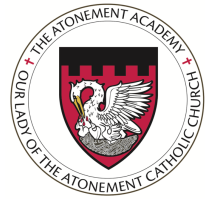


Our Lady of the Atonement Parish Choirs 2020-2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have an exciting year ahead for Our Lady of the Atonement choirs. If your child is not already part of our parish music program, I hope they will consider joining us this year. Homeschool students, children in the parish, and students from the Atonement Academy in grades 3-12 are welcome. We particularly need middle and upper scholars who are so highly trained at the Academy to bring their musical leadership to our parish music program. If your family are parishioners and/or attend Sunday Mass here, please consider having your child(ren) participate in this vital ministry if they enjoy singing. Our goal is to re-instate a tenor-bass choir this year, but we need a commitment from our young men in order to do this. There is no fee to participate.

Schedule:

There will be an introductory meeting for all students interested in Parish Choir on Wednesday, September 30 (Grades 3-6 will meet from 3:30-4:30pm, Gr. 7-12 from 4:30-5:30pm). During the introductory session, students will be assigned folders, music, robes, and vote on a name for each choir. The regular rehearsal schedule will resume on October 7. Our rehearsals will be held in the choir room, choir loft, and outside pond courtyard each week. Anytime school is not in session at the Atonement Academy, the choir will not rehearse (e.g. spring break).

Wednesday's 3:30-4:30pm — Trebles Gr. 3 & up
Wednesday's 4:30-5:30pm — Advanced Trebles Gr. 7-12
Wednesday's 5:00-5:45pm — Tenors and Basses Gr. 7-12

Typically, the choirs take turns providing music for the 9:00am Sunday Mass and for special events throughout the year such as Choral Evensong and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. On Sundays when they are scheduled, singers are expected to report to the choir loft ready to sing by 8:30am. The plan for this Fall is to work on the RSCM's *Voices for Life* curriculum (so that students may work towards earning their medals) and to sing for a *few* major feasts/liturgies (All Saints, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve). We will continue to reevaluate when a return to rotating singing each Sunday might be possible. Please see attached schedule.

About our Program and Choirs:

In addition to building vocal and musical skills, fostering team work, and learning a vast treasury of sacred music, the parish of Our Lady of the Atonement is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music. The parish choirs utilize a chorister training program from the Royal School of Church Music known as *Voices for Life* through which singers work toward specific level objectives to earn medals. The RSCM supports a worldwide network of over 8,000 churches, schools, and individuals. It is committed to achieving the best use of quality sacred music in liturgy through education, training, publications, advice, and encouragement. To earn medals, singers must display mastery of the workbook objectives and successfully complete written and sung exams administered by the Parish Music Director. In the summer, we hope to organize a group of students to attend one of the training courses offered in locations throughout the country.

The Trebles is a training choir for students in grades 3 & up which rehearses on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm. Students complete the white and light blue level curricula of *Voices for Life* and sing 1-2 part treble repertoire. Singers work on developing vocal and musical skills, building confidence, focus, and stamina as a chorister.

The Advanced Trebles is a performing choir for treble students in grades 7-12 which rehearses on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30pm. Students complete the light blue and dark blue level curricula of *Voices for Life* and sing Gregorian chant, SATB and 2-3 part treble repertoire.

The Tenor-Bass Choir is a performing choir for advanced changed-voice boys in grades 7-12 which rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45pm. Students complete the light blue and dark blue level curricula of *Voices for Life* and sing Gregorian chant, SATB and 2-3 part men's repertoire.

Attendance:

The degree of beauty that is produced by the choir and rate of progress of singers depends greatly on each singer's participation. While occasional absences are expected due to illness or family obligations, frequent absences are not acceptable and may result in dismissal from the choir. All absences should be communicated to Dr. Seighman by means of email and as far in advance as possible. We are grateful to the athletics department and the altar server program for working with us to minimize conflicts so that students may participate in choir as they are scheduled.

