

Director of Sacred Music/Organist

Published: 16th February 2024

Location: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022 (in the Diocese of LaCrosse)

Position Type: Part-time; potential for future additional workload

Location: River Falls, WI (Oak Grove Twp., Pierce County)

Position Contact Name & info: Rev. William Brenna, wbrenna@diolclergy.org

The Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary ("St. Mary's - Big River"), established in 1872, is a growing country parish with many young families. Located between Prescott and Ellsworth and south of River Falls in rural Pierce County, Wis., it was the childhood parish of Bl. Solanus Casey. Last year we established a homeschool co-op to serve the spiritual, educational and social needs of our many children, all of whom love to sing. Our choir loft holds a Rodgers model 790 digital organ.

Summary Description:

- Work in consultation with the pastor to plan, conduct and accompany sacred music for the parish Mass on Sundays, Holydays of Obligation and various other days & services as agreed.
- Train, rehearse, accompany and direct our youth *Schola Cantorum* of mixed voices.
- Responsible for some administrative aspects of the music program as negotiated with the pastor.
- Support to weddings and funerals to be separately compensated.
- Potential for additional workload teaching in our homeschool co-op and developing future senior, junior and children's choirs.

Requirements:

- Extensive knowledge of and affinity for the Latin Rite liturgy celebrated in continuity with Catholic tradition, embracing the classical Western repertoire of sacred choral music, hymnody and chant.
- Ability to teach and conduct children and adult singers, including Gregorian chant.
- Proficiency in both organ and vocal performance and conducting from the bench.
- Maintain personal and professional standards of conduct consistent with Catholic Church teaching.
- Successful completion of required diocesan background check and Safe Environment training.
- Practicing Roman Catholic applicants are sought; qualified applicants with backgrounds in related Christian liturgical/musical traditions (e.g. Anglican/Anglo-Catholic) also encouraged to apply.
- Candidates selected for interview will be asked to demonstrate their skill level & provide references.

Qualifications:

- Baccalaureate degree in Music Education or similar desired. Graduate-level studies or degree in relevant areas a plus. Applicants who are students with the majority of their undergraduate work completed, currently enrolled in a degree-granting institution and making progress toward a degree, may substitute relevant experience to be considered.
- Three or more years of experience training & conducting a parish choir or similar situation desired.
- A comprehensive familiarity with Catholic Church liturgical documents regarding sacred music.
- Computer skills sufficient to prepare documentation and correspondence.

Application Instructions:

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:

St. Mary's Big River, ATTN: Rev. William Brenna, W10137 570th Ave., River Falls, WI 54022