



Liturgy Commission – Music Subcommittee Summary Notes
St. Joseph Parish – Classroom Bldg. 11-6-2014

Liturgy Commission Members

- Fr. Dennis Robb, *Pastor*
- Cathy Wiswell, *Liturgy Coordinator*

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- Sunni Becker, SJ
 - Tom Reis, SJ
 - Denise McClain, QA *Music Liaison to Liturgy Commission*
 - Helen Fitzgerald, SJ
 - Genelle Doyle, QA
 - Micole Turner, QA

The meeting was started by Fr. Robb at 6:30pm.

I. Introductions

- A. Each member gave a short intro.
- B. Father expressed his gratitude and commended the musicians on our music programs in the two parishes.
- C. Father reiterated the function of the Liturgy Commission and how this music subcommittee fits in.

II. Function of the Music Subcommittee

- A. Come together three times per year to focus on liturgical music.
- B. Give ideas/feedback regarding music for various liturgical seasons, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.

III. Service Music

- A. Improve timing of start of acclamations – try it without the first note and start promptly.
- B. Timing of the *Alleluia*
 - i. The music is meant to cover the action.
 - ii. As general rule: do not use the verse with the *Alleluia*.
 - iii. OK to use the verse when there is special liturgy.
- C. The Great *Amen*
 - i. Ideally the *Amen* should be sung; however, sometimes the presider is unable to sing the Doxology. In this case, please begin soft background instrumental music when the presider begins the Doxology, and culminate with the sung *Amen*.
- D. Timing of the *Lamb of God*
 - i. The music is meant to cover the action.
 - ii. Start the *Lamb of God* when the priest begins to break the Body of Christ (presider host).
 - iii. Continue with music until the priest finishes breaking the Bread.
- E. Communion
 - i. Begin hymn when the presider sips from his chalice.
 - ii. The music is meant to cover the Communion procession, and so proceeds ideally uninterrupted until the tabernacle closes after Communion.

- iii. Preferably one hymn repeated as needed. Perhaps try a hymn with a refrain that the congregation knows so that they will continue to sing during the Communion procession.

IV. Advent

A. Sundays of Advent

- i. Processions will be slightly longer due to Advent Candle(s) being carried in and placed in the wreath each week.
- ii. Processional hymn to be instrumental, and should cover the procession – which again will be a bit longer each week, especially the 4th Sunday.
- iii. Blessing of Advent Wreath takes place the 1st Sunday of Advent **at the Saturday Vigil Mass only**. The blessing will take place after the procession has finished.
- iv. The first music to be sung will be the Responsorial Psalm.

B. Our Lady of Guadalupe – Friday, December 12th 6:00pm at St. Joseph Parish

- i. Marks the beginning of the monthly Spanish Mass at St. Joseph Parish.
- ii. Spanish Mass will be the second Sunday of each month at 2:00pm.
- iii. Hispanic community will be expected to come together to make these liturgies happen.
- iv. Hispanic men’s choir will provide music.

C. Penance Services

- i. Scheduled for Monday, December 22nd
 - a. 1:00pm at St. Joseph Parish
 - b. 7:00pm at Queen of Angels Parish
- ii. Fr. Robb has some ideas regarding music and will discuss with Denise.

V. Christmas

A. Readings for all Masses will be for **Midnight Mass**.

B. Christmas Masses will be at 4:00pm and 9:00pm on Christmas Eve, and 9:00am on Christmas Day in both parishes.

C. Familiar religious Christmas carols are to be sung throughout the Mass. Religious and liturgically appropriate secular carols may be sung during the prelude music.

D. Christmas Eve early Mass (4:00pm both parishes)

- i. Christmas carols end 5 minutes prior to the start of Mass.
- ii. Lector does Mass announcements from ambo as usual.
- iii. Cantor from the choir loft sings the Entrance Antiphon.
- iv. Servers light processional candles during the Antiphon.
- v. Procession begins with the Entrance Hymn – please choose a familiar religious hymn as noted above.
- vi. There is no Penitential Rite – sing the *Gloria*.

E. Christmas Eve late Mass (9:00pm both parishes)

- i. Christmas carols end 5 minutes prior to the start of Mass.
- ii. We begin in darkness: church lights are turned off at the start time of Mass.
 - Ushers with flashlights.
 - Sacristan/usher poised at light switches: 1) Xmas tree lights; 2) for the nave.
 - Servers poised to light altar candles and candelabra.
- iii. Lector at ambo with pen-light starts Mass by reading the Prologue of St. John’s Gospel. (*There are no Mass announcements at this Mass.*)
 - 2 altar servers light the altar candles when lector proclaims “*the light shines in the darkness....*” Lector pauses as lighting begins.

- Lector continues Prologue and servers make way to light candelabra at side altars.
 - Once all candles in sanctuary are lit, Xmas tree lights go on.
 - Ending of Prologue should coincide with tree lights going on.
 - iv. Cantor from the choir loft sings the Entrance Antiphon. Candle bearers in procession now light their candles.
 - v. At the completion of the Antiphon, the processional hymn begins.
 - vi. As procession proceeds toward sanctuary, the lights of the nave are turned on slowly, one bank at a time from back to front. Church is fully lit up when presider gets to his chair.
- F. Christmas Day Mass (9:00am both parishes)
- i. We did not discuss any special procedures for this Mass.
- G. Worship aid for Mass music – Denise would like to do for QA Christmas Eve (9:00pm)

VI. Goals for future

- A. “Candles & Carols”
- i. Annual event on Epiphany Sunday – alternating parishes each year – to close out the Christmas season.
 - ii. All parish choirs participate – each group performs; ‘all-choir’ performance; etc.
 - iii. Light in church is candlelight only.
 - iv. Can have short readings if musicians want to pull that together.
 - v. Variety of carols; lasts about 45 minutes.
- B. Common repertoire
- i. Identify what we do currently for each of the choirs.
 - ii. Identify how much of it is in common.
 - iii. Musicians meet to determine the common threads and go from there.
 - iv. Would be beneficial for choirs to be on the same page when it comes to the special seasons so that the congregation can learn music and sing it.

VII. Closing Prayer & Blessing led by Father Dennis Robb.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

Next meeting: To be determined

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Wiswell.