



Special Music & Concerts

During the 2022 - 2023 Season

St. Agnes Cathedral Parish
Office of Music Ministry
29 Quealy Place
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-4021
(516) 764-9578



With Organ & Voice
Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral

2022 - 2023

The Cathedral of St. Agnes
Office of Music Ministry
Rockville Centre, New York
www.StAgnesCathedral.org



Most Rev. John O. Barres, D.D., S.T.D., J.C.L.
Diocesan Bishop

The Very Reverend Michael F. Duffy, Rector



Most Rev. William Murphy, S.T.D., Bishop Emeritus



Michael Bower, Director of Music



Maura Goodwin, Associate Director of Music



Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts
Rockville Centre Chapter
of the National Pastoral Musicians
American Guild of Organists

Present

With Organ & Voice
Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral

Dear Friends,

We are now into the third decade of special concerts and services of music at Saint Agnes Cathedral! While there have been concerts in Saint Agnes for many, many years (under the direction of Mrs. Bertha Reilly, Msgr. Williams, Mr. Paul LaMedica, and Mr. Christoph Tietze, to name a few past directors), the present organization of these events came about in 2000, when our magnificent new pipe organs were built. In addition to hundreds of liturgies, the musicians of Saint Agnes, along with outstanding visiting artists, present concerts and special music to enhance the musical and spiritual life of our community. Many of the concerts feature our wonderful pipe organ and at least one of our choirs. Please plan to attend these wonderful events, which are designed to appeal to a variety of ages and musical tastes.

We are especially grateful to all who have collaborated on presenting these events: The Nassau Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Rockville Centre Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians, and the Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts.

The year will open with our featured Solo Concert Organist (Mrs. Ann Labounsky) which will take place on Sunday, October 23, followed by a performance of Tomás Luis de Victoria's "Requiem for 6 Voices" in the context of a Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day (November 2), and our Annual Girls Choirs Investiture and Mass on November 19! November will be further exciting as we host The Westminster Choir on Saturday Evening, November 5, at 6:00 PM, (following the 5:00 PM Mass).

On the Four Sunday Evenings of Advent, we will have Sung Solemn Vespers, featuring our two Cantors Holly Haynes and Christina Buxton (3rd Sunday Evening-Gaudete Sunday Evening with Choir as well!). On Friday Evening, December 9, we will have a performance of Handel's great Oratorio "The Messiah" with our Choirs, Guest Soloists, and Orchestra.

To commemorate the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, our Patroness, there will be a Triduum on January 19-21, 2023: Holy Hour, Solemn First Vespers, and Solemn Mass. On March 19, we'll have the Choir of Men and Boys' annual Investiture Ceremony and Mass. On the five Sunday Evenings of Lent as well as Palm Sunday, we will have Solemn Sung Vespers, featuring again, our two Cantors Holly Haynes and Christina Buxton (4th Sunday Evening-Laetare Sunday Evening with Choir as well!). On Wednesday of Holy Week: April 5, there will be a Tenebrae Service.

The South Shore Symphony will return for a performance of Gustav Mahler's "Symphony No. 2" (featuring members of our Adult and Advanced Teen Choirs) on June 4.

As well as these special presentations, the choirs, cantors, organists and musicians prepare and help us to pray with BEAUTIFUL music throughout the year, each and every Sunday, holy days (Christmas and Easter), Thanksgiving, Confirmations, First Holy Communions, etc.!

We look forward to seeing you at many of these liturgies and events, and having the opportunity to thank you for your support to our Music Ministry!

All the Very Best,
Michael L. Bower, Director of Music

Sunday, October 23, 7:30 PM
Guest Organ Recitalist: Ann Labounsky,
from Duquesne University
Suggested Donation of \$20 and \$15

Tuesday, November 2, 7:30 PM
The Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day: Tomás Luis de Victoria
"Missa pro Defunctis a 6 Voci Requiem"
The Cathedral Singers
Free-will Offering

Saturday, November 5, 6:00 PM
The Westminster Choir
Dr. James Jordan, Conductor
Suggested Ticket Donation of \$25 and \$20

Saturday, November 19, 4:45 PM
Investiture Ceremony, 5:00 PM Mass
Saint Cecilia Choir Investiture Followed by Sung Mass
St. Agnes Junior & Senior Girls Choirs
Free-will Offering

Sundays, November 27 / December 4, 11*, 18
November / December
7:30 PM Sung Solemn Vespers for the Sundays of Advent
* Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent with Choir (December 11)

