

Newsletter

# DC / Arlington

Fostering the Art of Musical Liturgy

November - December 2025



Behold,  
I make all  
things NEW  
NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
REVIVAL



[npmdc.org](http://npmdc.org)

[npmarlington.org](http://npmarlington.org)





# IN THIS ISSUE

“Bless the Lord, my soul, all my being, bless his holy name!”

Director’s Corner	3
Calendar of Events	4
NPM Arlington/DC Annual Mass & Dinner Recap	9
NPM DC/Arlington Announcements	15

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The DC and Arlington Chapters opened the season with dual annual Mass and Dinner evenings for our Chapters. Please see the pictures and articles about our regional pastoral musicians on page 9-10. This is always a great occasion for coming together in fellowship and collegiality. This past September, I was able to attend the Society of Catholic Liturgy and present a paper on the Music Director as Catechist. This is a wonderful way to reflect on your own music ministry at your parish, as an integral component of evangelization and formation within the entire community. At this event, a lunch session presented an update from the Secretariat of Divine Worship for the USCCB on upcoming translations and publications for the church. You can find my notes from this talk [here](#).



**Katie Evans**

*D.C. Chapter Director*

We are nearing the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope, and the month of November is dedicated to the musician. It is not too late to join the pilgrimage mass Saturday November 15 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington DC to commemorate the month of musicians in the Year of Hope. Our guest clinician, Dr. Peter Kadeli, Head of Sacred Music and Choral Activities at The Catholic University of America will lead a joint choral festival choir composed of DC and Arlington pastoral musicians, and registration is already at 50 participants! [Registration](#) will be open for a few more days, and includes all music for digital download, breakfast and lunch. Further details, visit: [npmdc.org/events](http://npmdc.org/events). Questions, please contact [WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org). For the publicity folder, click [here](#).

The joint DC and Arlington Chapters are also preparing for the 2026 Convention to be held locally at The Catholic University of America, July 19-24, 2026. The Convention Committee is already working in committees, and have also partnered with the Baltimore Chapter for additional support. The 50th Anniversary entitled, "Forever We Will Sing," will surely be the highlight of the year for our region, and we hope to have full participation from our members that week. If you would like to volunteer for the convention and receive reduced registration based on your hours, please contact Amy Massey at [music@mothersetonparish.org](mailto:music@mothersetonparish.org). For additional questions about the conference, please contact myself or Tim Lewicki, who are co-chairing the convention.

God Bless you and your ministry this season, and I look forward to singing with you on Saturday November 15 for our Jubilee Choral Festival!

Katie Evans

Co-chair, 2026 NPM Convention

[WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org)

Tim Lewicki

Co-chair, 2026 NPM Convention

[ArlingtonVA@npm.org](mailto:ArlingtonVA@npm.org)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2025 - 2026 SEASON

- November 15<sup>th</sup>, NPM DC/Arlington Choral Festival, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, D.C. (page 8).
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, Liturgy Day, All Saints Church, Manassas, VA
- February 17<sup>th</sup>, Shrove Tuesday Luncheon, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Centreville, VA.
- July 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> National Convention, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Forever We Will Sing:  
Celebrating 50 Years of 

The National Association of  
Pastoral Musicians  
48<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
July 19-24, 2026  
Catholic University of America  
Washington, District of Columbia



**Registration Deadline November 7!!**

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

# JUBILEE CHORAL FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

**REHEARSALS FROM 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM**

**VIGIL MASS AT 5:30 PM**

**Guest Conductor, Peter Kadeli**

Head of Sacred Music and Director of Choral Activities  
at The Catholic University of America

---

Registration Link: [npmdc.org/events](https://npmdc.org/events)

NPM Members: \$20      Non-members: \$30

Rehearsals and lunch are included in the registration fee.

The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. just off the intersection of Connecticut Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, and M Street Northwest. It is near the Farragut North and Dupont Circle Metrorail stations. The Cathedral does not have a parking lot. Limited street parking is available and several parking garages are located next to and across the street from the Cathedral.

