



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Upon the retirement of the incumbent musician, the Parochial Administrator seeks to appoint an **Organist and Director of Sacred Music**. This is an unparalleled opportunity for an individual of exceptional musical ability to join the Administrator in the establishment of what is envisioned to become a parish worthy of national recognition for sacred music and liturgy.

Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church is a parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jackson. Founded in 1858, the current 1908 church was designed by the Rev. Canon Paul John Korstenbroek, an architect and Dutch nobleman.

Greenville is a small town in the middle of the Mississippi River Delta region that borders the western side of the state. The Parish is dedicated under the patronage of Saint Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The community of Greenville is one that is proud of its rich history, culture and tradition, and our parish is no exception. Both our parish and our school see the Catholic community in Greenville as a large family, which is part of the charm of small-town living in the Hospitality State.

The original Kilgen Pipe Organ of 1929, having become unserviceable and determined to be an electrical fire hazard, is no longer in use. A Rodgers digital instrument serves in the interim, until as such time as the new pipe organ under study is commissioned and built.

The Organist and Director of Sacred Music will be a key member of the Parish Staff, making a rich contribution to the musical and liturgical life of the Parish, the broader Catholic community, and indeed all of Greenville. Please visit stjosephgreenville.org to learn more about the parish's rich history.

The Administrator is ultimately responsible for the liturgical and musical life of the parish. As such, it is to the Administrator that the Organist and Director of Sacred Music is accountable. The Organist and Director of Sacred Music will also work closely and in a collaborative spirit with the School Principal regarding all issues of chorister training, and in all matters where academics and school life intersect with the music program.

The post is full-time. Housing is available in the form of a near-by lake house that the parish owns.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parish seeks to establish a full program of Sacred Music as envisioned in the liturgical documents of the Roman Catholic Church beginning with *Tra le sollecitudini* of 1903 and continuing up to the current *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2011). The Organist and Director of Sacred Music is responsible for the planning of all music for the liturgical celebrations of the parish.

A familiarity with the human voice, and the training of such, is a necessity. The Parish, its most major apostolate being its Saint Joseph Catholic School which hosts Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary (Pre-K3 through Sixth Grade) and Saint Joseph School (Seventh through Twelfth Grade), envisions the establishment of an ‘after-school Choir School’ according to the RSCM schema.

The Organist and Director of Sacred Music will formulate a plan for the (re)development of the Parish Choir, potentially drawing upon the resources of nearby college and university music programs for section leaders. The Organist and Director of Sacred Music will recruit for, rehearse, and otherwise prepare the Parish Choir for the sung liturgies. The Director will rehearse the Parish Choir from the beginning of September through the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The Parish Choir rehearses each week, and may require additional rehearsals/sectionals depending on the demands of the forthcoming liturgical obligations (Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Rite of Confirmation, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, First Communion).

It is expected that the successful applicant will be an accomplished organist. As well, of course, a working knowledge of the piano keyboard is required in order to rehearse and otherwise properly prepare the choirs.

The successful applicant will have a thorough, complete, and practical understanding of the Church Documents pertaining to Liturgical Music. They shall seek to promote only that deemed worthy of the Mysteries celebrated, as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council. Specifically, the promotion of Renaissance Polyphony and Gregorian chant are to hold “pride of place” in the celebration of all sung parish liturgies. Additionally, he/she shall serve as a resource to the clergy, staff, and parishioners of the parish in the promotion of the highest forms of Sacred Music.

The Director shall have the computer skills necessary to prepare or assist in the preparation of the Mass leaflets.

The Director will maintain an office in the parish center, and will have access to the administrative support necessary in order to fulfill the obligations of the position.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The successful applicant will hold, at a minimum, an undergraduate degree in (preferably) Liturgical/Sacred Music, or Organ/Keyboard/Vocal performance from an accredited college/university.
- The Director will hold membership in professional organizations serving the Sacred Music, Liturgical, and Organ/Keyboard/Choral music fields.
- The Director shall possess a necessarily gregarious, outgoing personality such that this person will need to reach out to Catholic, music, and college/university communities to enlist choral membership.
- The Director will be pro-active in the inevitable social and fund-raising events that will no doubt surround such a position in this community.

COMPENSATION

At forty (40) hours per week, a salary range of \$50,000 – 75,000 per annum shall be offered for the above referenced position. The actual number will be based upon the successful applicant's education and experience.

APPLICATION

Application materials shall include a curriculum vitae, and any supporting information available including but not limited to commercial recordings, links to mp4s of the applicant's performances, liturgy programs (Mass leaflets) from occasions in which the applicant has served in a similar position to that which is being offered.

Interested, well-qualified applicants shall present their materials to parish offices (no telephone calls, please):

Postal Address: Rev. Fr. Aaron M. Williams, 412 Main Street, Greenville, MS 38701
Electronic Mail: fraaron@stjosephgreenville.org