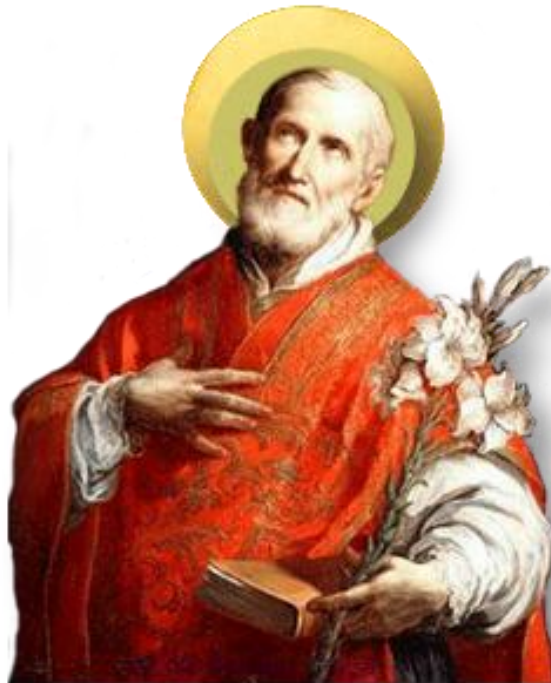


Laudate Pueri

Serving the St. Philip Neri Family of Parishes



2025 – 2026 Season
Parent & Chorister Handbook

The Cincinnati Oratory
123 East 13th Street • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

ABOUT *LAUDATE PUERI*

Laudate Pueri, the Schola Cantorum of the St. Philip Neri family of parishes, exists to provide an authentically Catholic choral education to children, providing a concrete service to the parishes, the Archdiocese, and the region. Choristers learn to sing chant and other music from the patrimony of the Catholic Church with proper choral technique and beautiful tone, and perform this music as an act of worship in the context of the sacred liturgy our parishes, as well as for sacred concerts and other events.

We hope this experience will impart to each child a lifelong love of and confidence in singing, increased knowledge of and attachment to the sacred liturgy, and a deepened relationship with the Lord, no matter where their path in life may carry them.

THANK YOU

Achieving the artistic goals of the Schola requires dedication and a willingness to learn on the part of each member. As with any endeavor involving children, the support of parents is crucial to the success of the Schola – thank you for your dedication to beautiful sacred music! We are excited to welcome your child(ren) to the schola for the 2025-26 season!

Below is some important information regarding the required materials, attendance policy, dress code, facilities, and financial policy.

MATERIALS

Choristers are required to bring the following materials to every rehearsal: a pencil with a working eraser (not a pen), a water bottle, a tote bag or backpack to keep their things together.

Laudate Pueri will provide binders and sheet music for choristers' use. These remain the property of the parishes and should be treated with respect. Ordinarily, binders are kept in the rehearsal room, but choristers may take their binders home in order to practice the music.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & SICKNESS POLICY

Choral singing is a team effort, and absence from rehearsal or from liturgy / performance should not be taken lightly. Parents are expected to communicate known or desired absences to the Director of Sacred Music as far in advance as possible. Absences for reasons that are not serious, or absences that, for no proportionate reason, are not communicated and approved in advance, will be considered unexcused. More than one unexcused absence in a semester, from rehearsal or performance, is grounds for removal from the ensemble without a refund. St. Philip Neri Choristers who miss only SPN Chorister calls, rather than full *Laudate Pueri* calls, risk losing their place in the SPN Chorister program, and their spot will open up to be filled by another interested candidate, but they may remain in *Laudate Pueri*. Anyone missing full *Laudate Pueri* calls, however, is subject to removal from both programs.

Generally, parents are presumed to be the best judges of what constitutes serious reasons for their child to be absent, and absences communicated in advance with reasons are generally approved, but it is nonetheless expected that the reasons for any absence be communicated to the Director. If there seems to be a surfeit of absences for what seem in the Director's judgment to be trivial reasons, the Director reserves the right to initiate a conversation with parents / families in order to arrive at a more mutual understanding of what is an appropriate reason, and to determine the best path forward.

