

The Music Program at
the Roman Catholic Church of Saint James the Greater
Charles Town WV



Benedict XVI reflects, “John Paul II observed that today, as always, three characteristics distinguish sacred music: its ‘sanctity’, its ‘true art’, and its ‘universality’, in other words the fact that it can be presented to any people or assembly.”

Reflexionando en las palabras del Papa Juan Pablo II, nuestro santo padre actual, Benedicto XVI decía: “Hoy, como siempre, hay tres características que distinguen la música sagrada, ellas son: la santidad, es un arte autentico y es universal, que quiere decir, esta música se puede comunicar a cualquier gente o asamblea.”



SACRED HEART CHOIR [Kindergarten-grade 2] *beginning September 3*

This choir introduces young singers to proper singing technique, to the joys of group singing, to basic music theory concepts and lays the foundation for dedicated parish ministry. The choir sings once a month at the 11:00 Mass, generally with one or more older choirs.

Choir Leaders: Julianna Perkowski & Marysa Gonzalez

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm, in the Library



SAINT CECILIA CHOIR [girls, grades 3-8] *beginning September 3*

The girls in this choir refine their singing technique, using repertoire spanning the centuries from Gregorian chant through music newly-composed for them. The choir sings twice a month at the 11:00 Mass, usually with the Saint Gregory Choir. The girls’ and boys’ choirs are associated with *Pueri Cantores*, an international Catholic children’s choir organization.

Choir Leaders: Grace Peiffer & Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm



SAINT GREGORY CHOIR [boys, grades 3-8, unchanged voices] *beg Sep 3*

Following in a long tradition of boys’ choirs in the Church, these young singers work on developing good vocal technique. Repertoire includes chant and traditional boys’ music, as well as music of modern composers. The choir sings twice a month at the 11:00 Mass. The girls’ and boys’ choirs are associated with *Pueri Cantores*, an international Catholic children’s choir organization.

Choir Leaders: Grace Peiffer & Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm



SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO CHOIR [boys, changing voices] *beginning Sept 3*
 Named for Saint Dominic Savio, a student of Saint John Bosco and the Patron Saint of choir boys, this group allows boys in grade 8 or younger to continue to sing choral music as their voices change and mature. The group sings with the Saint Gregory Choir and occasionally on their own.

Choir Leaders: Grace Peiffer & Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15 pm



ARCHANGELUS CHORALE [high school, gr 9-10 & Open to Young Adults]

This chorale is made up of a group of dedicated high school singers whose ministry is to provide music for the Wednesday evening Mass (7:00 pm). Their repertoire ranges from unison Latin chants through full mixed-voice motets. The choir also joins the youth choirs or the adult choirs for special liturgies.

Choir Leaders: Grace Peiffer & Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm



CAPPELLA MUSICA [adult & high school gr.11-12] *beginning Sept 5*

The *Cappella Musica* is the primary adult choir in the parish. They sing a variety of music, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, Baroque and Classical chorales, Romantic era motets and music of today. The choir sings once a month at 11:00 Mass and at the primary liturgies of the liturgical year, including Holy Week.

Choir Leader: Bill Mercier & Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:15-8:45 pm



SCHOLA CANTORUM [adult ensemble, *auditioned*]

This select ensemble specializes in Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. The choir sings once a month at 11:00 Mass and for special liturgies throughout the year.

YOUTH ENSEMBLE [high school/college ensemble, *auditioned*]

This select high school/college ensemble sings occasionally.

Schola Leader: Tommy McKee

Rehearsals: alternate Thursdays, 8:45-9:15 pm



JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA CHOIR [funeral ministry]

This choir helps the congregation to sing at funerals and also presents some appropriate choral literature.

Choir Leader: Tommy McKee

Warm-up rehearsals: 30 minutes prior to a funeral



HOLY TRINITY ENSEMBLE [grades 5 - high school]

This auditioned youth schola provides music for Baptisms at Saint James Church and rehearses for specific events, like *Carnevale*, *Olde Time Christmas* (Harpers Ferry) and the Saint Lawrence Dinner.

Choir Leader: Madeline Tester & Grace Peiffer

Rehearsals: Extended rehearsals are scheduled prior to each event



BELLS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY [handbell ringers] beginning Sept 10

This group rings our set of English handbells and handchimes at the 5:00 pm (Saturday) Anticipated Mass. Members should have a comfortable knowledge of music reading.

Choir Leader: Jacob Perkowski

Rehearsals: Mondays 7:00-8:00 pm



MÚSICA PASTORAL

El equipo de música pastoral que ofrezcan sus talentos a la comunidad hispana aquí, esta encargada con la responsabilidad planear la liturgia con el sacerdote y elegir los cantos y respuestas apropiadas al tema del día y la estación litúrgica.

Lidere: Jaime Romero 571-345-8005



ST. ZELIE CHOIR

The St. Zelie choir was initially intended for mothers of small children, but is open to any woman who is unable to commit to a more in-depth choir. Practice is largely on your own, with 1-2 rehearsals before a performance. This choir sings only a few times per year.

Choir Leader: Grace Peiffer



ORGANISTS

Organists perform a vital role in Roman Catholic Church music, both in accompanying the congregation on antiphons, hymns and responses, and in presenting solo music from the vast repertoire for the instrument. Organists interested in helping at the parish should contact Tommy McKee.



CANTORS

It is the cantor's primary role to sing the Responsorial Psalm at Mass, but also to lead the congregation in other responsorial music and to assist, if necessary, with hymns. Singers with a clear voice who wish to serve in this ministry should contact Tommy McKee to set up a meeting.



INSTRUMENTALISTS

We are always looking for instrumentalists to enhance music at our liturgies. If you play an instrument well, be sure your name is on file with the Music Department -- we'll contact you as needs arise.

***Unless otherwise noted, rehearsals are held in the
Choir Room (behind the loft).
Access by the stairs at the back of the church nave.***

Music Personnel at Saint James Church, music@stjameswv.org (304) 725-5558

Tommy McKee, *Director of Liturgy and Music*

Julianna Perkowski	Madeline Tester	Bill Mercier
Grace Peiffer	Mary Gorman	Marysa Gonzalez
Jacob Perkowski [handbells & St. Peter's]		Jaime Romero [Hispanic]

Saint James Church, 49 Crosswinds Drive, Charles Town WV 25414



MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT JAMES CHURCH

I am interested in being a part of the Music Ministry at Saint James. Please sign me up!

Name: _____ (Grade:) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Area of interest:

- | | | |
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| ☐ Sacred Heart Choir | ☐ Holy Trinity Ensemble (auditioned) | ☐ Joseph of Arimathea Choir |
| ☐ Saint Cecilia Choir | ☐ Archangelus Chorale | ☐ Bells of Our Lady of Mercy |
| ☐ Saint Gregory Choir | ☐ Cappella Musica | ☐ Coro Hispano |
| ☐ Saint Dominic Choir | ☐ Schola Cantorum (auditioned) | ☐ Cantor |
| | ☐ Instrumentalist _____ | |

Please return this form to the church office, drop in the collection basket, hand to an usher, or email the information to [**music@stjameswv.org**](mailto:music@stjameswv.org) .