

Hello everyone,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Caleb Gray and I'm the director of music here at the parish. I want to take a moment to talk about our music here at the parish, as I'm sure most of you have noticed there have been some changes over the last few months.

Latin Mass Parts

During Advent and Lent, we have begun using the Latin chant mass parts. To explain why we're doing this, I encourage you to read the documents of Vatican II and the subsequent Vatican and USCCB documents related to Liturgy and music. In those documents, there is an emphasis that Gregorian Chant is to be given "pride of place" in the Liturgy, other things being equal as it is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 116). Similarly, there is a very clear directive that "steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 54). The Ordinary of the Mass are the common parts of the mass that stay the same throughout the year for every mass, including the Gloria and the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy). At the moment, I believe most parishes in the US are unable to say or sing those parts in Latin, so in an effort to remedy this, we are using the Latin Mass parts during penitential seasons (Advent and Lent) as a starting place. We will be looking for resources to help everyone in the pews to make this adjustment, including reference cards to be placed in the pews.

Antiphons

You may notice more antiphonal singing (like the Responsorial Psalm) as well, especially at the beginning of Mass and at Communion. We are using these texts because they are the most proper texts for the mass at any time; indeed, they are called the Proper of the Mass. "It is desirable that the assembly of the faithful should participate in the songs of the Proper as much as possible, especially through simple responses and other suitable settings" (Musicam Sacram 33). Our new Source & Summit missals provide a simple setting, as well as an option for an even simpler setting that we have started utilizing at mass in Lent.

The overall vision I believe I'm called to and that we as a parish are called to is a renewal of beautiful Liturgy, of right worship. I plan to assist in this through the above changes, as well as ongoing education of myself, our musicians, and everyone at the parish. My sole aim is to have the highest quality of music to elevate the Liturgy, to lift the soul to God in the Mass, as it is both the place where our faith finds its foundation and the highest, most pleasing form of worship we can offer to the Lord.

If you are interested in joining our musicians in this renewal of beautiful sacred music, please reach out! It's OK if you've never had any formal musical training or are nervous about learning how to sing chant properly. We're all learning together and I'd love to have you join us! I also happily welcome and will prayerfully consider any feedback you may have. You can email me directly at music@newmanniu.org or contact Father Gonnella.

Thank you for all of your support, and please pray for us!
Caleb Gray

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