In cases of serious illness, a chorister is both excused and expected to be absent from choir. If a chorister has a minor illness, he or she is still expected to attend rehearsal but may choose to sit for the duration of rehearsal and/or rest his or her voice if necessary. While such minor illnesses may impede full participation in rehearsal activities, significant learning can still take place. Parents are best-placed to determine whether the illness is minor or major.

DRESS CODES

For rehearsal

Shirts should be free of conspicuous writing or logos (discreet logos such as those found on school uniform shirts are fine)— Boys should wear pants (no shorts)— Girls may wear pants OR a dress or skirt that fully covers the knee— Jeans are acceptable but may not be torn or ripped— Spandex and other form-fitting attire is not appropriate— Excessively informal clothing (e.g. athletic attire, sweatpants) is not permitted— Please make sure that your children's underwear, including bra straps, is never showing— Since warm-ups will include some light movement, please ensure that your

children's outfits keep them covered when they extend their arms above their head or bend over. For the same reason, girls are highly encouraged to wear shorts under any skirts.

For liturgies and concerts

For liturgies and other public events, choristers are to wear uniforms. Families are encouraged to use items they already own as uniform pieces if these meet the requirements. Uniform requirements are as follows:

Boys: a solid white collared shirt and navy pants, navy or black socks, navy or black dress shoes, no visible accessories other than a single religious medal (if desired).

Girls: white, long-sleeved button-up blouse, navy below-the-knee skirt, white beret, navy tights (in hot weather, navy socks may be worn in lieu of tights), navy or black dress shoes, hair fully pulled back with a neutral-colored hair tie, no further visible accessories other than a single religious medal and/or stud earrings (if desired); a full-shoulder, short-sleeved, or long-sleeved white undershirt must be worn under the blouse.

FACILITIES POLICY

Laudate Pueri has the use of the second-floor classrooms, second and first-floor restrooms, and the auditorium in the Sacred Heart school building. These areas are to be treated with respect, and choristers will be expected to pitch-in tidying up regularly at the end of rehearsals. Damaging facilities or properties may be grounds for removal from the program, depending on the circumstances.

At no time are choristers to go up to the third floor, which is rented by Campion Academy.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & DISCIPLINE

Laudate Pueri is an elective activity. Students are expected to exhibit high standards of obedience and cooperation towards directors and supervisors, and a high degree of respect for their peers, for the sacred liturgy, and for others' property. A minor failure to live up to these expectations will result in a reprimand and, possibly, a parent contact. Many such failures, or a major lapse, may result in suspension or expulsion from the Schola.

REGISTRATION | TUITION | FINANCIAL NEED

Tuition for the schola is \$125/semester for the first child in a family, \$100/semester for the second child, \$75/semester for the third child, and free for subsequent children. First semester tuition is non-refundable and is due by the first day of rehearsal, Wednesday, September 3rd. Second semester tuition is due on the first day of rehearsals in the second semester (Wednesday, January 7).

Alternative payment plans are available by request. A \$25 late fee will be assessed for any payments received more than one week after the due date.

Tuition can be paid by cash or check made out to Old St Mary's Church. Checks can be dropped off at the Old St Mary's parish office, or given to one of the Schola staff on the first day of rehearsal.

The Archdiocesan release forms and *Laudate Pueri* agreement / permission forms E-mailed with this handbook **must** be completed and brought to the first rehearsal, or your children will **not** be able to participate.

If you have not yet filled out the Chorister Information Form online, this is also due by the first day of rehearsal: <https://forms.gle/QT7tekZWaVrWK1jN7>

Financial difficulty should not prevent a child from participating in *Laudate Pueri*! Scholarship funds are available. The scholarship application takes only a few minutes to complete and can be accessed at the following link: <https://airtable.com/shreicON0bGdIj4lS> -



Scholarship applications are due on Friday, August 28. Late applications will not be considered