NPM PGH FRIENDS and COLLEAGUES ...

A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND BLESSED 2020 TO ONE AND ALL!

MAY this new year bring forth a time of renewal and re-birth in the life of your parishes, and in your music ministries.

MAY you feel the support and gratitude of those you serve, especially on days you’re feeling more stressed than blessed.

MAY you find time to take time for yourself, to re-charge, to be as gentle and pastoral with yourself as you are with others.

MAY your spirit be strengthened in your ministry every day, energized and inspired by the creative power and grace of the Holy Spirit, reassured by God’s infinite love through Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, ever present, ever near. Amen

PIZZA, PIPES, & PRAYER

A Night for the Organist: Accompanying the Choir

Tuesday January 28, 2020

6:30pm

Our Lady of Grace Church
310 Kane Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO “SPONSOR” A YOUNG ORGANIST!

For more info and to register, please use this link:
NPM Pittsburgh proudly presents its 5th Annual Candlemas Celebration, honoring the ancient feast of the Presentation of the Lord. All are welcome to share in its rich tradition and beauty with a Candlemas Mass, followed by an inspiring choir fest of music for the season.

As Candlemas Day brings the Christmas season to its liturgical close, festive anthems sung by choirs from neighboring parishes will fill St. Margaret Mary Church. An NPM PGH favorite, this celebration promises to be an uplifting time of prayer and music, gathering us together as a pastoral community of musicians and friends, one in spirit, one in voice, one in the Lord. Please join us … and let’s celebrate together!

Sunday • February 2, 2020 | Mass 3:00pm
St. Margaret Mary Church
One Parish Place
Moon Township, PA 15108
Brenden Griffey, Host Director

Congratulations

JOSH BANDISH … Director of Music for the Monroeville/Penn Hills Grouping (St. Bartholomew, St. Bernadette, St. Gerard Majella, St. Michael, North American Martyrs, and St. Susanna.)

DR. THOMAS CONROY … Full-time Organist and Choir Director for the South Side/Mount Washington Parish Grouping. Tom is a musician and composer, re-locating to Pittsburgh from New York City.

MICHELLE SALGADO … Director of Music Ministries at St. Kilian, Cranberry Township.

DAVID DREHER … Consultant at St. Kilian, Cranberry Township for 2020.

Requiescat in Pace

We offer our deepest condolences to Karen Kustra on the passing of her father, TED SQUIRES on December 11, 2019. Karen writes, “He has sung with me in the choir every Sunday since I started playing 49 years ago, and is now singing with the choirs of angels this Christmas! What an honor!” Karen is an NPM Pittsburgh member and Director of Music at St. Agnes Church, North Huntingdon, PA.

We also offer our deepest condolences to the family of LYNN CAROLE PIVARSKI on her recent passing on December 27, 2019. Lynn served as the Organist and Director of Music at St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish for many years, resigning in 2016 for health reasons. May she sing with all the angels and saints!

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Thanks to everyone who took our recent survey on our Youth Ministry Initiative and a possible Handbell Festival in the spring of 2020. We are currently in the process of compiling the results and will soon be in touch with those who have responded. We were very pleased with the number of handbell ensembles who expressed interest in participating in our first Diocesan Handbell Festival. Stay tuned for finalized details!

SATURDAY • MAY 2, 2020
St. Thomas More Church, Bethel Park

More details will be forthcoming.

"SURVEY SAYS ..."
THE FUTURE IS NOW … and the challenges and opportunities for growing youth music ministry are before us in diverse and wonderful ways! In each of the next three newsletters, we will feature an article which highlights both opportunities and challenges that encapsulate those you may be experiencing in your own parish now or in the future. This month’s article, written nearly 15 years ago, still serves as a solid base foundation for any successful Youth Music Ministry program.

OUR young people are hungry, discerning, and in need of acceptance. We must be the leaders who provide the basics for them. While doing this we have to allow enough freedom for them to grow into their roles as the future ministers of liturgy. This is an awesome task to ask of ourselves. It challenges us to break out of our preconceived mold as “keepers of the traditions and history.” We are called to be well grounded in the knowledge of our musical and liturgical past so that we may be able to pass on that rich tradition. But we must be secure in ourselves to allow change and growth for the young.