Questions? Contact: [WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org) or [Arlington@npm.org](mailto:Arlington@npm.org)

Co-sponsored by the Arlington and DC Chapters of NPM







# **SANKOFA**

## **A MUSICAL HARVEST**



## **SANKOFA: A Musical Harvest**

Meyer Chambers, tenor and member of the NPM Board of Directors, will be singing a Third Wednesday recital at St. Luke's in McLean on Wednesday, November 19 at 12 noon. He will be joined by his former student, Michael Cedrone, who is Music Director at St. Luke's. The program is entitled SANKOFA: A Musical Harvest.

Chambers and Cedrone will also perform at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA on Sunday November 16 at 3pm.

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana that translates to "It's not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."

In uncertain times, it's important to remember that we can always look backwards for inspiration on how to move forward in hope. We hope you will join us to share in our journey.



**Meyer Chambers** is a retired campus minister for the Boston College Liturgical Arts Group (LAG) and former chair of the Fine Arts Department at St. Sebastian's Country Day School in Needham, MA. He has also served as Director of the Office for Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston, leading its renowned choir, and as Music Director at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Boston. A lifelong learner and inspiration, Meyer earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Secondary Education from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master of Liturgical Music from the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. Married to his beloved wife, Beth, and the proud father of Severin and Zach, Meyer has made it his life's work to uplift others—turning strangers into friends and friends into family through the joy of music.



**Michael J. Cedrone** serves as the Music Director at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean, VA, where he leads the parish's liturgical music program. A gifted organist and teacher, he shares his passion for music and ministry with grace, excellence, and joy. In addition to his work at St. Luke, Michael is a Professor of Law, Legal Practice at Georgetown University, where he helps students develop clarity, purpose, and voice in their vocation.

# ~ Music at Saint Bernadette's ~

2025 - 26

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

*The Road to Ferrara: Choral masterpieces from the Italian Renaissance*

The DC Singer Collective

**Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

*Celestial Voices: Music from Italy's Early Modern Convents*  
Musica Spira

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11am**

*Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, featuring Faure's Requiem in D Minor.*

The St. Bernadette Schola and Youth Choir

**Friday, November TBD, 6:30-8pm**

*Ludens coram eo omnie tempore: An evening of music and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament*

The Grotto Ensemble

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

*Christmas with the Camerata*  
Washington Men's Camerata

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm**

*Advent-Christmas Hymnsing: a sing-along evening of carols and wassail*

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 9pm**

*Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve featuring Charpentier's Messe de minuit pour Noël with instrumental consort*

The St. Bernadette Schola

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am**

*Solemn Mass of Christmas Day with organ, brass, and choir*  
The St. Bernadette Schola and Youth Choir

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

*In the Bleak Midwinter: Music of Epiphanytide*  
Ars Gratia Populi

**February, TBD, 6:30-8pm**

*Ludens coram eo omnie tempore: An evening of music and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament*  
The Grotto Ensemble

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

*Choral Stations of the Cross and Simple Lenten Supper*

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm**

*Solemn Mass of Holy Thursday, featuring music by Langlais, Duruflé, Victoria, Tallis, and Cardoso*  
The St. Bernadette Schola

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3pm**

*Solemn Commemoration of the Death of Our Lord, featuring Victoria's Populi mei*  
The St. Bernadette Schola

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 8pm**

*The Great Vigil of Easter, featuring music of Palestrina, Martini, Magalhães, and d'India*

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am**

*Solemn Mass of Easter Day with organ, brass, and choir, featuring Dirksen's Christ Our Passover*

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

*Music for solo voice and organ featuring Dvorak's Biblical Songs*  
Madeline Manaker and Sean Burns

**Sunday, May TBD, 3pm**

*An afternoon of music for organ and brass*

[Click here](#) to receive updates on music at St. Bernadette's!



# NPM ARLINGTON MASS/DINNER SERVED UP WELL DONE

By Gene Harper

Music and liturgy intersected brilliantly and beautifully at the Sept. 19 Arlington NPM annual Mass and dinner at St. Bernadette parish, Springfield, Va. David Mathers, the parish's Director of Sacred Music and Arlington Board Chapter Membership Director, led the Mass choir, complete with him rendering both an organ prelude and postlude. Arlington Diocesan Music Director Fr. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, O.P., celebrated the Eucharist for the occasion.

