

Newsletter

DC / Arlington

Fostering the Art of Musical Liturgy

March - April 2026



npmdc.org

nparlington.org



IN THIS ISSUE

Director's Corner _____	3
Calendar of Events _____	4
Announcements _____	5
Southern MD Luncheon Recap _____	9
Soul Stirring Music on A Cold Day _____	10
Member Spotlight _____	11
NPM DC / Arlington Chapter Announcements _____	14

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear DC and Arlington Members,

As of January 2026 I have been elected to the National Board of Directors for the NPM. I am very honored to serve on the board in this capacity, and I thank you dearly, for your support and votes for this position. As with most offices, I will need to step aside as DC Chapter Director so that I can focus on the Board as well as co-Chairing the Convention for this summer. I am pleased to announce that Tony Varas, Director at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, will serve as interim Chapter Director for the DC Chapter. I am extremely grateful to Tony for stepping into this role, and look forward to working with him on this transition. As with both local chapters, we need new members on our local boards to maintain programming, members, funding and promotions. Please consider becoming a Board Member, and inquiring about board seats needed in each Chapter by emailing one of us. Tony will be monitoring the Chapter email for DC as well.

The joint DC and Arlington Chapters are in full swing for the [2026 Convention](#) to be held locally at The Catholic University of America, July 19-24, 2026. The Core Convention Committee leadership is listed below.

Liturgy	Tim Lewicki
Equipment & Facilities	Katie Evans
Registration & Hospitality	Bob Malinowski
Publicity & Promotions	Rosemarie Spollen
Volunteers	Amy Massey
Pre & Post Special Events	John Henderson
Art & Environment	David Matthers

Tim and I are so grateful for their support and initiative as we host close to 700 musicians from around the country locally here in DC! There will be many opportunities for volunteering, including the Choir needed for the Final Eucharist on Thursday July 23. Tim Lewicki is our Liturgy Coordinator, and more info will be coming out soon about the local choir for this very special Basilica Mass. **If you would like to volunteer for the convention and receive reduced registration based on your hours, please sign up [here](#)! This form is for inquiries only and does not sign you up for specific jobs. We will work around your schedule so you can still attend the convention in many ways!**

God Bless you and your ministry this Lenten season, and I hope to see you all in person at the convention this Summer as we celebrate the 250 years of our nation within the nation's capital! Here is an excerpt with more details from our letter in the National Brochure:

This year's convention highlights the fifty years of NPM and provides many exciting, unique opportunities, including a DC monuments tour by night, the National Catholic Handbell Festival, a Cantor Institute, an organ crawl, and many more. There are even two post-convention opportunities: a retreat at the beautiful St. Anselm Abbey, and a DC daytime tour, should you wish to see the sights at the end of your convention week. We will also honor multiple pastoral ministers throughout the week for their decades long service to the Church. The convention also includes an "NPM Greats" panel discussion featuring founding NPM members and leadership from our fifty-year history. And since it's our 50th anniversary, we might have a few more surprises up our sleeve!

Katie Evans
Co-chair, 2026 NPM Convention
WashingtonDC@npm.org

Tim Lewicki
Co-chair, 2026 NPM Convention
ArlingtonVA@npm.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026 - 2027 SEASON

- July 19-24th, 48th National Convention, Washington, D.C.
- Arlington Annual Mass & Dinner TBA
- DC Annual Mass & Dinner TBA

More events to come!

Forever We Will Sing:
Celebrating 50 Years of 

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Ignatius Catholic Church *Port Tobacco, MD*

St. Ignatius Catholic Church is looking for a part time Music Director who can provide keyboard/organ accompaniment for Sunday liturgies and who can lead a small, all-volunteer choir. One Mass/week (9:30am on Sundays); holy days, including Christmas and Triduum and Easter Sunday; and occasional weddings, funerals, and non-Eucharistic celebrations.

St. Ignatius is a small, historic (founded in 1662), Jesuit-sponsored parish in rural southern Maryland, about 45-50 minutes south of DC. They encourage a variety of liturgical music, and place a priority on lively congregational singing. Salary is negotiable.

