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# Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



VOL. 12 NO. 6

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

## ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY LUNCH

*Can't get to Mardi-Gras this year ???!*

**Come join us for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Lunch**

*... hosted by the Arlington Chapter*

**Tuesday, February 5 — 12:00 noon**

**SQUIRE ROCKWELL RESTAURANT**

8700 Little River Turnpike in Annandale, VA

(a little over a mile outside the beltway)

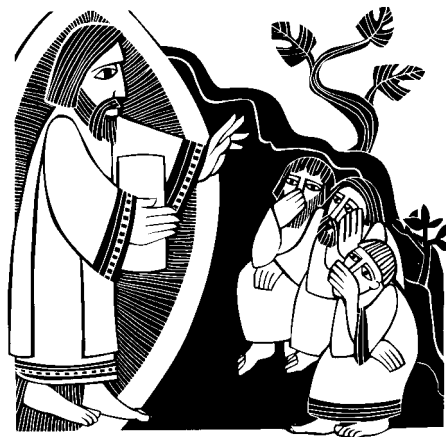
Hot buffet, salad bar and a beverage: \$14. Salad bar and beverage: \$12.

The food is very enjoyable (excellent salad bar) and we have our own room, so we can relax with old and new friends before we plunge into our Lenten preparation for Easter. All are welcome!

Directions at <http://www.squirerockwells.com/directions.htm>

## Retreat for Pastoral Musicians

LENT: A SONG OF OUR TRANSFORMATION



Saturday, February 9

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

*Manor House*

Our Lady of Mattaponi Conference Center  
Upper Marlboro, MD.

More information & sign-up sheet enclosed.

**Mission Statement:** *The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) fosters the art of musical liturgy. The members of NPM serve the Catholic Church in the United States as musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer.*

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER *from Virginia* *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*



Picking up on Mary Beaudoin's comments in this spot last month, there is indeed much to look at in the U.S. bishops' new document on sacred music, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. The new document applies 35 years of pastoral experience and developments in theology and ritual studies to the U. S. bishops' 1972 document *Music in Catholic Worship*. The result is remarkable in many ways; let me name three.

First, Part I, entitled "Why We Sing," offers a rich, even moving, statement on the need for singing the liturgy and for active participation in general. Full of biblical and patristic references, as well as quotes from the documents of Vatican II, it sets participation by the people of God in the incarnational and paschal context of Chapter I of the *Constitution on the Liturgy*.

Second, *Sing to the Lord* makes clear that the "cultural context" of a given occasion be considered in planning appropriate music and musical texts. Moreover, the document envisions a continuing effort on the

part of composers and authors to create sacred music that will meet the ever changing cultural, spiritual and ritual needs of today's Church.

Third, the "three judgments" from *Music in Catholic Worship* are re-stated, but in the order liturgical-pastoral-musical, emphasizing, respectively, ritual appropriateness; suitability for the traditions, age, culture, language and education of the actual liturgical assembly involved; and the need for technical, aesthetic and expressive judgments to be made by people with musical competence.

*Sing to the Lord* can be accessed online at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>

Careful reading and study of this thoughtful and balanced document will provide liturgical musicians and pastors excellent guidance as we continue to grow the incarnational, paschal vision of the Church gifted to us by Vatican II.

*David Mathers*  
NPM/Arlington Chapter Director

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **Friday, February 1 - 8 p.m.**

#### Music for Organ and Strings

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community  
1427 West Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA  
Details: 703-998-6100

The Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra, Henry Sgrecci, conductor; Ann Carney - organist; and The Bells of Blessed Sacrament. Goodwill offering taken at the door.

### **Tuesday, February 5 - 7:30 p.m.**

#### Songs & Images of the Virgin

Recital Hall, Montgomery College in Rockville  
This program is a repeat from December 8.

Dr. Claudia Rousseau, art historian and the Cathedral Schola Cantorum will present a lecture performance exploring images of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Renaissance painting and choral music.