Friday, December 9, 7:30 PM
G.F. Handel's "Messiah" Concert
The Cathedral Choirs, Chamber Orchestra, and Soloists
Michael L. Bower, Conductor
Suggested Ticket Donation of \$25 and \$20

Thursday, January 19 – Saturday, January 21, 2023
Triduum in Commemoration of
The Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
Principal Patroness of the Diocese
and Titular Patroness of the Cathedral
Thursday, January 19: 7:30 PM Holy Hour
Friday, January 20: 7:30 PM Solemn First Vespers
Saturday, January 21: 5:00 PM Solemn Mass

Sundays, February 26, March 5, 12, 19*, 26, April 2
7:30 PM Sung Solemn Vespers on Lenten Sunday Evenings
* Fourth (Laetare) Sunday of Lent with Choir (March 19)

Sunday, March 19, 2023
10:45 Investiture Ceremony, 11:00 AM Mass
Choir of Men and Boys & Diocesan Boys and
Teens Choir of Rockville Centre
Free-will Offering

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 PM
The Office of Tenebrae
The Cathedral Singers

Sunday, June 4, 7:00 PM
The South Shore Symphony
Gustav Mahler "Symphony No. 2" (The Resurrection)
Suggested Donation of \$25 and \$20

Concert Organist Ann Labounsky Sunday, October 23, 2022, 7:30 PM

Ann Labounsky has earned an enviable international reputation as a virtuoso performer and improviser at the organ, and particularly, as a leading American disciple of Jean Langlais. From 1962 to 1964 Ann Labounsky lived and studied in Paris as a recipient of a Fulbright Grant. As an organ student of André Marchal and Jean Langlais, she immersed herself in the French organ tradition; she studied most of Langlais's compositions with the composer, and played them for him on the organ at Sainte-Clotilde. She was awarded the diploma with the highest honors at the organ competition at the Soissons Cathedral.



She has performed world premieres of many of Langlais's compositions and works by American composers. In addition to extensive performances in the United States, Dr. Labounsky has made concert tours of Europe, performing at Sainte-Clotilde in Paris on each tour, as well as in Brittany, the Netherlands, Germany, the Ukraine, and Scotland.

Dr. Labounsky is the author of a biography of Langlais, Jean Langlais: the Man and His Music, published in 2000 by Amadeus Press, Portland, Oregon. She completed recording the complete organ works by Jean Langlais for the Musical Heritage Society which were recently released through Voix du Vent Recordings including 26 CDs and a 152-page book of liner notes. As Director of Organ and Sacred Music at Duquesne University, she oversees undergraduate and graduate programs in sacred music. An active member of the American Guild of Organists, Church Music Association of America, and the National Pastoral Musicians, she holds the Fellow and Choir Master certificates from the AGO and served as Director of the National Committee on Improvisation, Councilor for Education for the American Guild of Organists, and National Director of Certification for the National Pastoral Musicians. She currently serves as Organist and Choir Director at the Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20 & \$15

The Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day: Tomás Luis de Victoria's Missa pro Defunctis a 6 voci Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 PM

This year's Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day will feature the Missa pro Defunctis a 6 voci of late Renaissance and Counter-Reformation era Spanish priest and composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria. This composition sets to music the texts of the Requiem Mass which for centuries have formed the Church's liturgical prayer for the dead. The Church prays in the Requiem Mass that the holy souls in purgatory may enter into the eternal rest of heaven. While the texts contain stark reminders of final judgment, they are also filled with hope because of the redemption won for us by Jesus Christ in his saving passion and death on the Cross.



Victoria's Missa pro Defunctis a 6 voci is his most famous work. It is his second Requiem Mass, and was composed for the Requiem of the Dowager Empress Maria in 1603, sister of Philip II of Spain, daughter of Charles V, wife of Maximilian II and mother of two emperors, for whom he served as chaplain since 1587.

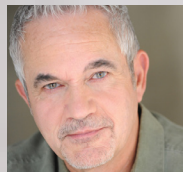
The Westminster Choir Dr. James Jordan, Conductor Saturday, November 5, 6:00 PM

Setting the standard for choral excellence since 1920, the Westminster Choir is composed of students at Westminster Choir College, a division of Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts. Recent Events have included concert tours in Beijing, China and Spain, as well as participation in the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona and groundbreaking performances of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize winning *Anthracite Fields* at the historic Roebling WireWorks as part of Westminster's Transforming Space project.