Interested persons can contact Fr. Mark Horak SJ at: 301-934-8245 or pastor@chapelpoint.org

Free Octavos

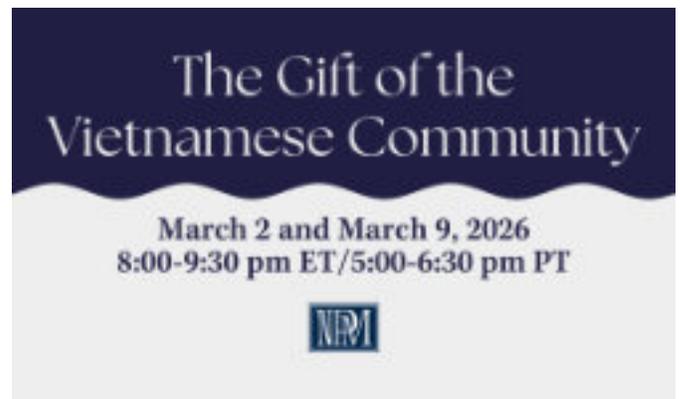
We are cleaning house in our space limited office at Precious Blood and are offering many octavos sets (between 20-30 copies) for free. Please contact Hannah Masson at hmasson@pbcconline.com for a listing of octavos. We can either send them to you or arrange to meet.

St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill

Sunday, March 8 at 4pm

Richard Spotts, organist with Sara MacKimmie, soprano and Kat Whitesides, violin. Richard Spotts is a classical organist from Doylestown, PA, and holds degrees in music and religious studies from Westminster Choir College. His deep curiosity about the intersection of mysticism, music, and liturgy led him to Charles Tournemire's L'Orgue Mystique. L'Orgue Mystique is one of the most ambitious sacred music projects ever composed: Fifty-one suites, one for nearly every Sunday of the liturgical year, rooted in Gregorian chant and meant to sanctify time through sound.

Rich will be joined by soprano Sara MacKimmie from the Basilica of the National Shrine who will intone the chants before Tournemire's settings, specifically selected for the Lenten season. St. Joseph's parishioner and professional violinist Kat Whitesides will also join for a few of Tournemire's solo works, including "Pater Noster" and "La Salutation Angelique".



Since 1975, when the first wave of post-war refugees fled to the United States, Vietnamese Catholics have grown into a vibrant ethnic community. What can non-Vietnamese liturgists and musicians learn from this Southeast Asian immigrant group? This two-part webinar will offer a general introduction to Vietnamese Catholicism, inculturation, chanting tradition, and repertoire; followed by a second presentation directed toward non-Vietnamese choir directors on Vietnamese pronunciation, singing and intercultural choral rehearsals.

[Register Here](#)

Holy Trinity Choir – Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ

Sunday, March 22 | 3:00 PM, Holy Trinity Church (1315 36th Street, NW)

The music ministry of Holy Trinity presents Theodore Dubois's composition The Seven Last Words of Christ – a sacred cantata for solo voices, chorus, organ and orchestra – on Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 3pm. Composed in 1867, Dubois used traditional text from the Roman Catholic Holy Week liturgies to add meditations on the scripture account of the seven last words of Christ on the cross. The work is a preparation to enter into the observance of Holy Week, ending with the chorale Adoramus Te, Christe — “Christ we adore you, and praise you forever, for on the holy cross you have redeemed the world” — a foreshadowing of the hope of the coming resurrection.

Admission is free, although sponsorships are welcomed and a free will offering will be collected at the concert. All donations will be used to benefit the Holy Trinity music ministry and the ongoing costs of our concert series.



**FOREVER
WE WILL SING**

**The NPM Convention is coming to
Washington, DC!**

Where: The Catholic University of America

620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20064

When: July 19-24, 2026

Pre-convention events will begin on July 19,
with the full convention scheduled to begin on July 20.



[Full Convention Brochure](#)



[Convention Registration Page](#)



[Commute or take advantage of the housing options for the convention.](#)

Join us for the 50th anniversary of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians in 2026! This year's theme, "Forever We Will Sing," takes its inspiration from Psalm 89. NPM's work to foster the art of musical liturgy has shaped Catholic worship since the Second Vatican Council – and our work is not done yet.

NPM 48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested?

Sign up using QR code or [HERE!](#)

