

Music & Liturgy Notes

Erie Diocesan Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians (NPM)

Dan Schutte to Facilitate Program for Liturgical Ministers

Dan Schutte, celebrated composer of liturgical songs such as “City of God” and “Here I Am Lord” will facilitate a morning of reflection and formation on Saturday, March 10th from 9:00 to noon at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek.



“Learning to Offer Ourselves” is the topic of the morning which is designed for music ministers, lectors, communion ministers, greeters, ushers and altar servers. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on and renew their ministries this Lent

and to recognize how their ministries form their communities.

Cost for the morning is \$10.00, and checks made payable to Diocese of Erie Worship Office may be sent to the office at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA, 16514. To register, visit www.membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/1433.

For questions, contact Beth at 419-343-2830 or Donna at 814-899-5342.

The deadline for registration is February 23rd.

Save the Date : April 15th

NPM Songfest and Banquet Will Feature Lenten Music

In 2017, the NPM Diocesan Board decided to present a series of songfests that would allow the showcasing of music for the various seasons of the liturgical year. These would be done in conjunction with the annual NPM Spring Banquet. The first of these was in Edinboro last spring during which the liturgical music of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany was presented. This format was well received by those in attendance and it was decided to continue this series with the 2018 edition which will concentrate on the music of Ash Wednesday and Lent. The hope of the Board is that the music we will share on that day will be able to be used by very small parishes with limited resources to larger ones with much larger music ministries. The music of the day will be selected by a group of musicians and provided by publishers free of charge or at a discounted price and provided to attendees at no charge.

The Spring Banquet and Songfest this spring will be hosted by Queen of the World Church in St Marys, PA on Sunday April 15. We are hoping that liturgical musicians and other interested parties join us on this day. Keep an eye out for registration information!

New NPM Leadership Puts Energy into Website, Programs

If you happened to be at last summer's NPM convention in Cincinnati, you might have felt it.

NPM is going through a recharge – and the atmosphere at the keynote by new president Stephen Petrunak was electric. He talked with candor about the challenges facing our 42-year-old organization and shared with passion the renewal in progress with the support of NPM's staff, board and council.

“The work of transformation envisioned by founder Fr. Virgil Funk is not finished, but the needs of those called to it have evolved,” Steve said. “Technology and social media have also exploded the means of delivering skills and knowledge, and professional connection – in ways NPM has not kept pace with.”

The pledge Steve made to members involves a new vision, a reaffirmed mission and an NPM that provides significantly greater value to its members – and the faith communities they serve.

Evidence of that value is already visible. At the convention, Steve unveiled NPM's new website and digital programming. (Support comes from a fund established last year by NPM in honor of one of the Erie Diocese's great music ministers, the late Mark Kulyk.)

The new website offers members exclusive premium content. Content includes music planning guides for the liturgical year, video tutorials for cantor, organ, piano and guitar, as well as liturgy formation from scholars such as Fr. Michael Joncas.

See for yourself at npm.org.



Director's Notes

Looking out my window, I see my yard dormant, waiting for the stirrings of spring. To the casual observer, the ministers in the parish appear equally dormant. We have, after all, survived the frenzy of the Christmas season and have entered the relative calm of Ordinary time.

We, experienced in the inevitable march of time, know better. We have only a short time to put in-to place plans for the season of Lent. Sometimes it seems that we have very little time to appreciate the subtleties and richness of the various seasons of the Church year. Even the name, Ordinary Time, does not do justice to the scriptures and liturgy that we the faithful encounter between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday.

Let us promise each other that we will take the time to immerse ourselves in this short respite of Ordinary Time. We will reflect on the readings of this season and take the time to hear what Jesus is telling us about how to be his children. We will allow ourselves to prepare spiritually for Lent as this short time unfolds.
Susan Hutchins

There Is Still Time to Renew Your Erie Chapter NPM Membership!