Details: 202-347-3215

### **Sunday, March 2 - 7:30 p.m.**

#### Gregorian Vespers

St. Matthew's Cathedral, Washington, DC  
Please join the Schola Cantorum of St. Matthew's for Laetare Sunday. The liturgy will be sung entirely in Latin, in the simple beauty of Gregorian chant and the sumptuous harmonies of Spanish Renaissance composer Tomas Luis de Victoria. Complete texts and translations will be provided. A voluntary collection will be taken.

### **Friday, May 16 - 7:30 p.m.**

#### Rise Up And Sing

St. Francis de Sales Music Ministry  
(Purcellville, VA)

The evening will feature the Schubert "Mass in G" in a concert of music performed a combined choir of singers from local parishes. The concert will be directed by noted composer Christopher Walker. Admission is free! Goodwill offering at the door. Please call Cindy Cummins (540-338-6381) for more information.

## CANTOR WORKSHOP RECAP

Forty cantors from DC, Maryland, and Virginia turned out on Saturday morning, January 12, at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew for NPM/DC's annual cantor workshop. Bill Culverhouse and Jennifer Goltz, co-directors of music at the cathedral, led the eager learners through a series of warm-ups, exercises, and techniques to improve their cantoring skills. Bill and Jennifer covered the usual topics (posture, breathing, eye contact, gestures, and use of the microphone), but they did so from the starting point of animating congregational singing. (This is where we need to start because the cantor's job is to foster and encourage the full, conscious, and active sung participation of the assembly.)

A good deal of time was spent on gesture; the coordination and timing of cantorial gesture is rather complicated and very important. Participants learned how to synchronize the preparatory gesture with the breath, using the "dead" gesture leading into the "live" gesture to prepare the assembly for a confident entrance. Bill described and Jennifer demonstrated the preparation for entrances in simple and compound meters, and for

post-tactual entrances. Participants then had the opportunity to try out what they had learned and receive a little individual coaching.

More than twenty cantors gathered for the second segment of the cantor workshop on Sunday. Jennifer and Bill covered more musical issues including textual analysis, syllabification, and syllable stress, as well as techniques for unmetred psalmody. They discussed teamwork between cantor and accompanist, how to work together in rehearsal to decide about introductions, tempi, repeats, and endings. They even tackled the tough questions of who leads and who follows, as well as challenging acoustics and "challenging" colleagues.

If you or members of your cantor cadre missed these great workshops, do not fret. Bill and Jennifer plan to offer workshops again next year! Thank you to Jennifer, Bill, and Paul Hardy (cathedral organist), as well as the staff of our beautiful cathedral for making this event possible.

### ADVENT IDEAS

Another response to our questions about Advent.

1. Our parish has responded well to the "Gathering Rite" and sung "Intercession Responses" from the By Heart collection of Tony Alonza & Gabe Huck (published by GIA in 2004). We also use it for Lent.
2. We focused on the darkness to light concept with a hanging behind the altar that starts out a deep Sarum blue. Each week a lighter section is added as an overlay, ending with almost white around the tabernacle.
3. There was no parish-wide Advent activity this year, but we did have a third annual Christmas Sing-Along on December 26.

It's not too late to tell us about your Advent season. (Aren't we musicians always thinking ahead?)  
Send us your ideas!

### REMINDERS

1. When planning your summer, don't forget the Regional NPM Conventions ...  
**June 30-July 3 - East Brunswick, NJ**  
**July 8-11 - Cleveland, OH**  
**August 5-8 - Los Angeles, CA**  
 Details will be coming on the NPM website: [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org). (Special rates for national members of NPM; additional discounts for chapter groups.)
2. Some folks choose to receive this newsletter via e-mail (and it is on-line at the NPM/DC website). If you would rather not receive a hard copy in the mail (saving paper and postage), simply let us know (301-384-5796 or [mcdorrian@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdorrian@yahoo.com)), and we'll comply with your wishes.
3. Need to Update Your E-mail Address? Please send the change to Jeannette Oliver - [jlo@umd.edu](mailto:jlo@umd.edu).
4. Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month. Send items to [beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org](mailto:beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org)

**POSITION AVAILABLE** — Organist & Music Director, St. Ann Church in Arlington, VA 8:00 and 9:30 a. m. Masses on Sundays. Position available immediately. Please call Fr. Donald C. Greenhalgh, Pastor, at 703-528-6276 for more information.

