

# Liturgical Ministry Descriptions

## Saint Margaret Mary Parish

Release 1.0 - 05/16/18

<b>Ministry Title:</b>	<b>Choir Member / Singer / Musician</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>x</b></span>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>Music Ministry is a special ministry of prayer. Every song sung or musical interlude played connects us to God from the depth of our being more intensely than spoken prayer. Thus, the role of music minister within the congregation is a sacred responsibility and an important aspect in the celebration of Holy Mass.</p> <p>The music minister supports the rest of the congregation in singing and encouraging all attending the Liturgy to participate in praising God through song.</p>
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>Music ministers are responsible for supporting the congregation during the songs and chants during Holy Mass and other services. They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the time to be spiritually focused before beginning Mass</li> <li>• Be on time, have music prepared, and be ready to warm up before Mass and ready – mentally and physically – to sing when Mass begins</li> <li>• Understand the meaning of the hymns and their significance and relevance to the readings at Mass</li> <li>• Refrain from creating distractions, thus separating themselves and others from the worship experience (e.g., milling around, passing notes, talking)</li> <li>• Attend all rehearsals, arriving on time and ready to sing and learn</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two basic requirements: A great choir member loves the Lord and loves to sing or play an instrument</li> <li>• While there is no requirement of expertise, a level of proficiency in comprehending basic musical notation and retaining what is learned at rehearsals is expected</li> <li>• A choir member must be able to match pitch, sing on key, and learn and retain their parts</li> </ul>
<b>Time Required:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively participate in one (or more) Masses per weekend, plus Holy Days of Obligation, and other special services requested or required (i.e., Midnight Mass, Paschal Triduum)</li> <li>• Weekly participation in choir rehearsals, 2 hours/week from September through June</li> <li>• Independent practice, preparation, and reflection prior to Sunday Mass so as to be fully prepared to focus on prayerfulness at Mass</li> </ul>
<b>Training:</b>	<p>While formal musical training is not required to participate as a group member in music ministry, a basic level of proficiency is expected such that his or her singing/playing does not detract from the Mass or service. While no “audition” is typically required, a candidate may be</p>

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	asked to sing or play for the Choir Director to confirm this basic level of proficiency and for section placement.
<b>Responsible To:</b>	Choir Director
<b>Benefits:</b>	<p>Music Ministry during the celebration of Holy Mass unifies the entire congregation in prayer and in lifting that prayer to our God in Heaven like incense.</p> <p>Paul, his letter to the people Corinth said, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."</p>