a Becket choir under the direction of Carol Accetta at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 139 Gill Hall Rd., Clairton (Jefferson Hills), PA 15025.

• FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017, 7:30 PM - A Christmas Festival of Scripture and Song presented by the St. John Capistran Music Ministry under the direction of Kevin Maurer at St. John Capistran Church, 1610 McMillan Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241. The St. John Capistran Traditional Choir, Contemporary Choir, and Children’s Choir will perform carols with scriptural meditations celebrating the Christmas Season. A reception will follow. All are welcome to attend this free event.

• SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017, 4:00 PM - Epiphany Festival of Lessons and Carols presented by Sacred Heart Festival Chorus, along with visiting parishes bringing their choirs at Sacred Heart Church, 310 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh (Shadyside), PA 15206. The Festival will also feature the Brass Roots and international tenor, Marco Fiorante.
POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Organist - Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights, PA
Position: Part-time
Organist needed part-time for Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Natrona Heights, PA. We are seeking a part-time organist/keyboardist for our 11:00 a.m. mass on Sundays and 1 weekly choir rehearsal. Understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy, excellent keyboard skills, and experience in accompanying a choir ensemble is required. Please forward inquiries and/or resumes to dmialki@olmbs.org.

Short Term Substitute Organist – Saint Raphael Parish, Morningside
Position: Part-time
Organist needed to play two Sunday masses (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM) and one choir rehearsal on Thursday evenings from January 1st until after Easter. Contact Chuck Goetz: cgoetz@straphaelpgh.org

AS THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS SURROUNDS US, MAY YOUR SPIRIT BE RENEWED WITH SPECIAL JOY AT THE MIRACLE OF HIS BIRTH.

Merry Christmas from NPM Pittsburgh!