

Choral Scholar Job Description

2014 – 2015

**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 are recruited to sing in the Parish Choir, the Schola Cantorum, occasionally to lead responsorial singing and service music, and on rare occasions to lead a sectional rehearsal.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

The 8-12 voice auditioned Schola Cantorum sings predominantly Latin and English a capella choral music. This choir requires strong confidence in singing a voice part. This choir sings at the 9:00 am Mass on an every other week basis. Rehearsals are scheduled on the Thursdays 8:00-9:00pm.

PARISH CHOIR

Music sung ranges in style from Gregorian Chant to the best of modern choral music. This choir sings alternately at the Sunday 9:00 or 11:00 am Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm.

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 (beginning the Thursday following the first day of class through the last day of class excluding formally scheduled William and Mary/Christopher Newport breaks) as follows:

Thursday evenings 6:00–9:00 pm

Sunday mornings alternately 6:45 am–10:00 am (Mass at 7:15 and 9:00 am) or
8:30 am–12:00 pm (Mass at 9:00 and 11:00 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. Positions may be renewed for successive semesters if both the Choral Scholar and the Director of Liturgy and Music mutually agree.

Compensation

Choral Scholars receive a scholarship of \$1500 per semester.

Application

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

Aaron E. Renninger, MSM
Director of Liturgy and Music
Saint Bede Catholic Church
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Williamsburg, VA 23188

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757-229-7723