The Dominican friar, also Director of Music for Arlington's Cathedral of St. Thomas More, surprised the assembly with a Votive Mass in honor of music patroness St. Cecilia on the Church's assigned Sept. 19 Memorial for St. Januarius, bishop and martyr. "I suggested it to David, and it sounded good to him," he explained, illustrating effective liturgy and music coordination. "Both Januarius and Cecilia were like the men and women who accompanied Jesus," he pointed out in his homily, "and they held fast to him and refused to worship the Roman gods." Fr. Bagan found special meaning for pastoral musicians from the short three verses that comprised the Mass's St. Luke Gospel. There, Jesus' followers sensed he offered them a connection to God and salvation "in a way that no one else could," Fr Bagan said. They wanted to be with him, to listen to his saving words. "We not only listen to the words Jesus speaks to us, we also clothe them in beauty," Fr. Bagan preached to the assembly. "We join that with the musical gifts God has given us to make the beauty of the word manifest in sound. This is a great gift that can keep us close to Jesus." But he warned gatherers about the added work needed to overcome distractions that can keep the faithful from getting close to the words of Jesus. "As musicians, we are the Marthas of the liturgy," he said. "We have to be busy about many liturgical



elements while the Marys in the pews can simply sit at the feet of Jesus." He encouraged congregants to "make sure we build into our lives sufficient Mary time – sufficient time to be with Jesus and simply to listen to his word." Fr. Bagan petitioned pastoral musicians to ask St. Cecilia "to pray for us...that our work as musicians will help us to relish the beauty of the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, to relish the beauty of the Word who is our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we will cling closely to him, who alone can save us."



Chapter Director Tim Lewicki said 41 paid registrants came to the dinner following Mass. Attendees included Dr. Rick Gibala, retired predecessor of Fr. Bagan and founding

Arlington NPM Chapter Director; Tom Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director of Music, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Archdiocese of Washington; and Tom Schafer, retired St. Bernadette parish Director of Music. Others included Dr. Elaine Rendler, professor of music at George Mason University and head of music ministry, St. Agnes parish, Shepherdstown, West Va.; and Dianne Yendry, NPM DC Chapter Board secretary and Director of Music and Liturgy, St. Mary's Catholic Church & Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Barnesville, Md. First-time attendees included Janet Munford, Director of Music, Holy Family parish, Dale City, Va., and Jeffrey Corry, Director of the Gospel Choir, St. Joseph parish, Alexandria, Va.

But this year's attendees who traveled the farthest distance were Kevin and Ann Margaret Ward, visiting from Santa Clara, Calif. Their daughter, Nerissa Ward, is a pastoral musician at two Arlington Diocese parishes (Good Shepherd near Mount Vernon, Va., and Old Town Alexandria's St. Joseph). She also sings in the Arlington Diocesan Choir, directed by Fr. Bagan. She said her family's home parish is St. Clare Assisi in Santa Clara, and that her hometown is "down the street from Levi's Stadium, home of the 49ers" pro-football team.



Dinner was provided and served by caterer Ben Robles and staff, and Rick Gibala brought his signature homemade desserts.

Gene Harper is past director of Arlington NPM.



# D.C. Annual Mass & Dinner

By Alberto M. Cortez

This year's NPM DC Annual Mass & Dinner was marked by the presence of both long-standing members and several new participants. The evening was characterized by meaningful dialogue, a spirit of fraternity, and a fine Italian dinner provided by Gregorio's Trattoria.

The Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Joseph Murphy, Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Washington. Father Murphy delivered a homily of notable depth and insight [[read here](#)], inviting reflection on our shared mission within the Church. The liturgy was further elevated by the exceptional musical contributions of the Our Lady of Mercy Choir, directed by Jayne Rose Traynor, Director of Music at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, Maryland.

Following the liturgy, Katie Evans, D.C. Chapter Director, provided updates from the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the USCCB. Tony Varas, member of the D.C. Chapter Board, offered a detailed account of his recent participation, alongside Father Murphy, at the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions conference in Baltimore.