This membership entitles you to receive discounts on banquets, retreats and workshops. The dues help support NPM diocesan activities and opportunities for fellowship and liturgical formation throughout the year. Cost is \$10 each for 1-2 members, \$8 each for 3-9 members from the same parish or \$75 at the parish rate for 10 or more members. When sending a parish membership, list only a contact person's name, address, email and phone. For 2-9 members, list the contact's info and the names of other members.

Make checks payable to **Erie Diocesan Chapter of NPM** and mail to Marge Himber, 102 6th St., Youngsville, PA 16371. If you have any questions contact Marge at (814) 563-9236 (home), (814) 230-4742 (cell) or email margehimler@outlook.com.

PLEASE NOTE: This is for membership at the diocesan level, and does not include membership at the national level.

NPM Board

Director: Sue Hutchins, Kane

Directors emeriti: Gloria Richardson, Coudersport; Lynn Nicklas, St. Marys; Rita McConnell Haynes, Clearfield; Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake; Sr. Lucille DeStefano, Erie; Janice Grunenwald; Clarion

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Guest Columnist: Fr. John Jacquell

Pastor of St. John the Baptist and
Holy Rosary Parishes, Erie

Question: What impact does music have in the Liturgy for you?

When we are singing a moving and particularly meaningful hymn together, I am touched and stretched above and beyond my ministry at the moment - entering into the rich communion with the gathered faithful - and together we approach oneness with our loving God. When a beautiful instrumental piece helps us to move through the liturgy, I too get exhilarated. When the pastoral musician is attuned to the assembled worshipers (right tempo / meaningful selection and execution) and they enter into a kind of "dance" - again, I get swept up into this as well.

I also attend the Erie Philharmonic concerts. I say that the conductor's job is to inspire me, so I, in turn, can inspire with my presiding and preaching. So, too, do gifted pastoral musicians - and I've experienced a number of them in my 35 years!



March Liturgy Reminders

Sundays, March 4th, 11th and 18th, the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent—The Scrutinies (RCIA 150-156) are celebrated with Catechumens on these three Sundays. Readings from Cycle A are used for these celebrations, i.e., the Gospels of the woman at the well, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus because of the strong themes of conversion and faith. Parishes should strive to celebrate the Scrutinies at a time when a majority of the parishioners may participate.

Saturday, March 17, 2018

The Feast of Saint Patrick

While only an optional memorial in most dioceses, in the Diocese of Erie, Saint Patrick is celebrated as a Feast Day with white vestments because he is our diocesan patron. Rather than using Lenten weekday prayers, we use the proper prayers for March 17th, a Gloria, the preface of Holy Pastors and the readings from Lectionary #541, or selections from readings at #719-724. Note similar distinctions in the Ordo for the Liturgy of the Hours.



Q & A: WHAT IS CHANT?

The word "chant" comes from the Old French *chanter*. It is a short and simple melody on which a word or any number of words can be sung on each note. It is the rhythmic speaking or singing of words or sounds, often on just a few pitches or tones. Chant can be considered sung speech. In The Middle Ages, some religious chant grew more complex and evolved into song. Chant is most often used as sung prayer for religious liturgies; the most famous form is "Gregorian Chant." A different form of chant has been used in wars as battle cries! Auctioneers use a form of chant, and it appears in some movies.

We think of chant such as the Agnus Dei as being sung in Latin, but our Kyrie is sung in Greek. Psalms are among the many chants that are also sung in the languages of the people. Chant is really beautiful when done well. The word "chant" is sometimes used for "psalm" or "canticle."

Below are some entertaining thoughts about chant from "Music History as It Ought to be Taught" by David W. Barber:

"Plainsong chant was sung in three different styles, depending on how many notes there were in each syllable of the text. If there was only one note it was called 'syllabic;' with two or three notes 'neumatic.' If there were so many notes that you forgot what word you were singing, that was 'melismatic.'