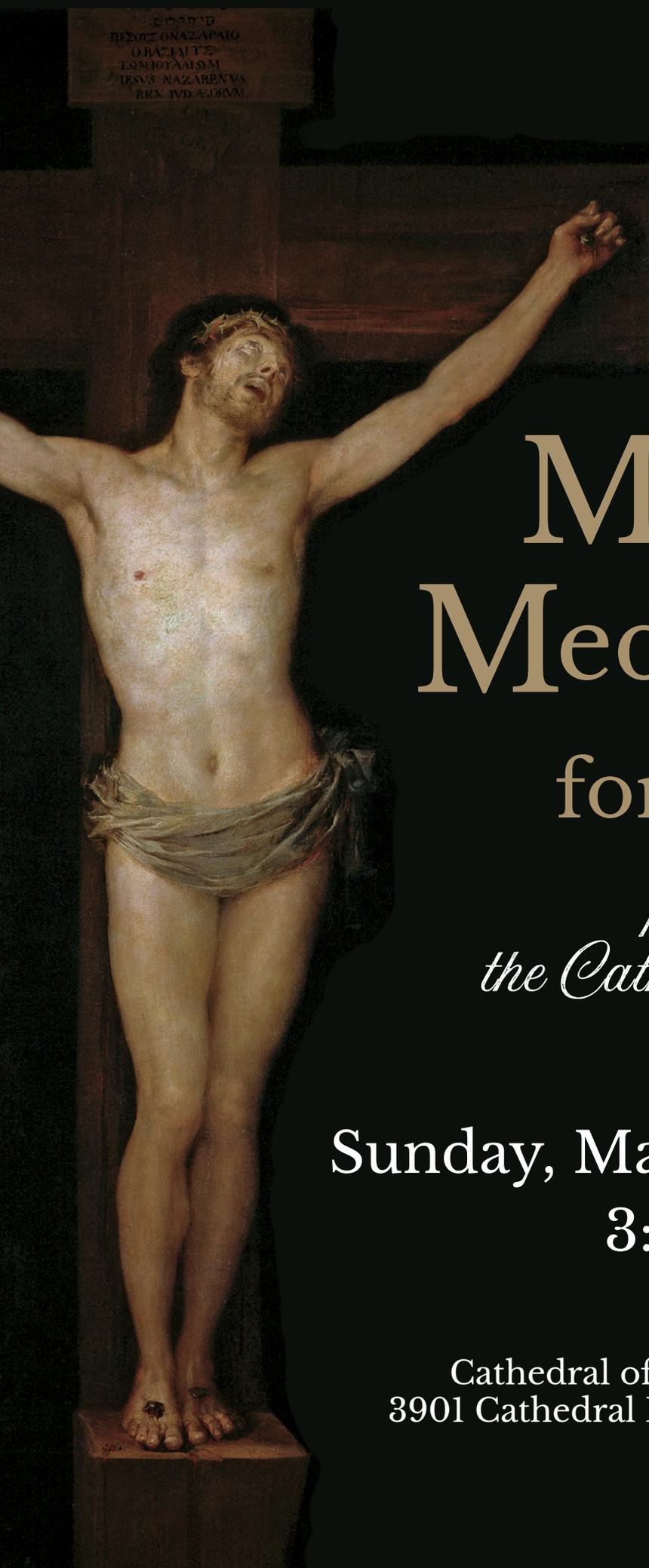


**Volunteers needed to assist
with various areas!**

Discounted and free
convention registration fees
are available to those who
donate a certain amount of
hours!

July 19-24, 2026

Catholic University of America
Washington, D.C.

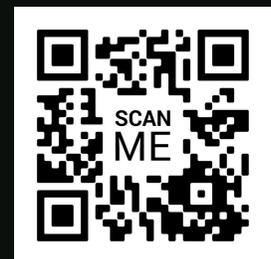


Cathedral Concerts

Musical Meditations for Lent

*featuring
the Cathedral organists*

Sunday, March 22
3:30 PM



Cathedral of Saint Thomas More
3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, Virginia

SOUTHERN MD LUNCHEON RECAP



The Southern Maryland Gathering, hosted by Our Lady's Church in Medley's Neck, took place January 24th in Leonardtown with church musicians and NPM members representing St. Aloysius of Leonardtown, Jesus the Good Shepherd in Calvert County and St. Mary's of Bryantown in Charles County. Fr. Joe Cwik, the Pastor at Our Lady's, led the group in Midday Prayer from The Liturgy of the Hours. Fr. Cwik explained the format, featuring psalms, hymns, and canticles, and encouraged its use as a daily prayer resource for individuals or sung in community. Ms. Katie Evans, Chapter Director, led the singing of a few favorite hymns and shared the latest plans for the NPM annual convention this summer in Washington, D.C. She encouraged everyone to explore the many opportunities there for community prayer and song, education, and volunteer service within a few hours' drive. The discussion next focused on ways local churches encourage and prepare their youth to participate in the Mass and the music ministry. The Good Shepherd team shared their experience with programs for teaching pre and early elementary school children about the liturgy and their success in forming a youth choir for a Pueri Cantores Festival. The group enjoyed comparing notes on choir recruitment and a delicious pot-luck lunch at the home of Mrs. Susan England. We fondly remember Mrs. Ann Duchense, who started the gathering many years ago, and look forward to continuing the tradition. Thanks to all who joined in making the gathering a success!



