

## **Cantor Manual**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Somonauk, IL

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### **Pre-Mass**

1. Dress Code – Sunday best is encouraged. No shorts, t-shirts, or jeans.
  - a. Men –Long pants and at least a short sleeve shirt with collar. Suit and tie are encouraged.
  - b. Women – A skirt or dress that at least covers the knees or long pants. Shirt must cover the shoulders.
2. Arrival Time
  - a. Cantors are requested to be present at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled Mass to practice with the organist. Cantors may also schedule meetings with the music director to work on material to be sung for Mass.
3. Hymn Numbers & Order of Worship
  - a. The hymn numbers need to be on the board prior to the Saturday 5:00 pm Mass. Normally, the organist does this, but in the event a substitute organist is playing for Mass, the cantor should make sure this is done. The hymn numbers (slots 1 and 3-5) go toward the left side of the board. The lectionary page number (slot 2) goes toward the right.
  - b. The basket of order of worship booklets should be on a stand in the center of the Narthex. Ushers will move the stand when they arrive and distribute the booklets personally.

### **Mass**

1. Location
  - a. It is preferred that the cantor sing from the Loft for the entire Mass, with the exception of the *Responsorial Psalm* being sung from the ambo. If, however, this is not possible, use the next arrangement.
  - b. The Cantor begins Mass at the cantor stand at the front of the church. The *Proclamation Hymn, Introit, Kyrie, Gloria, and Gospel Verse* are sung from the cantor stand. The *Responsorial Psalm* is sung from the ambo.
    - i. ¶ 61 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* states: “... the psalmist, or the cantor of the Psalm, sings the verses of the Psalm from the ambo or another suitable place.”
  - c. Following the proclamation of the Gospel, the cantor returns to the choir loft for the remainder of Mass.

## 2. Use of Microphone

- a. Please be aware of the way your voice interacts with the microphone. You should be audible, but not overpowering. Learn to adjust by singing closer to, or further from, the microphone as needed.
- b. The primary aim of the Cantor is “to lead and sustain the people’s singing.” (GIRM ¶104)
- c. As some hymns are more familiar to the congregation than others. The cantor should gauge the participation of the faithful, backing away from the microphone to sing as one with the congregation on familiar hymns, and singing more into the microphone to lead on unfamiliar hymns.
- d. Remember the words of Joseph Cullen, director of the London Symphony Chorus, when he said “The misuse of one booming voice behind a microphone, an ecclesiastical karaoke, seems to have killed off unified congregational singing.” (Catholic News Agency, April 14, 2011)

## 3. Announcements:

- a. The Cantor should announce only the processional hymn using the following script.  
*“Good (Morning / Evening) and welcome to St. John the Baptist. Today’s Liturgy can be found in your order of worship, and the processional hymn can be found at number [Say the whole number], Title of Hymn, number [Repeat the numerals].”*

## 4. Nuptial Masses and Funerals

- a. Cantors sing in the Loft for Nuptial Masses and Funerals. The *Responsorial Psalm* should still be sung at the ambo if possible.
- b. Generally the congregations attending funerals and weddings are not as participatory as the regular weekend parishioners. It is the task of the cantor to assist the visiting faithful in the music, prayers, and responses of Mass.
- c. Cantors are paid for singing at weddings and funerals. Priority for first call is given to persons who are regular volunteers at the parish.

## Resources

1. *Ignatius Pew Missal* - Each cantor should have their own personal copy of the Ignatius Pew Missal provided by the parish. It is yours to keep and to mark up and makes notes in as you need. Generally, the cantor will need this book to sing the hymns at Mass.
2. *Order of Worship* - These are printed seasonally or for the specific feast day. They contain the Ordinary of the Mass.
3. *Psalms* - We are currently using the Responsorial Psalms by Jeff Ostrowski. These are all available online at [www.chabanelpsalms.org](http://www.chabanelpsalms.org). You can also link to the exact one you need from the hymn schedule on the church website, <http://stjbsom.org/sacredmusic.html>.
  - a. If you are having trouble with the Ostrowski Psalm, it is always acceptable to use the Fr. Samuel Weber Psalm as it is found in the *Ignatius Pew Missal*.
4. *Gospel Verse* - The verses for the Gospel Acclamation are published by the music director as needed and should be in the yellow tab in your binder. A copy is also kept in the cantor binder.
5. *Proper of the Mass* - These are taken from a variety of collections, such as the *Ignatius Pew Missal*, *Simple English Propers* or the *Lumen Christi Simple Gradual*. They will be printed by the music director as needed. When possible, you will be able to find links to practice files on the hymn schedule.
6. *Hymn List* - the current hymn list is always found on the *Sacred Music* page of the church website. <http://stjbsom.org/sacredmusic.html>

# Music for the Funeral Mass

# Music for the Nuptial Mass