

The background image shows the interior of a cathedral. A large choir of men and women in black robes is singing from open books. They are positioned on a raised platform with ornate gold and white marble railings. The cathedral's architecture is highly detailed, featuring gold-colored walls, intricate moldings, and a large circular medallion on the wall above the choir. The floor is made of polished marble with a geometric pattern. In the foreground, the backs of wooden church pews are visible, some with red cushions. A small plaque on the floor in front of the choir reads: "THE REMAINS OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, WERE BURIED HERE ON NOVEMBER 11, 1962. THEY LIE IN ETERNAL REST."

Newsletter

DC/Arlington

Fostering the Art of Musical Liturgy

January - February 2026

npmdc.org

npmarlington.org



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year! This new year should be an exciting one for us in the DMV with so many activities and celebrations for our country's 250th birthday and our NPM 50th anniversary convention. I hope you are planning to join us at the Catholic University of America on July 19-24. All the details will be in this month's Pastoral Music magazine and registration opens on February 1.

As you might know, hosting a convention of this size is a lot of work and is only possible with support from the local chapter(s). What you might not know is that there's a discount on convention registration fees for convention volunteers. We'd love to involve as many people as possible to make this convention a success! See page 6 for more information and a link to register your interest in volunteering.

In this stretch of time between Christmas and the start of Lent, we might take a little time to rest and prepare for the rigors of Lent and Holy Week. It is also a good time for personal growth and learning. I invite you to join us for our annual Liturgy Day, this year on February 7 and held at All Saints Church in Manassas. Join us. Did you know NPM is also offering several webinars over the next few months? These are free for NPM members; see the [NPM website](#) for the current offerings. Take advantage of these membership benefits.

May these winter days be filled with musical blessings and inspiration in your homes and your churches.

Tim Lewicki
Chapter Director,
NPM Arlington



Tim Lewicki
Arlington Chapter Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026 - 2027 SEASON

- January 24th, Southern MD Luncheon, Leonardtown, MD.
- February 7th, Liturgy Day, All Saints Church, Manassas, VA.
- February 17th, Shrove Tuesday Luncheon, Ruthies All Day, Arlington, VA.
- February 21st, DC Lenten Brunch, Bethesda Marriott, TBA
- July 19-24th, 48th National Convention, Washington, D.C.

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

SOUTHERN MARYLAND LUNCHEON

JOIN US FOR A SOUTHERN MARYLAND LUNCHEON!

JANUARY 24 · 11:30-2:30 PM · LEONARDTOWN, MD

ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON RSVP

RSVP ON NPMDC.ORG/EVENTS

Please join us for the annual southern Maryland get together, where members and non members interested in pastoral music ministry are welcome. Please bring a dish to share and register to acquire the address. This is a free event, but rsvp required.



NPM 48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested?

Use QR Code to sign up to volunteer!



**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.

Lenten Brunch

Bethesda Marriott

5151 Pooks Hill Rd, Bethesda, MD

20814

Buffet Brunch

Price:\$35

Use QR code to RSVP!



Jubilee Choral Festival Reflection

By Alberto M. Cortez



Catholic Standard photo by Rachel Lincoln

On November 15th, musicians gathered for a day of pilgrimage at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, D.C., where members of both the NPM Arlington and DC chapters united for a meaningful day of music and reflection. The day began with light refreshments and pastries, followed by a brief history of the Cathedral presented by Tom Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director for Music Ministries.

Throughout the day, attendees participated in choir rehearsals and sectionals led by guest conductor Dr. Peter Kadeli, Head of Sacred Music & Choral Activities at The Catholic University of

America. Among the participants were several young musicians excited to be part of the choral festival, including our farthest pilgrims from Prince of Peace in Chesapeake, VA. The event was marked by the joyful sounds of singers, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Lunch was provided, fostering engaging conversations among both new and familiar faces.

As the day ended, attendees gathered for one final rehearsal in preparation for the closing Mass. This concluding Mass featured the musicians who had dedicated their day to preparation, culminating in a joyful sound that resonated throughout the Cathedral. The Mass was beautifully accompanied by Paul Hardy, the Organist at the Cathedral of St. Matthew, and John Henderson, the NPM DC Membership Coordinator.

Both the NPM Arlington and DC Chapters express deep gratitude to Dr. Kadeli and the Cathedral of St. Matthew for providing such a splendid close to the Jubilee year. *Additional article by Catholic Standard [here](#)!*



~ 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 omni 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 omni 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!

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church
70 University Blvd E, Four Corners, MD 20901

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

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.



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!



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.

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