



NEWSLETTER

Countdown to Convention 2013

A convention preparation check list:

- _____ Have you made certain the week of July 28 is reserved for the NPM Convention in Washington, DC?
- _____ Are you sure that no vacation plans will interfere with that week?
- _____ Have you considered volunteering your services during Convention Week (or before)?

Those items accomplished?

Good – now you can enjoy the Advent and Christmas seasons.

You don't have to do anything else before the first of the year.

Unless, of course, you want to let us know that you will be volunteering by sending your name, parish, email address & phone number volunteernpm2013@gmail.com. (That will give the convention planners a happier holiday season.)

It's hard to know exactly how many volunteers will be needed, and it depends on the number of days each person works. It's reasonable to anticipate the need for 200-300 people. Will you be one of them?

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The **Brochure for the 2013 Convention** comes out in January, including the registration form.

If you plan to volunteer PLEASE do not use that form to register. Don't worry about any early discounts or about registering via the Chapters. Volunteering is the best deal.

Volunteers register separately, and attend the convention free of charge commensurate with the hours worked. Full details will be in next month's newsletter.

DIRECTORS' CORNER



If we could just have a little Christmas to last the whole year long! That's a nice sentiment, and considering I got, well, not really dragged, but as an act of duty, accompanied Mrs. Mathers and her work colleagues, to Dickens A Christmas Carol at Fords Theater a week before Thanksgiving, and considering as well the often-heard yarn about the handiness of red-white-blue outdoor Christmas lights that double for the Fourth of July, it's clear we are well on our way to pan-annual yuletide bliss.

All this is hardly news. Fortunately, we have Advent to overcome it. As Catholics, we even brag about our 22 to 29 days of abstinence from Christmas. In an interesting sympathetic vibration, Protestant communities (perhaps jealous of the Roman Catholic passion for conspicuous self-denial),

are increasingly (re-)adopting the Advent liturgical customs of old.

Anciently, the advent of a monarch was his ritual entry into a city to claim it as subject to his power. When we use the word Advent to name Christ's coming, in the incarnation, in our lives today, and at the end of time, we make the connection between his presence among us and our acknowledging his power. Because, from our point of view, the Kingdom of God occupies an already-but-not-yet threshold, we both pray daily for the coming of the Kingdom and daily experience it as present: thy kingdom come.

So its really Advent we have every day of the year! When you find grace in suffering, rejoice with the truly glad, preach the Gospel with your way of life, you acknowledge God's power, and the fullness of the Kingdom draws nearer. And we have a little Advent to last the whole year long. Maranatha! Come, Lord!

*David Mathers,
Director, Arlington Chapter*

SOUTHERN MARYLAND GATHERINGS

For seven years Ann Duchesne has opened her beautiful home on Breton Bay for a gathering of Southern Maryland musicians. In addition to enjoying Ann's delicious lunch, it provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn new music, and find ways to support each other.

Following is the focus of previous gatherings and the music we learned or shared.

2006 - "Getting to Know You" [new music from the major publishers]

2007 - "A Look at Our Parishes: the Similarities, the Differences" [new music from the publishers]

2008 - "Building a Stronger Parish Music Ministry" [sampling of Common Psalms]

2009 - "Our Parishes & the Bishops' Document, Sing to the Lord" ["Songs for a January Afternoon" - all beginning with "S"]

2010 - "Those Handy Hymn Tunes & How We Use Them" [21 of the most popular tunes]

2011 - "Ways to Prepare for the New Roman Missal" [sampling of new and revised Masses]

2012 - "How Are We Doing with the New Roman Missal" [some of the classics for Lent]

We have some ideas for the next gathering, but suggestions are welcome. What shall we discuss? What shall we sing? Please call 301-384-5796 or send an email to mcdorrian@yahoo.com. The topic will be announced in the January newsletter. **Mark your calendars: January 26 - 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 41024 Cryer Court, Leonardtown, MD.**

There is no fee, thanks to Ann's generosity, but it helps to have an idea of how many can attend. Please give her a call at 301-475-6915.

December Concert Opportunities

December 9, 7:30pm • The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More

3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, Virginia

Service of Lessons and Carols. Bishop Loverde presiding, with the Cathedral Choir, Youth Choir, and Handbell Choir.

December 15, 7:30 pm • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

1427 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria - 703 98-6100 ext 103

Christmas Concert featuring the Folk Group, Adult Choir, and the Bells of Blessed Sacrament performing seasonal favorites, as well as carols for all to sing.

December 16, 7:30pm • St Matthew's Cathedral

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, D.C., More information: tsteble "@ [stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tsteble@stmatthewscathedral.org)

Advent Lessons and Carols on Gaudete Sunday. This very popular service is presented by the Schola Cantorum and the St Matthews Festival Singers. Thomas Stehle, Director, with Paul Hardy, Cathedral Organist. Following the service the festivities continue with carols, wassail and sweets in the Great Hall. All are welcome. Free will offering is welcome.

December 16, 7:30pm • St. Jane de Chantal Church

9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, More information: 301-530-1550 or henry.bauer@stjanedechantal.org

Lessons and Carols Service The concert will feature readings and music for the Advent and Christmas seasons with the Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Handbell Choir and instrumentalists. The concert is free and open to the public.

