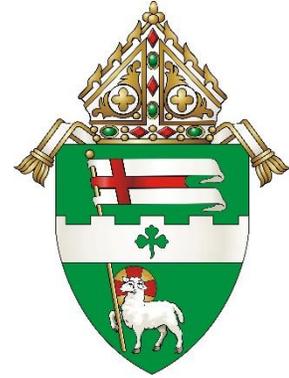


ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PATERSON

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

LITURGY AND MUSIC IN COVID



Pastors and music ministers have requested some suggestions on how to make best use of liturgical music during this time of pandemic.

Below is a list of suggestions that may be implemented at the discretion of the pastor and adapted to various pastoral settings.

PARTICIPATION AIDS

While hymnals and missalettes are removed from the pews, the active participation of the faithful is still essential to the Liturgy. The following are possible to facilitate their participation:

- Single use worship aids. One sheet of paper with the hymn(s), parts of the mass or other music being sung that is reproduced and recycle after each Mass. With reduced numbers still attending Mass in person, this would be minimal cost.
- Online worship aids. QR Codes could be created on the parish website, or at the entry doors or on laminated cards in the pews racks (that should be sanitized). These codes could take the parishioner to a simple, or elaborate, worship aid provided online that could be followed in church on their phones.
- Projection screens. While the physical design of many churches would make this not practical, projecting the text or music of the Liturgy on a wall or screen of the church could facilitate their participation.

THE PARTS OF THE MASS

The parts of the Mass may be sung at Liturgies at the discretion of the pastor. Some suggestions to make that easier:

- Use your parish's most known musical settings; settings they are familiar with to bring a familiar feeling to Sunday Mass. Also settings that they could most likely sing without participation aids.
- Consider prioritizing the parts of the Mass to be sung:
 - The Acclamation before the Gospel should always be sung and omitted if not sung.
 - The Eucharistic Acclamations could be sung
 - The Gloria could include a simple refrain for the assembly

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The psalm may be sung at the discretion of the pastor. There are ways to sing the psalm while still limiting the amount of singing:

- Consider singing the refrain at the beginning and then have the cantor group verses together into groups of two or perhaps even all of the verses together before inviting the assembly to sing the refrain at the end.

THE PROCESSIONS

Hymn or other suitable songs can be sung at the Entrance, Communion and Closing Processions.

- With there being no Offertory Processions at this time, a simple and short instrumental or improvisation at the Preparation of the Altar would be most appropriate.
- A Song at Communion expresses the unity of those processing and receiving the Holy Sacrament; a sung Eucharistic refrain is both appropriate and accessible for the assembly at this time.
- A singular hymn could be used for the Entrance and Closing Processions with some stanzas at the beginning and some at the end.
- The Church's collection of Proper Texts in the Antiphons for Entrance are an excellent tool for providing the assembly a short refrain to use. All of the major publishers have set these text in English and other languages to chant based and metered styles. Other collections, such as the St. Meinrad settings of Columba Kelly are also adaptable for each week.

CHOIRS

While full choirs are not possible at this time, small quartets or scholas are at the discretion of the pastor.

- A minimum of 6 feet in all directions by singers is necessary.
- Consider rotations of your choir members who are comfortable participating in music ministry.
- Consider more accessible music for your singers; 3 or 2 part pieces.
- Handbell Choirs are possible to resume or form at this time and are a way for people to participate in music ministry without any risk of singing. They can be especially good tools for Children's Choirs to stay active in music ministry at this time.