# LENTEN RETREAT FOR PASTORAL MUSICIANS

## Saturday, February 9

Every pastoral musician needs a retreat, a chance to get away and reflect on our important ministry. Over the past seven years, the NPM/DC Lenten Retreat has consistently been a source of renewal for pastoral musicians and clergy. Make time for this important event. You won't be disappointed.

We are delighted to have Sister Sheila Browne, R.S.M. as our retreat leader this year. The title of the retreat day is: **Lent: a Song of Our Transformation.**

The day will include:

- \* Morning Prayer
- \* A session on the three great transformation gospels of cycle A - water, life and light.
- \* Lunch
- \* A session on the great prayer of transformation: *the Eucharistic Prayer*
- \* Closing Prayer

There will be music and song woven throughout each section.

This Lenten retreat will be held on **Saturday, February 9 from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** at the *Manor House of Our Lady of Mattaponi Conference Center* in Upper Marlboro, MD. The retreat fee, which includes breakfast and lunch, is \$30 for non-members of the local chapter and \$25 for members. For more information, contact MaryLu Hartsell (301-330-7565 or mlh827@comcast.net)

(Directions: Take Interstate 495 into Prince George's County. Take Pennsylvania Avenue/Route 4 (Exit 11) east. After 3 traffic lights and a long stretch with no lights, take Route 301 south. Cross a railroad track; stay in the left lane. After Chew Road, take next road – left on Croom Station Road. At "T" go left on Croom Road (Route 382). Stay on Croom Road passing a small store on the left. Bear left on St. Thomas Church Road. Bear left past a cemetery and a small church. Turn right on Mattaponi Road. Retreat Center is 1/8 mile in on the left.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25.00 for members of NPM-DC / \$30.00 for non-members

Return this form with your payment (checks payable to NPM/DC)  
 NPM/DC  
 14727 Wexhall Terrace  
 Burtonsville, MD 20866

**Registration form and fee are due by February 2nd**

# AN EXCITING TWO-PART APRIL EVENT "Y'ALL COME!"

## Part I

NPM wants to include all Catholic parish musicians in our association, our circle of friends.

This spring-time program is a "Y'all Come" event co-sponsored with the Arlington Chapter.

**ORGAN RECITAL** *by Dr. Charles Callahan*  
**Friday, April 11 – 8 p.m.**  
**St. Thomas More Cathedral**  
**3901 Cathedral Lane**  
**Arlington, Virginia**



Charles Callahan is one of America's leading organist-composers. A native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, he is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Catholic University of America. Well-known as an improvisateur, he made his debut in this realm at the International Eucharistic Congress in 1976.

Orchestras, choirs, chamber music ensembles and soloists all over the world have performed compositions by Dr. Callahan. He has been commissioned to compose music twice by Harvard University. In recognition of his service to the Church and his commissioned compositions for Papal visits to the United States, he was awarded in 1999 the Papal Honor of Knighthood in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

In addition to compositions and performances, Charles Callahan is a noted educator and author; his two books on American organ building have become standard reference works.

*There is no charge for the concert.*



## Part II

**TWO LITURGICAL MUSIC WORKSHOPS**  
**Saturday, April 12 – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**  
**- For organists - leader - Dr. Callahan**  
**\* For all liturgical singers ...**  
**Cantors, Choir members, Contemporary Ensemble Members**  
*(Leader is being confirmed as we go to press.)*  
 Fee: \$10 for NPM members; \$15 for non-members.

*Watch for further details in the March newsletter.*

Arlington Washington D.C.  
Newsletter 

NPM/DC

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