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Special Music & Concerts

During the 2024 - 2025 Season

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

With Organ & Voice
Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral

2024 - 2025

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

American Guild of Organists

Present

With Organ & Voice
Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral
Rockville Centre, New York

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 and the Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts.

The year will open with an organ concert featuring our very own associate music director, who is a concert organist as well (Maura Goodwin), which will take place on Sunday, October 20, followed by the performance of selections from Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" in the context of our 12:30 All Souls' Day Mass (November 2), and our Annual Girls Choirs Investiture and Mass on November 16!

On the Sunday evenings of Advent, we will have Sung Solemn Vespers (3rd Sunday evening- Gaudete Sunday with choir as well!) On Monday, January 13, we will host the Harvard University Glee Club in Concert!

To commemorate the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, our Patroness, there will be a Solemn Mass, and Solemn Vespers on January 20 & 21, 2025: On March 16, 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 Sung Solemn Vespers (4th Sunday evening-Laetare Sunday with choir as well!). On Wednesday of Holy Week: April 16, there will be the Office of Tenebrae.

On Friday evening, May 16, there will be a 65th anniversary of the Choir of Men and Boys, with an alumni gathering and performance of the present choir. The South Shore Symphony will return for a performance on June 1. And on Sunday, June 22, there will be a Farewell Performance and Thank-you Reception for the Cathedral Choir Members traveling to Paris France (July 1-10)

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 20, 7:30 PM
Organ Recitalist: Maura Goodwin
Suggested Donation of \$15 and \$10

Saturday, November 2, 12:30 PM
Cathedral All Souls Mass featuring selections from Gabriel Faure's "Requiem"
The Cathedral Choirs

Saturday, November 16, 4:45 PM
Saint Cecilia Choir Investiture, Mass & Concert
Saint Agnes Junior & Senior Girls Choirs
Free-will Offering

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15*, 22
4:30 PM Sung Solemn Vespers for the Sundays of Advent
* Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent with Choir (December 15)

Monday, January 13, 7:30 PM
The Harvard University Glee Club and the Cathedral Choirs in Concert
Suggested Donation of \$15 and \$10

Monday, January 20, Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Commemoration of The Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr Principal Patroness of the Diocese and Titular Patroness of the Cathedral
Monday, January 20: 7:00 PM Solemn Vespers
Tuesday, January 21: 7:00 PM Solemn Mass

Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30*, April 6, April 13
4:30 PM Sung Solemn Vespers on Lenten Sunday Evenings
* Fourth (Laetare) Sunday of Lent with Choir (March 10)

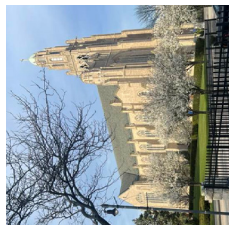
Sunday, March 16, 2025
10:45 Investiture Ceremony, 11:00 AM Mass
Choir of Men and Boys & Diocesan Boys and Teens Choir of Rockville Centre
Free-will Offering

Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 PM
The Office of Tenebrae
The Cathedral Singers
Free-will Offering

Friday Evening, May 16, 5:30/7:30 PM
Cathedral Boys Choir Alumni Gathering: Dinner/Concert
The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

Sunday, June 1, 7:00 PM
The South Shore Symphony
Suggested Donation of \$25 and \$20

Sunday, June 22, 7:00 PM
Farewell Concert and Thank-you Reception
The Cathedral Choirs Concert Tour to France
Free-will Offering



Maura Goodwin, Concert Organist - Opening of the Music Series Sunday, October 20, 7:30 PM

Maura Goodwin is the Associate Director of Music at St. Agnes Cathedral, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, joining the Music Team in 2018. Miss Goodwin is the Director of the Cathedral Junior and Senior Girls' Choirs, and the Cathedral Children's Choir, where she teaches nearly 100 girls from first to eighth grade, singing on Sundays, special liturgies and their annual concert. She also accompanies the various choirs at the cathedral, under the direction of Michael L. Bower.



As a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, Maura received degrees in Sacred Music and Theology, studying the organ under Nicholas Will. She obtained her Master's Degree in Sacred Music at Duquesne University, studying the organ under Dr. Ann Labounsky. She also received choral instruction from Dr. Caron Daley.

At St. Agnes Cathedral, Maura has been involved in the production of major performances including Mozart's and Faure's *Requiem*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 3*, as well as Handel's *Messiah* and Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*. Maura also loves early music and is the Director of the Metropolitan Catholic Chorale, a mixed choral ensemble that sings Gregorian Chant and Sacred Polyphony in the context of the Sacred Mass. She also directs a small schola once a month at Our Holy Redeemer Parish in Freeport. Maura is excited to share her love for Sacred Music through her organ performance!

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$15 & \$10

Memorial Mass of All Souls' Day: Selections from Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" Thursday, November 2, 12:30 PM

All are invited to this Annual Mass to remember the faithful departed from St. Agnes Cathedral this past year. All of the names of the deceased will be read. Our Cathedral Choirs will provide the music, and the selections will include parts of Gabriel Faure's well known setting.



Saint Cecilia Investiture, Mass, and Concert Saturday, November 16, 4:45 PM Saint Agnes Junior and Senior Girls' Choirs; Maura Goodwin, Director

The St. Agnes Cathedral Junior and Senior Girls Choirs are very excited to share their annual St. Cecilia Choir Investiture and Mass with you! We ask the special patronage of St. Cecilia for the Girls Choirs during their Choir Investiture. St. 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.