Logistics for Wednesday Rehearsals:

Grade 3-6 students will be picked up from aftercare in St. Anthony Hall at 3:30pm for choir. Older students not in after school sports that are part of the 4:30pm or 5:00pm rehearsal should report directly to the choir room for study hall at 3:30pm. Please let me know if your child will be in the 3:30-4:30/5:00 study hall so I know to look for them. Students coming from off-campus may enter through the main school doors and report directly to the choir room at their scheduled time. At the conclusion of their rehearsal, grade 3-6 students will return to St. Anthony Hall and may be picked up from there.

Safety Protocols during Covid-19:

We will minimize risks by wearing masks at all times, requiring hand sanitization, and respecting social distancing (minimum 6 ft apart) throughout rehearsal and Mass. We will also limit the length of time spent singing in one rehearsal room, using non-singing rehearsal techniques as well as singing in surrounding outdoor spaces to break up the rehearsal time. If your child is sick, please do not have them attend choir. Singers must stay home if they've had a temperature above 100 degrees F in the last 72 hours, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. Singers must stay home if they've had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days. Singers must stay home if they've been in close contact with an individual who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days (close contact means within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes). Singers must stay home if a health care provider or public official has recommended or required them to quarantine for any reason related to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Communication and Social Media:

In an effort to streamline and expedite choir communication, please join our GroupMe forum as well as our private FaceBook page for Choristers & Parents/Guardians (look for "OLA Choirs" and send a request to join).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to working with your children.

Blessings,

Jennifer L. Seighman, D.M.A.
Parish Music Director & Organist
Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church
jseighman@atonementonline.com

Our Lady of the Atonement Parish Choirs 2020-2021 Registration Form

In order for your child to participate in the OLA parish choir, please complete and return this page to Dr. Seighman.

For Parents

I, _____, have read and agree to all of the regulations and expectations of the Parish Choirs. I resolve to have my child attend all rehearsals and events in a prompt manner as stipulated above.

Signature

Date

For Chorister

I, _____, agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations listed above. I will strive to achieve excellence in musicianship and collegiality within the Choir. Furthermore, I agree to be respectful to the choirmaster, staff, and fellow choristers for the greater good of the choir.

Signature

Date

Chorister Information

Chorister Name: _____

Grade in school: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

My child participates in the Advanced Trebles or Tenor-Bass Choir and will remain at school for study hall in the choir room until their rehearsals begin at 4:30 or 5:00pm. (Circle) YES NO

Approve GroupMe choir communication notifications for the coming year. (Circle) YES NO



Return this form to Dr. Seighman



Our Lady of Atonement Catholic Church

Parish Chorister Schedule - Fall 2020

Trebles Gr. 3 & up = Wed. 3:30-4:30pm
Advanced Trebles Gr. 7-12 = Wed. 4:30-5:30pm
Tenors and Basses Gr. 7-12 = Wed. 5:00-5:45pm

September

30th – Introductory Meeting

October

7th – Rehearsal

14th – Rehearsal

21th – Rehearsal

28th – Rehearsal

November

1st – Sunday 9am Mass (All Saints) –
Trebles, Advanced Trebles, Tenors and Basses (8:30 call)

2nd – Monday 7pm Mass (All Souls Requiem) –
Tenors and Basses (6:30 call)

4th – Rehearsal

11th – Rehearsal

18th – Rehearsal

25th – No Rehearsal (Fall Break)

December

2nd – Rehearsal

9th – Rehearsal

12th – Saturday Dress Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols from 1-3pm
Trebles, Advanced Trebles, Tenors and Basses

13th – Sunday 4pm Lessons & Carols
Trebles, Advanced Trebles, Tenors and Basses (3:30 call)

16th – Rehearsal

23rd – No Rehearsal until January 27 (Christmas Break)

24th – Thursday 5pm Mass (Christmas Eve)
Trebles, Advanced Trebles, Tenors and Basses (4:15 call)