This annual gathering continues to serve as an important occasion for spiritual enrichment, professional exchange, and the strengthening of our chapter's communal bonds.





# Join the 2026 Pueri Cantores Mid-Atlantic Catholic Youth Choral Festival & Mass

---

March 7, 2026 | Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,  
Washington, D.C.

The American Federation of Pueri Cantores (AFPC) invites Catholic school, parish, and homeschool treble and mixed voice choirs (grades 4–12) to take part in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Catholic Youth Choral Festival. Since 1953, AFPC has inspired young people to encounter Christ through the beauty and power of sacred music.

This enriching one-day Festival brings together more than 400 young singers from across the Mid-Atlantic region to form one magnificent combined choir. Under the direction of nationally recognized Catholic conductor Christopher Berry, choristers will spend the day rehearsing sacred repertoire, growing musically, and connecting with their faithful-peers as they prepare for the Choral Festival & Vigil Mass, which will be celebrated by Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory. Singing in the awe-inspiring Basilica of the National Shrine offers choristers a meaningful opportunity to glorify God through music and serve the Church in a profound way.

Participation in Pueri Cantores strengthens a young person's Catholic identity, fosters spiritual growth, builds community, and offers formative musical and liturgical experiences that last a lifetime. Choir directors will receive repertoire and preparation materials in advance to help students arrive confident and ready to sing.

Join us for this inspiring celebration of faith, music, and community.

Learn more and register your choir at: [2026 Mid-Atlantic Youth Choral Festival | American Federation Pueri Cantores](#)

# 2026 MID-ATLANTIC PUERI CANTORES

## YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS

*for Mixed Voice & Treble Choirs (grades 4-12)*



Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 10:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception

400 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Celebrant  
Christopher Berry, Guest Conductor



8 Professional Development Credits are available for school conductors & MP3 rehearsal tracks of the Festival repertoire will be available for participating choirs.



# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Pueri Cantores, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites all parish and school treble and mixed voice choirs (grades 4-12) in the region to participate in a Choral Festival & Mass. Singers will unite with hundreds of their peers as one combined choir to sing beautiful music from the Church's rich historical repertoire.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Pueri Cantores and how best to prepare your choir for the Festival day. [Check out these FAQs](#) about the Festival, including attire, how to access music and MP3 rehearsal tracks, and much more.



## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

10:30 .....	Registration
11:00 .....	Choir Warm-up
11:15 .....	Choir Placement
11:30 .....	First Rehearsal
12:30 .....	Lunch
<i>Individual choirs rehearse for Choral Prelude at this time.</i>	
1:15 .....	Second Rehearsal
2:15 .....	Break /Snacks
2:30 .....	Final Rehearsal
3:30 .....	Break – put on robes if needed
3:45 .....	Choral Prelude begins
4:30 .....	Festival Mass begins

*Friends and family members are cordially invited to attend the Festival Mass.*

## MEET THE CONDUCTOR

CHRISTOPHER BERRY is Assistant Professor of Sacred Music at the Catholic Institute of Sacred Music (CISM) and Organist and Director of Sacred Music at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, CA. He is also Director of CISM's newly-founded Chorister Program for young singers in grades 3+. Professor Berry was previously the Director of Sacred Music and Organist at St. Stanislaus Oratory in Milwaukee, WI, where he built a renowned music program, including a burgeoning chorister program for young singers. He has also served as Music Director at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City and Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal) in Dallas, TX.





# Supporting Chapter of



ONE NPM

[www.npm.org/donate](http://www.npm.org/donate)

NPM's ONE NPM campaign is underway for 2025! Our annual appeal asks for the support of NPM's members and friends of the association so we can continue to live our mission: fostering the art of musical liturgy in the Catholic Church in the United States today.

NPM has been - and continues to be - a leader in the field of pastoral music formation today: from local and national training events, to live educational webinars, to networking opportunities, NPM is a critical asset in a pastoral musician's toolbox to foster musical skill, prayer, and liturgical knowledge in Catholic parishes today.

Will you consider a financial contribution to further our goals? Every donation helps to ensure NPM's future in the months and years to come. Give today at [npm.org/donate](http://npm.org/donate). Thank you for your generosity!