The Westminster Choir has been recording choral masterworks for nine decades. *American Record Guide* wrote about its newest recording, *Frank Martin: Mass for Double Choir*, "This is gorgeous singing...with perfect blend, intonation, diction, ensemble and musicality." *The Heart's Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder*, was described by *Classics Today* as "first rate" and "highly recommended." *Noël*, a collection of French Christmas music and sacred works, also features Westminster alumna Jennifer Larmore, mezzo-soprano, and organist Ken Cowan. It was the centerpiece of the PRI Radio broadcast *Noël - A Christmas from Paris*, hosted by Bill McLaughlin. The choir's debut recording with Maestro Miller, *Flower of Beauty*, received four stars from *Choir & Organ* magazine and earned critical praise from *American Record Guide*, which described the Westminster Choir as "the gold standard for academic choirs in America."

Praised by *The New York Times* for its "full-bodied, incisive singing," the Westminster Choir also forms the core of the Westminster Symphonic Choir, which has performed and recorded with the leading conductors and orchestras of our time.

Suggested Ticket Donation of \$25 and \$20



Saint Cecilia Concert and Investiture Saturday, November 19, 2022, 4:45 PM.

Saint Agnes Junior and Senior Girls' Choirs; Maura Goodwin, Director

The Saint Agnes Cathedral Junior and Senior Girls' Choir is extremely excited to share their annual Saint Cecilia Choir Investiture and Mass with you! We ask the special patronage of Saint Cecilia for the Girls' Choir, during their Choir Investiture and throughout the choir year. Saint Cecilia was a young Roman virgin and martyr, who died in the second century for her faith in Christ. She is the patron saint of music and musicians.



Our special Investiture Ceremony will welcome our newest choristers into the Girls' Choir. During the Mass and Concert, we will be featuring our young musicians, grades 3 through 8, as they sing their hearts to God. The girls are excited to share some of their favorite choir pieces with you as well! Please join us for a reception in the Msgr. James P. Kelly Parish Center, following the Mass and Concert to congratulate our young singers. We ask for the special intercession of Saint Cecilia, as we give honor and glory to God through sacred song.



FREE-WILL OFFERING

Sung Solemn Vespers on Advent Sunday Evenings Sundays, November 27, December 4, 11*, 18, 7:30 PM



The Advent season is a time of "devout and expectant delight" as the Church prepares for the celebration of Christmas. We prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's first coming by reminding ourselves of his Second Coming at the end of time.

Each Sunday evening during the Advent season, we will pray Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church keeping watch for our Lord when he comes again. The prayer we send up becomes "like incense in the Lord's sight." (Psalm 141:2).

The prayer, which comes from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours, is primarily scripturally based, featuring the chanting of the psalms, reading from scripture, prayers of intercession as well as the singing of hymns and canticles. A homily will be preached each evening.

On the third Sunday of Advent (December 11), Gaudete Sunday, the celebration of Vespers will be further enhanced with choral singing.

George Frederick Handel's great Christmas Oratorio "The Messiah" Friday, December 9, 7:30 PM

The Cathedral Choirs, Chamber Orchestra and Soloists
Michael L. Bower, Conductor, and Harpsichordist

Composed in the summer of 1741 and premiered in Dublin in April of 1742, "Messiah" is Handel's most famous creation and is among the most popular works in Western choral literature. It includes the very well-known chorus, "Hallelujah!" Thousands of music lovers flock to the great music halls of Carnegie and Lincoln Center in December to hear this music. This is a special opportunity to hear this great masterwork right here in our own cathedral. Enjoy this festive traditional music sung by the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, Chorale, the Master Chorale 2013, Soloists, and Orchestra.



SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION: \$25 & \$20

Triduum in Commemoration of the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr Thursday, January 19- Saturday, January 21, 2023

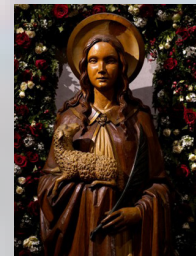
Thursday, January 19: 7:30 Holy Hour
Friday, January 20: 7:30 Solemn First Vespers
Saturday, January 21: 5:00 PM Solemn Mass

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, is the patroness of our cathedral and diocese. We will celebrate this great feast with a Triduum, three days of celebration, culminating with a Solemn Mass on the feast day itself.