WHEN working with our youth, music must be chosen that is both musically interesting and yet reflects the scriptural message for the liturgy they sing. Rehearsals become a wonderful opportunity for evangelization and revelation of the Scripture. When children see a connection between the music they are singing and the readings of the liturgy, they tend to sing better, and are more attentive to the word of God. Children are always in need of acceptance and affirmation. They may not verbalize it, but they really do want to be like us! So have them sing the hymns and the Mass parts that you would normally program for liturgy. If they grow up singing children’s music, how can we expect them to “fit in” when they are older?

Our children are our future, so let’s make them part of the “now”! I have spent many years working with young voices, training them to be cantors. If you want to have a viable and renewable music program, don’t forget the seeds that need to be planted now. I have half a dozen young people who work with me every week as junior cantors.

WE have regularly scheduled practice sessions in which they not only learn vocal techniques but presentational techniques and repertoire as well. They sing on a rotating basis every two weeks and are always paired with an adult cantor. The culture of today really allows and encourages this approach. Children today are given many opportunities for music lessons both privately and at school, but they have very little opportunity to enjoy the application of this experience. Why not let them be junior cantors or junior instrumentalists at liturgy?

THE challenges are:

☛ Plan seasonally and implement weekly.
☛ Be flexible with rehearsals and approach them like a soccer coach (have drills, instruction, musical games, and rewards).
☛ Be patient with a child’s attention span and approach to learning; have courage to try new music and new ideas.

The best advice is to make sure that communication with parents is very clear and very timely. They sing on a rotating basis every two weeks and are always paired with an adult cantor. The culture of today really allows and encourages this approach. Children today are given many opportunities for music lessons both privately and at school, but they have very little opportunity to enjoy the application of this experience. Why not let them be junior cantors or junior instrumentalists at liturgy?

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

FESTIVAL OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG
- ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN & ST. THOMAS MORE MINISTRY OF MUSIC
  FRIDAY · JANUARY 3, 2020 | 7:30pm
  St. John Capistran Church · 1610 McMillan Road · Pittsburgh, PA 15241
  A FREE WILL offering will be received.

AMBROSE-ROMANO SINGERS of PITTSBURGH
- SOLEMN SECOND EVENING PRAYER of the EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS
  SUNDAY · JANUARY 5, 2020 | 4:00pm
  Sacred Heart Church · 310 Shady Avenue · Pittsburgh, PA 15206
  Gregorian chant of the Solemnity, along with music of Thomas Tomkins, Richard Hillert, Luca Marenzio, and J. Michael Thompson. A FREE WILL offering will be received.

CHRISTMAS ON KANE: A RECITAL OF CHRISTMAS ORGAN MUSIC
- SUNDAY · JANUARY 5, 2020 | 4:00pm
  Our Lady of Grace Church · 310 Kane Blvd · Pittsburgh, PA 15243

CHORAL CONCERT
- VOICES OF SPIRIT · Duquesne University Choral Ensemble | Dr. Caron Daley, Director
  SUNDAY · JANUARY 12, 2020 | 3:00pm
  St. John Fisher Church · 33 Lewin Lane · Pittsburgh, PA 15235
  In addition to the choir, several soloists will be performing, as well as Jon Zellhart and Matt Pienkowski, performing a trumpet duet in anticipation of their upcoming spring recital. A FREE WILL offering will be taken during the program to help raise funds for the Voices of Spirit and their upcoming tour.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MARDI GRAS 2020 DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER EVENT
DATE: MONDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2020
TIME: 6:30pm
PLACE: St. Maximilian Kolbe Church · Homestead, PA

2020 NPM Convention
Hey NPMers! Why not get an early jump on making this year the year to attend the NPM National Convention in Louisville, KY! Could this be your first NPM Convention?
Or are you a long time NPM Convention attendee? Either way, it’s exciting to think of what great experiences lie ahead at this year’s national event. Please stay tuned for more Convention info and for specific NPM PGH Chapter information coming in future newsletters.
UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
Choral Kaleidescope

SATURDAY | JANUARY 11, 2020
8:30am — 4:30pm

▪ DR. DAVID FREGO  ·  Guest Clinician
▪ DR. GREG MARCHETTI  ·  Physical Therapist
▪ DR. CARON DALEY, DMA