## Video of the Month

*A Membership Benefit for All NPM Members*

Presentation by Rita Thiron, Executive Director of FDLC, which was offered as an NPM webinar in October 2023. The webinar, "The Liturgical Books: A Guide to the Sources," explores the treasury of our liturgical books and the rich pastoral options they contain.

We hope you enjoy this educational webinar as another membership benefit!

([VIDEO](#))

# What's Going on At Your Parish

Do you have an event coming up at your parish? Would you like to share something about your ministry or formation experience? We welcome your contributions to our bi-monthly newsletter. To be included, please submit your content by the 21st of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be sent to Katie Evans at [WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org). In addition to the newsletter, your content may be shared on our social media and communications channels right away—no need to wait for the next issue!

## Membership Alert

The Local Chapters only receive membership dues through the National Office. When you renew or join you **MUST** elect which local Chapter, or the local Chapters will not receive the funding. This makes programming events and workshops hard for our local area, so **PLEASE PLEASE** designate your local Chapter when renewing Membership at [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org). If you are unsure, please contact Keisna Sosa at [membership@npm.org](mailto:membership@npm.org) and she will help you!



Renew or Become a Member? Use QR Code!

## IMPORTANT! Your Chapter relies HEAVILY on your Renewals!

---

### NPM DC Hospitality Coordinator Open Position

Plans and oversees refreshments and hospitality for Chapter meetings and events, drawing on the assistance of other Chapter members and members of host venue as appropriate. Current board member serving in this position is willing to help in transition to the new Coordinator, and to continue to advise and assist as needed. If interested please reach out to [WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org).



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ARLINGTON, VA CHAPTER

Tim Lewicki, Director, [tlewicki@allsaintsva.org](mailto:tlewicki@allsaintsva.org) 571-516-3141

Fr. Donald Rooney, Chaplain, [frdonrooney@stbernpar.org](mailto:frdonrooney@stbernpar.org)

Anne Shingler, Secretary, [anne.shingler@verizon.net](mailto:anne.shingler@verizon.net) 703-360-8029

Bob Malinowski, Treasurer, [rlm7680@gmail.com](mailto:rlm7680@gmail.com) 703-615-3285

David Mathers, Membership, [dmathers@stbernpar.org](mailto:dmathers@stbernpar.org) 703-451-8576, ext. 112

Hannah Masson, Prayer Coordinator, [hmasson@pbcconline.com](mailto:hmasson@pbcconline.com) 540-825-8945

Eugene Harper, Past Director, [music\\_director@stjosephva.org](mailto:music_director@stjosephva.org) 703-862-7822

Lorena Sernett, At-Large, [lsernett@sjcherndon.org](mailto:lsernett@sjcherndon.org)

Rosemarie Spollen, Social Media, [r.spollen@gs-cc.org](mailto:r.spollen@gs-cc.org)

## WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER

Katie Evans, Director [WashingtonDC@npm.org](mailto:WashingtonDC@npm.org)

Mark Kozeal, Treasurer, [markkozeal@gmail.com](mailto:markkozeal@gmail.com) 202-329-1701

John Henderson, Membership, [johnchenderson@gmail.com](mailto:johnchenderson@gmail.com)

Diane Yendrey, Secretary, [dyendrey98@gmail.com](mailto:dyendrey98@gmail.com) 301-349-2213

Amy Massey, Social Media, [music@mothersetonparish.org](mailto:music@mothersetonparish.org) 301-924-3838, ext. 215

Lorraine Kuchmy, Webmaster, [Lmk23@his.com](mailto:Lmk23@his.com)

Anthony Varas, Program Coordinator, [tvaras@trinity.org](mailto:tvaras@trinity.org)

Alberto Cortez, Newsletter Editor, [corteza@cua.edu](mailto:corteza@cua.edu)

Mary McCullough, So. MD Representative, [mary.mccullough70@gmail.com](mailto:mary.mccullough70@gmail.com)

Remi Bauer, Program Coordinator, [rbauer@strore.com](mailto:rbauer@strore.com)



*npmdc.org*  
*npmarlington.org*