An important martyr in the early Church, Saint Agnes is mentioned in the second listing of saints in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Born in 291 AD, she was raised in a Christian family. Saint Agnes was very beautiful and highly sought after for marriage. However, she made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for our Lord was so great that whenever a man wished to marry her, she would say, "Jesus Christ is my only spouse!" During a persecution, she was ordered to sacrifice to the pagan gods or be violated. She was tortured, but preserving her virginity, she was martyred and finally saw her heavenly spouse.

The first evening, there will be a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Exposition. Our Cathedral Choirs will sing to guide our meditation as we celebrate our faith in Our Lord's Real Presence among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament and ask for the intercession of our patroness, Saint Agnes.



Friday, we will celebrate First Vespers of Saint Agnes. According to liturgical tradition, the celebration of Sunday and of major feasts begins the night before. We will pray Solemn Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours, to mark the opening of the liturgical feast of our patroness. The prayer will consist of hymns, canticles, and chanting the psalms. Our Cathedral Choirs will be featured in the singing of the psalms, which will alternate between choir and congregation, and we will hear sacred polyphony and choral works. Vespers will conclude with a blessing with a relic of Saint Agnes and the opportunity for veneration.

Our celebration of the Solemnity of our patroness, Saint Agnes, will culminate with the celebration of a Solemn Mass. The Mass ordinary will be from Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Missa O Quam Gloriosum*. Other choral works sung by *The Cathedral Singers* will also enhance our prayer and festive spirit that evening.

Boys' Choir Investiture Sunday, March 19, 2023, 10:45 AM

Our Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and the Diocesan Boys and Teens Choir of Rockville Centre have a rich history here in Rockville Centre and beyond. Beginning its 62nd year, the flourishing 75 voice Cathedral Choirs will invest the new Probationers (first year singers) into the Choir and sing for the 11:00 AM Mass. Veteran singers will also be recognized.

The Choir was begun at the request of the 1st Bishop of our Diocese: the late Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg. Early special performances include: performing with Leonard Bernstein at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at Shea Stadium for His Holiness, Pope St. John Paul II. Under the Director of Mr. Bower, the Choir has continued to travel and perform in many places, including, The White House, Lincoln Center, the Vatican, and with Gerald Wirth in Vienna, Austria.



FREE-WILL OFFERING



Sung Solemn Vespers on Lenten Sunday Evenings February 26, March 5, 12, 19*, 26, April 2, 7:30 PM

The season of Lent, by means of penance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, is meant to dispose the faithful, who more diligently hear the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. On the Sunday evenings of Lent, we will pray Solemn Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours. During this season when it is most appropriate to meditate upon the Word of God, we will enter into this scripturally based prayer of singing the psalms and reading from scripture. A homily will be preached at each celebration.



On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, (March 19) a day marking that the Lenten season is more than halfway through, penitential discipline is lightened up. The evening's liturgy will feature our choir and a fuller usage of the organ, which is only played to sustain singing during Lent.

The Office of Tenebrae Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 PM

The Office of Tenebrae commemorates the betrayal, death, and burial of Christ. In days of old, it comprised the Church's early morning prayers, though it would be anticipated on the night before. The image of light and darkness is prominent in this celebration, as fifteen candles will be extinguished gradually, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples.



The prayer will begin with the Office of Readings from the Church's current Liturgy of the Hours with the chanting of the psalms and reading from scripture. It will continue with other distinctive elements of the traditional Office of Tenebrae, readings from sacred scripture and early Church Fathers, as well as the singing of the Lamentations of Jeremiah, and the Allegri "Miserere," which was originally composed for the Office of Tenebrae. The congregation will be engaged in the prayers and singing, while at the same time, masterpieces of the Church's treasury of sacred music will be featured to enhance our prayer.

The South Shore Symphony Symphony No. 2 (Resurrection Symphony) of Gustav Mahler Sunday, June 4, 7:00 PM Scott Jackson Wiley, Conductor

The Cathedral Chorale, MasterChorale 2013 and the South Shore Symphony will combine to present the "Resurrection" Symphony of Mahler. Following in the footsteps of Beethoven, Mahler included voices in some of his symphonies. Like Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Mahler's Second Symphony has a grand ending with choir. The concert will take place, just after the end of the Easter Season of the Church Year which ties in well with the theme of "life after death" which is proclaimed so gloriously by the choir, soprano & alto soloists, and orchestra during this moving work. Under the direction of Michael L. Bower, The Cathedral Chorale and New Master Chorale 2013 have established themselves as renowned choral ensembles, presenting major masterworks, including Brahms's "A German Requiem," and Mozart's "Requiem."

SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION: \$25 & \$20

