

Choral Scholar Job Description

Updated July 2011

**Saint Bede Catholic Church
Williamsburg, VA**

Choral Scholar

The Choral Scholar is a funded position given to a degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student in a department or school of music, following a successful audition. Alternatively, the scholarship may be given to a degree-seeking student in a non-music discipline, dependent upon demonstrable choral training and singing ability. Choral Scholars (one per section) are recruited to sing in both adult choirs (9 and 11 AM), occasionally to lead responsorial singing and service music, and on rare occasions to lead a sectional rehearsal.

9:00 AM CHOIR

Music sung ranges in style from Gregorian Chant to the best of modern choral music. This choir sings primarily at the Sunday 9:00 Mass after Labor Day through Pentecost. Rehearsals are on Thursdays 7:15-9:00 pm.

11:00 AM CHOIR

Anthems sung are usually in a spiritual or folk idiom. This choir sings primarily at the Sunday 11:00 Mass after Labor Day through Pentecost. Rehearsals are on Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm.

On certain occasions the two adult choirs are combined into one:

FESTIVAL CHOIR

The large festival choir sings for Masses or liturgies of particular importance in the life of the Church and of our parish of Saint Bede. Examples of liturgies sung include the Easter Triduum, Christmas Midnight Mass, and our Patronal Feast of Saint Bede. Combined rehearsals are scheduled prior to the sung liturgy.

On weekends where either/both choirs are not singing, one or more Masses may have the:

SCHOLA CANTORUM

The 4-8 voice auditioned schola cantorum sings predominantly Latin and English a capella choral music. This choir requires strong confidence in singing a voice part. Rehearsals are scheduled on the Thursday prior to the sung liturgy.

Solo singing and Cantor responsibilities

Occasional choral programming may afford voice students opportunities for solo singing. Voice students who are preparing sacred solo repertoire for degree recitals may be able to perform such works before Mass as a prelude, or during Mass at an appropriate time. Lastly, Choral Scholars may be asked to lead responsorial psalm singing or other service music for Mass.

Qualifications

- 1) Strong and pleasing solo voice
- 2) High level of musicianship and skill
- 3) Good communication skills
- 4) Dependable leadership skills

Schedule and Time Commitment

Choral Scholars work with and report directly to the Director of Liturgy and Music. Choral Scholars are required to attend all regularly scheduled rehearsals and liturgies during the academic year as follows:

Thursday evenings 6:00–9:00 pm

Sunday mornings 8:30 am–10:00 am and 10:30-12:00 pm (Mass at 9 and 11 am)

NOTE: The choir schedule does fluctuate throughout the year, and there will be days and seasons requiring extra time commitment. These will be offset by periods of reduced time commitments. For example, a Thursday rehearsal may be cancelled in a given week, followed by the usual Sunday schedule (learned music would likely be repeated).

The Choral Scholarship positions are given during or prior to the academic year. Auditions take place the first week in September. Positions are held from September through May and may be renewed for successive years if both the Choral Scholar and the Director of Liturgy and Music mutually agree.

Compensation

Choral Scholars receive a stipend of \$150 every two weeks, according to the parish's bi-weekly payroll cycle.

Application

To apply to hold the position of a Saint Bede Choral Scholar, please forward information regarding your experience and a letter of recommendation. Information and/or questions about the position may be forwarded to:

Aaron Renninger, MSM arenninger@bedeva.org
Director of Liturgy and Music 757-229-7723
Saint Bede Catholic Church
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