

Guidelines for Musicians

Revised 4-26-2018

Before Mass

- Preparation is essential. All musicians should practice their music before coming to church. Practice a head of time will also help you make sure your music is organized. There are great resources available to help you practice on the internet. YouTube has versions of most of our music. The same scheduled music should be sung at each Mass to maintain unity for the entire community. Groups can add a prelude song if they wish.
- Weekly group practice is planned one hour before Mass for ensembles and Tuesday nights at 7:00 for the choir, September through May. When you are finished with practice, go out and greet people as they are coming into Mass. If you need extra practice, contact Sue Valois to set something up.
- When you arrive for practice, make sure to open the sound cabinet and set up microphones, cords and music stands as needed. If you need training, contact Sue Valois.

During Mass

- Mass begins with a greeting and invitation by the musicians to stand and join in the gathering song. The musicians are at the service of the community and the Liturgy. Attention should be paid to supporting and encouraging the assembly's participation. Making eye contact with the assembly invites them to participation. Joyful expression is also contagious for participation.
- The Gathering, Prep of Gifts, Communion and Closing song will be announced in Ordinary Time. All songs will be announced in Christmas. Advent and Lent do not need announcing beyond the lectors Call to Worship.
- A moment of silence should be observed after the First reading. The musicians should not stand to sing the Psalm until the lector has been seated. Because the Psalm is a chosen scripture from the lectionary it is preferred to be sung from the ambo. Two people at the ambo is the limit. If there is difficulty going up and down the stairs, it is best to walk to the side with the railing and use the assist. Safety is our priority.
- Care should be taken to limit fidgeting or rustling of papers throughout all of Mass. Hopefully your music will be arranged to just turn the page to follow along. Phones or other distractions should not come out during Mass. Modeling full participation is important.
- Musicians will receive Communion after the general assembly. The accompanists will try to end the Communion song as you see the Communion line winding down. One Eucharistic Minister of the plate and cup will wait at the opening of the main aisle facing the altar and musicians should respectfully go forward to receive and circle back to their seats. If there is a large music group, vocalist should break off to join in the general assembly's Communion lines as they are winding down and the instruments and accompanists will receive at the very end.

Baptism in Mass (with Fr. Fitz)

- Right after the homily in place of the Creed, Fr. Fitz will invite the family forward to the base of the steps and begin the Baptismal process. As the family moves, the lector should go to the ambo ready to read the Prayers of the Faithful. When Fr. Fitz turns and asks you to begin, the Prayers of the Faithful are read. When Fr. Fitz invites the family back to the Baptismal font to complete the Baptism the lector should return to their seat as the others are moving.

Thank you for your service as a Lector to the Body of Christ made present here at Corpus Christi! If you have any questions, please call Sue Valois at the parish center 651-639-8888.