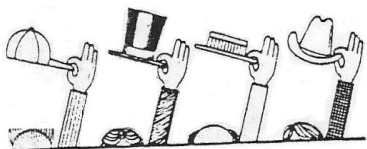
January 11, 2013, 8:00pm • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

1427 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria - 703 98-6100 ext 103

The Cecilian Players, Blessed Sacrament's chamber ensemble, will perform a program that includes the "Ghost Trio" by Beethoven and the Piano Quintet in g minor by Shostakovich. Donations will support the concert series.



HATS OFF!



To the musicians who generously provide music for the TV Mass for Shut-Ins, celebrated in the Crypt Church of the

Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW radio each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

St. Leo the Great Parish Choir,
Fairfax, VA

Sacred Heart Parish Contemporary Choir,
Bowie, MD.



Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter.

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month.

Please email Jim Wickman directly at jaw249@georgetown.edu.

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NPM CONVENTION • DC 2013 EXHIBIT HALL

A highlight of every convention is browsing the Exhibit Hall for music, books, and liturgical items from your favorite vendors. Who from the music and liturgy industry would you like to see in the Exhibit Hall this summer?

We are especially interested in your ideas for local businesses that we may invite. Who are your favorite publishers, music stores, instrument dealers, religious bookstores, vestment makers, artists and craftspeople? Help us bring you the best shopping experience ever. If you have a vendor you would like us to consider for a booth in the Exhibit Hall, please send your suggestions to Trudy Maher at trudychoirdir@aol.com

2013 Calendar

January 26 – 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Southern MD Gathering

Ann Duchesne's Home

February 13, 12 p.m.

Arlington Annual Shrove Tuesday Lunch

Brion's Grille in Fairfax, VA

March 2 - 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Lenten Retreat

Rev. Kevin O'Neil, C.Ss.R.
Theological College in Washington, DC

March 9, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cantor Workshop

St. John the Baptist Church in Silver Spring, MD

April 20 - 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Choral Workshop with John Romeri

St. Jane de Chantal Parish in Bethesda, MD
Joint event - DC & Arlington

April 26 - 7:30 p.m.

25th Anniversary Concert

Cathedral of St. Thomas More
Commissioned work by Fr. Jim Chepponis will be featured

NPM OFFERS WEBINARS

Once each month the NPM National Office offers a webinar on a musical/liturgical topic that is of interest to all. These webinars are presented by well respected speakers from all over the country and are a great opportunity for an individual or a group from a parish to sit down for an hour and receive updates and ideas - all this right on your computer screen!

The next webinar is December 13 on the topic "RCIA and the Easter Vigil". It is presented by Dr. Jerry Galipeau. The January 24 webinar is presented by Paul Inwood on the "Rites of Holy Week".

More information and registration are on the NPM Website: www.npm.org

Be sure to visit the Washington, D.C. and Arlington Chapter Websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings and events:

www.npmdc.org

or

www.npmarlington.org

The Latest Cantor Workshop

The next cantor workshop:

March 9, 2013, 9am - 12:30pm

**St. John the Baptist Church
Silver Spring**

Mark your calendar now!

One of the things most cantors request when they come to a workshop is personal attention. It's one thing to read about what should be done or to listen a presentation on how it's done, but quite another matter to know if one is doing it correctly or not. At the Cantor Workshop on November 17 at St. Mark's in Hyattsville, personal attention was the core of the day.

Clinician Henry Bauer's presentation included the basics of singing (taking participants through a variety of exercises), and the techniques used to effectively

invite assembly participation. Each cantor sang a psalm, with the specifics of their home parishes in mind, and were then given the opportunity to work on the elements that had been the focus of Henry's presentation.

Susan DeCamp accompanied each of the cantors and each participant had an opportunity to sing and receive feedback.

Another cantor workshop is scheduled for March 9 at St. John the Baptist in Silver Spring. Watch the newsletter for details.

Arlington Liturgy Day

Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS brought his art and wit to Paul VI Catholic High School on November 3. His presentation was titled "Saved by Beauty," and – as anyone who knows his work would expect – it was a delightful morning.

Brother Mickey chose to examine the beauty found in the lives and works of saints and two well-known Americans. With the help of a large screen, he shared artistic renditions he has made of the beauty which surrounded their lives.

His examples included:

- St. Cecilia and the beauty of music around the world, using the book, St. Cecilia's Orchestra, (his illustrations - poetry of Alan Hommerding)
- Recently canonized, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, patron of the bullied and environment
- St. Therese of Lisieux, who made prayer time out of ordinary tasks
- St. Francis de Sales, who said that God can't rest in an unquiet heart (Having a bad time? Travel, even if it's just around your own environs.)
- St. Pelagia, who went from being a woman of questionable reputation to one of the Desert Mothers
- St. Hildegard of Bingen, once thought a heretic, now a Doctor of the Church

Outside the realm of canonized saints, Brother Mickey gave us insights in to the beauty found in the work of Dorothy Day and the art of Georgia O'Keefe. He noted that one of Dorothy Day's favorite quotes was from Fyodor Dostoyevsky: "In the end, beauty will save the day."

Words can't do justice to Brother Mickey's art or to his presentation on Liturgy Day. You might want to check him out on the Internet to get a taste of his work.

Please checkout Brother Mickey's Website: <http://www.beestill.org/>.