SOUL-STIRRING MUSIC ON A COLD DAY

By Gene Harper



The proud, the few weathered an icy, windy early February Saturday to engage in the Arlington chapter's annual Liturgy Day at All Saints parish in Manassas, Va. The spirited session was led by Lynné Gray, native Washingtonian who has spent a full career as a liturgist/music director in St. Anthony parish in Northeast DC and serving full-time on the faculty of the District's Duke Ellington School of the Arts as coordinator of music theory and vocal coach, as well as serving as pianist for student recitals.

The Catholic University graduate, with both bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance, took Liturgy Day attendees on a spiritual and musical journey on the topic of incorporating Black Sacred music into parish music – ranging from hymns to spirituals to gospel music. Lynné talked about her conversion to Catholicism, how the “people of goodness” in St. Anthony's parish inspired her journey growing into the faith as she learned and cultivated gospel music.

She had participants provide their vocal interpretation of an old hymn, *Stand by Me*, by early Black 20th century gospel music composer and Methodist minister Charles A. Tindley. She invoked the spirit and courage of Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman's address to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989 and how her singing the spiritual *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*, evoking how Black Catholics felt in the Church, brought the bishops to tears.

She recognized the role of Black Catholic liturgist and composer Fr. Clarence Joseph Rivers in introducing Black Sacred music into the Mass starting in the 1960s and to whom the 1987 first edition of the GIA *Lead Me, Guide Me* hymnal is dedicated. Fr. Rivers was recipient of the 2008 NPM Jubilate Deo Award.

Lynné led the singing of responsorial psalm setting *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God* by Black Catholic musician, liturgist and composer Rawn Harbor, 2004 National Pastoral Musician of the Year.

She noted that Black Sacred music for the Catholic Church is “spirit-filled and holistic” where people clap and raise their hands, engaging all senses wanting “you to know how thankful we are.”

Attendees at the Feb. 7 gathering were thankful too. “Lynne was amazing! I really needed what she gave us,” said David Mathers, a sentiment echoed by others.

Everyone departed with a full packet of music, representing music of current-day Black Catholic musicians such as W. Clifford Petty, Jalonda Robertson and M. Roger Holland.

-- Gene Harper is a past director of the NPM Arlington Chapter.

A Journey Through Sacred Music

By Michael Gass

Graduation from St. Charles HS in Waldorf, MD will be the culmination of years of piano, organ lessons, high school piano, and an internship as an accompanist at St. Mary's Bryantown music ministry. I selected a Capstone project to complete my portfolio. I planned, organized, and presented a combination piano/organ recital.

The project was challenging, titled "The Influence of Liturgical Music Over the Ages." The research of the genres from the Renaissance to early Latin to the music of the 60's resulted in a diverse musical program. The real challenge was writing the introduction for each piece, describing how the style impacted the music of the Church. The process not only enhanced my playing and performance skills, but also my knowledge of liturgical music history.

The piano program included "Theme Symphony 6," "Go Tell It On the Mountain," and a composition, "Dance of Seraphim," written by the late Carol Johnson, piano teacher, composer, organist, and community choral group director. The organ portion contained compositions representing pre- and post-Vatican Council influences, such as Trumpet Voluntary, Navy Hymn, and an original piece written by Jonathan Hellerman, organ instructor. The closing prayer was Schubert's "Ave Maria," a harmony duet by cantors I accompany. The program was well-received by attendees.

Literally, a village of mentors has helped me shape my career plans as a liturgical organist. I have been accepted by Frostburg State University School of Music to study music performance in organ. I will be their first organ major in several years. Financial support for organ majors is scarce, helping in the current shortage of professional organists.



The Thirteen: J.S. Bach, The Early Masses

Saturday, March 14 | 7:30 PM, Holy Trinity (1315 36th Street, NW)

THE THIRTEEN: J. S. Bach, The Early Masses — featuring: Bach Mass in A Major BWV 234, Bach Mass in G Minor, BWV 235, Bach Concerto for two violins in D Major BWV 1043, Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, BWV 1050 —

Holy Trinity welcomes back The Thirteen under the baton of Matthew Robertson, joined by violinists Adriane Post and Mandy Wolman, harpsichordist Adam Pearl, flutist David Ross, and the esteemed choir of twelve soloists for a concert featuring Bach's Masses in A Major and G Minor, which exhibit all of the mastery of the composer's massive B Minor Mass in the form of smaller and digestible delights, written by the composer at a highpoint

of his career. The Thirteen performs Bach's two early masses featuring Baroque flute and oboe, paired with some of his finest and most beloved instrumental works, the Double Concerto for two violins, and the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5.