During our special Investiture Ceremony, will welcome our newest choristers into the Girls' Choir! The Mass and Concert will be feature 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! Following the Concert, please join us for a reception in the Msgr. James P. Kelly Parish Center to congratulate our young singers. We ask for the special intercession of St. Cecilia, as we give honor and glory to God through sacred song.

FREE-WILL OFFERING



Sung Solemn Vespers on Advent Sunday Evenings Sundays, December 1, 8, 15*, 22 4:30 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 15), Gaudete Sunday, the celebration of Vespers will be further enhanced with choral singing.

The Harvard University Glee Club Monday, January 13, 7:30 PM

The Harvard Glee Club is America's oldest collegiate choir and has carried on the tradition of tenor-bass choral music since 1858. Guided by our four cardinal virtues of glee, good humor, unity, and joy, the Glee Club cultivates and sustains the art of tenor-bass choral music across centuries of tradition.

The Harvard Glee Club regularly performs at Harvard's Sanders Theatre and undertakes both domestic and international tours. In 2023, the Glee Club performed to sold-out crowds in venues such as the Duomo Di Firenze in Florence and St. Bartholomew the Great in London while on a seven-city, five-country tour of Europe. While in Europe, the group also gave joint performances with Milan's renowned Coro CET, a traditional Italian tenor-bass choir, and the Universitäts Chor München in Ludwig Maximilian University's storied concert hall, the Große Aula. Other recent tours have seen the Glee Club perform for audiences in the Dominican Republic, Korea, Japan, and Miami, Minneapolis, and elsewhere throughout the United States and world. Across our history, we have recorded with artists such as Leonard Bernstein, published our arrangements in our own series with the Schirmer Company, and given numerous performances in venues such as Boston's Symphony Hall, Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, and New York's Carnegie Hall.

While traditionally drawing on repertoire from the sacred, folk, and collegiate choral traditions of Europe and North America, the Glee Club also commissions contemporary composers representing a broad array of experiences and styles. Recent commissions include contemporary settings of three African American spirituals by composer Brandon Waddles, and other pieces by Bongani Magatjana, Molly Joyce, Karen Thomas, Morten Lauridsen, Robert Kyr, and Sir John Tavener.



SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION: \$25 & \$20



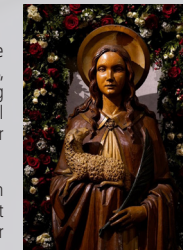
Commemoration of the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr Monday, January 20 - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Monday, January 20: 7:00 PM Solemn Vespers
Tuesday, January 21: 7:00 PM Solemn Mass



Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, is the patroness of our cathedral and diocese. We will celebrate this great feast with two days of celebration, including Solemn Vespers and Solemn Mass.

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.



Sunday evening, we will solemnly celebrate Second Vespers of Saint Agnes. The Solemn Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours will consist of hymns, canticles, and chanting the psalms. Our Cathedral Choirs will be featured in the singing of the psalms 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 individual veneration.

On the Day of the Solemnity of our patroness, Saint Agnes, there will be a Solemn Mass at which *The Cathedral Singers* will enhance our prayer and festive spirit with selections from Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Missa O Quam Gloriosum* and other sacred works.

Boys' Choir Investiture Sunday, March 16, 2025, 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 64th 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 first 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 direction 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 March 9, 16, 23, 30*, April 6, 13, 4:30 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 10) 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 16, 7:30 PM



A new favorite at Saint Agnes, drawing from an ancient tradition, the hauntingly beautiful 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 will be brought out from the Church's treasury of sacred music to enhance our prayer.

FREE WILL OFFERING



Boys Choir Alumni Gathering: Dinner/Concert Friday, May 16, 5:30/7:30 PM

The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys was founded in 1960, at the request of our first Bishop: Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg. The Choir has a rich history of performances here in our Cathedral and across the Globe including: The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. with Leonard Bernstein; Shea Stadium, The White House, St. Peter's Basilica with Pope St. John Paul II, The Phil Donahue Show, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center; and the New York State Capital.



The Choir numbers approximately one thousand "boys to men." This Evening will be an opportunity to gather these men and thank them for their contribution to the liturgical life of St. Agnes Cathedral, share many stories, and join in the success of our present Choir!



DINNER RESERVATION REQUIRED / SUGGESTED CONCERT DONATION: \$20 & \$15

The South Shore Symphony Sunday, June 1, 7:00 PM Adam Glaser, Conductor



The South Shore Symphony will return again to the Cathedral to perform under the direction of Adam Glaser, who came to the podium last year as their new conductor.

Adam Glaser is currently music director of the professional-caliber Juilliard pre-college orchestras and director of orchestras and associate professor of music at Hofstra University. Glaser also serves as a cover conductor for the New Jersey Symphony.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25 & \$20

Farewell Concert and Thank-you Reception: The Cathedral Choirs Concert Tour to France Sunday, June 22, 7:00 PM

Members of our Cathedral Choirs will share a preview of the music to be performed on their upcoming Concert Tour to Paris, France for July 1-10! Our choirs have traveled to perform in many famous places include St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Westminster Cathedral, England, and St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna.



In 2025 we shall FINALLY travel to Paris, and perform Gabriel Faure's famous setting of the "Requiem" texts in the church where he was music director: La Madeleine.

Please join us for this Concert in the Cathedral, and for the Reception to follow in the Parish Center. This event will be an opportunity to thank ALL whom have supported the efforts of organizing and fundraising for the past 4 years!

FREE WILL OFFERING, PATRON SEATING FOR BENEFACTORS OF THE CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIORITY SEATING AT THE RECEPTION