

**Psalmist Guidelines**  
**Revised August 16, 2017**

**Scheduling**

Psalmists are scheduled quarterly through Ministry Scheduling Pro (MSP). Access the schedule by going to [stmarkov.org](http://stmarkov.org). Click on the "Parish Life" panel, then click on MSP. You may also bookmark this link <https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/l/web-terminal/login/stmarkcatholic>. Psalmists are scheduled based on ability, availability, and appropriateness of voice type for the musical selection of the week. Psalmists are expected to participate as Adult or Children's Choir members in addition to their other duties. See the *Adult or Children's Choir Guidelines* for further details on scheduling, roles and responsibilities.

**Prior to Mass**

- 1.) Arrive 30-60 minutes before Mass and check in with the Director or Assistant Director of music.
- 2.) Dress appropriately in clean, modest and presentable clothing. Please wear quiet shoes. The psalmist is a highly visible role and as such, clothing should not detract from the liturgy.
- 3.) Pick up the music and review the text for appropriate diction.
- 4.) Warm up before rehearsal if no choir is in attendance or with the choir.
- 5.) Review both readings and the gospel. Consider: how does the psalm relate to other readings? How can I convey the sacred text in a meaningful and relevant way as I sing?
- 6.) Review the psalm carefully. Attend one choir or cantor rehearsal. Psalmists must be confident and comfortable with the music. If additional practice is necessary, psalmists should work on the music outside of church or contact the director to schedule additional rehearsal time.

**During Mass**

- 1.) Maintain a pleasant, professional demeanor at all times, even between hymns.
- 2.) When preparing to sing, approach the ambo and bow to the altar with the first reader. If approaching from the choir side, pass behind the altar, through the chapel.
- 3.) Lead the congregation by raising both arms. The gesture should be confident and visible from every seat in the church.
- 4.) Pay particular attention to text. The Psalm must be sung with clarity and sensitivity to the text and musical setting.
- 5.) The psalmist should inspire members of the congregation to conversion and spiritual growth through music.
- 6.) Constant awareness and familiarity with the liturgy is critical. Psalmists must be familiar with the mass and flexible to changes in the liturgy.
- 7.) Music and liturgy should flow together seamlessly. Avoid any lag time during transition from the first reading to the psalm.
- 8.) Remain in visual communication with the accompanist to start and end music together.
- 9.) After the psalm is sung, exit the ambo and bow with the second reader before returning to your seat. If exiting to the choir area pass behind the altar, through the chapel.

**After Mass**

- 1.) Return music to the choir room.
- 2.) Check in with the Director or Assistant Director of Music for any further tasks.
- 3.) Greet choir and congregation members as you leave.