$70 on-site  |  Act 48 credits available

Registration is now OPEN:
https://form.jotform.com/72895573769176<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?u=https%3a%2f%2fform.jotform.com%2f72895573769176&c=E,1ntEVLW8HuM1mMrpl4dfThhF8I_bxEcaBfBEC- IVaAI-Lh7mq74Nr_j5jiSJtYUpq-wfAcp7I87812KIAB10H5Bo4wMReFQbbSF-

Event details are here: www.duq.edu/choralkaleidoscope>

DMMD 2020 COLLOQUIUM
Creating Song from the Silence: Making Impactful Music in Liturgy

SAVE THE DATE
February 10 – 12, 2020
Washington, DC

Clinician: Peter Latona, DMA

Registration is open to ALL. Discounted rates available to NPM/DMMD members and NPM members who are not part of DMMD.

2020 Pittsburgh Pueres Cantores Choral Festival and Mass

SATURDAY | MARCH 21, 2020
12 Noon — 5:00pm  Rehearsal
6:00pm  Mass

St. Paul Cathedral
108 N. Dithridge St.
Pittsburgh, PA  15213

▪ BISHOP DAVID A. ZUBIK  ·  Celebrant
▪ FR. KRIS D. STUBNA  ·  Concelebrant
▪ DR. STEVEN SEIGART  ·  Conductor

PUERES CANTORES, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites all parish and school treble and mixed choirs in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and neighboring dioceses, to participate in a Festival and Mass for singers in grades 4-12.

QUESTIONS? Contact AFPC at 714.633.7554 or visit pcchoirs.org.

I wish you the light that comes from loving concern given and received:
I wish you the light that comes from the presence of Christ.
If you walk with him, accepting his bread and his word, how can the night lay hold of you?
I wish you the light that comes with the joy of sharing.
If our humanity is exalted, the night loses its grip on the world!

I wish you the light that comes with renewed dialogue, for when those grown apart talk to each other, the day chases away the night!
Friends, if, one way or another, humbly, lovingly, prayerfully, with perseverance, some fragments of light flow from your words and actions, what a year of light this world will know!

— “Light in the New Year”, Elinor Gates
LITURGY PLANNING — Helpful Links

Liturgy planning can be tedious and monotonous if you’re just recycling the same music every 3 years in the liturgical cycle. For inspirational ideas for hymns, psalms, and choral anthems you might want to try some of these online resources:

1. GIA — https://www.giamusic.com/store/sacred-music/music-by-day
3. OCP — https://www.ocp.org/en-us/liturgy-planning
4. NPM — https://npm.org (members only portal gives access to planning)
5. Living Liturgy — https://litpress.org/Products/4422/Living-Liturgy-for-Music-Ministers

These online resources can be tailored to search for music using the hymnals that you already use. So if you have multiple worship sites that use various hymnals, you can easily identify the hymns that are common to all sites. Next month: Resources for Creating Worship Aids.

If you are, or have been a national NPM member, be sure your membership is up to date. It’s a two-way street. If you haven’t viewed the new and improved national website, check it out here.

MINISTRY MONDAY PODCAST ministrymonday.org

This NPM podcast page needs to be on your “to-do” list for 2020; it is a true “ministry companion”, offering a diversity of topics sure to benefit everyone. Amanda Bruce is the host of MM Podcast, so … be sure to check it out!

If you could see the journey whole you might never undertake it; might never dare the first step, that propels you from the place you have known toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road; that we see it only by stages as it opens before us, as it comes into our keeping step by single step. There is nothing for it but to go and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes; to be faithful to the next step; to rely on more than the map: to heed the signposts of intuition and dream; to follow the star that only you will recognize; to keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path; to press on beyond distractions, beyond fatigue, beyond what would tempt you from the way. There are vows that only you will know; the secret promises for your particular path and the new ones you will need to make when the road is revealed by turns you could not have foreseen.

Keep them, break them, make them again: each promise becomes part of the path; each choice creates the road that will take you to the place where at last you will kneel to offer the gift most needed: the gift that only you can give — before turning to go home by another way.

“For Those Who Have Far to Travel: An Epiphany Blessing” Circle of Grace, Jan Richardson janrichardson.com

THE HYMN SOCIETY
https://www.thehymnsociety.org

www.npm.org

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PRAY TELL
Worship, Wit & Wisdom
praytellblog.com

Sing Amen!
https://singamen.giamusic.com

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