A pre-concert talk by Paul Elie, author of the book 'Reinventing Bach' and Fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center Religion, Peace, and World Affairs will take place in Trinity Hall at 6:30pm

NOTE: a limited number of complimentary tickets for this performance have been made available to Holy Trinity parishioners, please contact Matthew Ogden for more information: mogden@trinity.org — Otherwise, tickets must be purchased through The Thirteen's website, offering general admission, student ticket discounts, and free tickets for children under age 18.

~ Music at Saint Bernadette's ~

2025 - 26

Sunday, September 14th, 3pm

The Road to Ferrara: Choral masterpieces from the Italian Renaissance

The DC Singer Collective

Sunday, October 26th, 3pm

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

Sunday, November 2nd, 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 14th, 3pm

Christmas with the Camerata
Washington Men's Camerata

Sunday, December 14th, 6pm

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

Wednesday, December 24th, 9pm

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

The St. Bernadette Schola

Thursday, December 25th, 11am

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

Sunday, January 4th, 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 27th, 7pm

Choral Stations of the Cross and Simple Lenten Supper

Thursday, April 2nd, 7:30pm

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

Friday, April 3rd, 3pm

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

Saturday, April 4th, 8pm

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

Sunday, April 5th, 11am

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

Sunday, April 19th, 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!

ST. JOSEPH'S ON CAPITOL HILL ORGAN CONCERT SERIES 2026

featuring the fully restored 1891 Hook & Hastings Op. 1487

by the David E. Wallace & Co. LLC Pipe Organ Builders



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 - 4PM

REDEDICATION CONCERT

*Maria Balducci, director of music, St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill
with the St. Joseph's Festival Choir & Brass*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Ben LaPrairie, associate director of music, Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Richard Spotts, organist, Doylestown, PA; author of
"Charles Tournemire's L'Orgue Mystique: La Haute Mission"*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - 4PM

Ronald Stolk, organist, St. Patrick's Church, Washington, DC

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Marian Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 - 4PM

*Todd Fickley, organist, National Presbyterian Church,
Washington, DC; founder of "The Bach Project"*

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026 - 4PM

*Kevin Birch, organist, St. John's Catholic Church, Bangor, ME;
Director, St. John's Organ Society; Faculty, University of Maine*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026 - 4PM

*Paul Hardy, organist, Cathedral of St. Matthew,
Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

*Adam Chlebek, assistant director of music, Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 - 4PM

*Samuel F. Rowe, director of music, Basilica of the
Assumption, Baltimore, MD*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Daniel Sáñez, director of music and organist,
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, VA*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Lessons & Carols Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

for program information, please visit the St. Joseph's sacred music website

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. 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. If you are unsure, please contact Keisna Sosa at membership@npm.org and she will help you!

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.

Arlington/DC Newsletter Editor Open Position

The joint chapter newsletter needs a new editor to produce the bimonthly publication. Current board member will assist in transition. If you are interested please reach out to WashingtonDC@npm.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARLINGTON, VA CHAPTER

Tim Lewicki, Director, tlewicki@allsaintsva.org 571-516-3141

Fr. Donald Rooney, Chaplain, frdonrooney@stbernapar.org

Anne Shingler, Secretary, anne.shingler@verizon.net 703-307-7206

Bob Malinowski, Treasurer, rlm7680@gmail.com 703-615-3285

David Mathers, Membership, dmathers@stbernapar.org 703-451-8576, ext. 112

Hannah Masson, Prayer Coordinator, hmasson@pbcconline.com 540-825-8945

Eugene Harper, Past Director, music_director@stjosephva.org 703-862-7822

Lorena Sernett, At-Large, lsernett@sjcherndon.org

Rosemarie Spollen, Social Media, r.spollen@gs-cc.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER

Anthony Varas, Interim Director WashingtonDC@npm.org

Mark Kozeal, Treasurer, markkozeal@gmail.com 202-329-1701

John Henderson, Membership, johnchenderson90@gmail.com

Diane Yendrey, Secretary, dyendrey98@gmail.com 301-349-2213

Amy Massey, Social Media, music@mothersetonparish.org 301-924-3838, ext. 215

Lorraine Kuchmy, Webmaster, Lmk23@his.com

Anthony Varas, Program Coordinator, tvaras@trinity.org

Alberto Cortez, Newsletter Editor, corteza@cua.edu

OPEN, So. MD Representative,

Remi Bauer, Program Coordinator, rbauer@strose.com



npmdc.org

npmarlington.org