

## The Congregation

The first and foremost musical ensemble at the Cathedral is that of the assembly! No matter age or ability, all members of the congregation are encouraged to use the hymnal found in the pew or the seasonal worship aid, when present, to lift their voice to the Lord in song. Regardless of whether you feel you have the ability to sing or not, you are encouraged to take literally the words of the psalmist: "make a joyful noise unto God" (Psalm 100:1) and "sing joyfully with all your heart in hymns, psalms, and inspired song." (Colossians 3:16)

Sing out with all your heart at all Cathedral services! During most of the year, the organ will support and help to lead you. During the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent, more singing will be done without accompaniment as we anticipate the fuller joys of the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

There are many opportunities to participate in the musical life of the Cathedral.

We are constantly in search of individuals willing to give their time and talent to enrich the Music Ministry and worship life of St. Mary Cathedral.

**God, the giver of song, is present whenever his people sing his praises.**

*Sing to the Lord #1*

**But Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice for the honor and glory of the Most Blessed Trinity.**

*Sing to the Lord, #14*

## Cathedral Choir

St. Mary Cathedral is home to a fine choir of mixed voices. This ensemble is open to everyone from high school age and up. Current membership ranges from college students through retirees and everything in between! No formal audition is required for admittance — just a pleasant voice and the ability to carry a tune. While a great help to the learning process, the skill of reading music is not required for membership.

The choir's repertoire ranges from Gregorian Chant through music of contemporary composers. The choir sings both Latin and English classics and occasionally makes forays into other languages as well. While instrumentalists occasionally accompany works requiring them, a great deal of the choir's current repertory is sung *à capella*.

St. Mary Cathedral Choir can be heard regularly at the Sunday morning 10:00am liturgy. The choir also sings for special occasions such as Tenebrae on Good Friday night and Lessons & Carols on Epiphany Sunday.

## Cathedral Children's Choir

The Cathedral Children's Choir is the newest singing group at the Cathedral. Begun during Advent of 2007, the children sang for their first liturgy on Epiphany Sunday, 6 January 2008.

Open to children from grade 2 through high school, they currently sing at 12:00 noon liturgies on selected Sundays throughout the year such as Advent, Christmas Eve,

Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings between the 10:00am and 12:00 noon liturgies. The ability to read music is not a requirement but the ability to read words is. In addition to learning music, instruction is provided on the proper way to sing. Providing a further opportunity at liturgies the

children sing for, the cantors are drawn from membership in the choir.

The Cathedral Children's Choir is directed by Catherine Waldron, a Cathedral Cantor, member of the Cathedral Choir, and a music instructor in the Holt Public School system. Catherine has extensive experience working with children's choirs. She has led several children's choirs, brought groups to Chorister's Guild Festivals, and been a featured conductor at them.

For information about having your child join the Cathedral Children's choir, please contact Cathy Waldron at (517)

**Choirs and ensembles.. comprise persons drawn from the community who possess the requisite musical skills and a commitment to the established schedule of rehearsals and Liturgies.**

*Sing to the Lord, #28*

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## Cantors

Currently two Sunday morning liturgies are staffed by cantors, and it is hoped in the near future that the Saturday evening liturgy will be staffed by one as well. To become a Cathedral cantor, in addition to having a good voice and the ability to carry a tune, there must be some music reading and sight-singing ability. As one of

**Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are servants of the liturgy and members of the gathered assembly.**

*Sing to the Lord, #32*

the purposes of the cantor is to facilitate congregational song, the cantor must subscribe to the “less is more” theory of leadership. The cantor must know when to be heard and when to encourage the assembly by example rather than volume. Experience in this important ministry is not essential but is preferred.

## Instrumentalists

As mentioned elsewhere, instrumentalists are occasionally used to accompany and enhance the Cathedral choirs and Cathedral liturgies. If you have experience playing an instrument, please make yourself known the Music Director. Good sight-reading ability is assumed, and it is preferred that you have several years of experience and demonstrated ability on your instrument. An audition will be required.

## The Cathedral Organ

St. Mary Cathedral has always practiced good stewardship with regards to the Cathedral organs by purchasing used instruments and rebuilding rather than replacing or using electronic substitutes. The original instrument in the Cathedral was made by Steere and Turner Organ Co. in 1872 and relocated to the Cathedral in 1913. It was replaced by

**Many other instruments also enrich the celebration of the Liturgy, such as wind, stringed, or percussion instruments.**

*Sing to the Lord, #90*

**Among all other instruments which are suitable for divine worship, the organ is “accorded pride of place” because of its capacity to sustain the singing of a large gathered assembly**

*Sing to the Lord, #87*

another used instrument in 1957 when the current Casavant organ was purchased from Christ Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. The most recent work performed on the instrument was by the Fowler Organ Company of Lansing which rebuilt and enlarged the instrument in the late 1990’s.

While recitals featuring this magnificent instrument are held in the Cathedral from time to time, the organ is heard at liturgies every weekend as well as on weekday Feasts and Solemnities. In addition to supporting congregational singing, the organ is used for preludes and postludes to enhance the prayer of the congregation. Music utilizing the hymns and chants

of the church as well as organ works from the corpus of organ literature are featured at this time.

A separate brochure on the organ is available.

## To become involved...

Michael Dulac is Director of Music at St. Mary Cathedral. He directs the Cathedral Choir as well as playing the organ for most liturgies. If you are interested in becoming involved in the music program, please contact him by phone at (517) 342-2473, or by e-mail at [mdulac@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:mdulac@dioceseoflansing.org) Information about music here at the Cathedral may also be found by visiting: [www.StMaryCathedralMusic.com](http://www.StMaryCathedralMusic.com) Upcoming concerts may be found there as well.

**Singing by the gathered assembly and ministers is important at all celebrations.**

*Sing to the Lord, #115*

# *The Ministry of Music at St. Mary Cathedral*

