



# NPM News

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
PASTORAL  
MUSICIANS  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF KANSAS CITY  
IN KANSAS AND  
KANSAS CITY/  
ST JOSEPH

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Mardi Gras<br>Bowling Party<br>St John the<br>Baptist KCK             | Fri<br>Feb<br>17<br>6-9<br>pm  |
| Fr. Paul Turner<br>Biblical Roots of<br>Liturgy<br>St Anthony<br>KCMO | Sat<br>Apr<br>29<br>9-12<br>am |

|   |           |
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Volume V, Issue III

February 1, 2023

## Upcoming Workshops in Kansas City

### *NPM Mardi Gras Fun*

at the Historic  
St John the Baptist  
Bowling Alley

414 Barnett Ave  
Kansas City, KS

Friday, Feb 17  
6-9 pm

Entry Fee of \$10  
at the door  
provides  
free bowling and  
snacks  
Beer available for  
purchase

RSVP at  
[www.npminkc.com](http://www.npminkc.com)

*Come hear  
Fr. Paul Turner  
as he speaks on*

**Biblical Roots of  
the Liturgy  
as it Applies to  
Music  
while introducing  
the new:**

*Liturgy and Life  
Study Bible  
Published by  
Liturgical Press*

**Saturday, April 29  
9-12 am**

St Anthony Catholic  
Church  
309 Benton Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64124

*St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, St. Cecilia, St. Gregory, St. Ephrem pray for us!*

## How to Say Goodbye—by Barbara Leyden

So long, farewell *auf wiedersehen*, goodbye! So goes the *Sound of Music* song. How does your parish customarily end the celebration of the Eucharist? Over the years, I've heard many pastoral musician complain about assemblies that leave along with the priest whether or not a recessional hymn is being sung. What does the Church ask of the music ministry during this time?

The concluding rite elements are the priest's greeting and blessing and the dismissal. The assembly is sent forth to do good works, praising and blessing the Lord. Sing to the Lord (STL) states that **the recessional song is optional**--it does not need to be sung. The Mass is over with the dismissal by the celebrant or deacon. STL suggests an instrumental-only or choral piece as a possibility, or, especially during Lent, silence. If your assembly is still growing in their ability to participate in the sung prayer, there are other parts of the Mass that are considered more important, and thus more important for the people to sing, such as the Gospel and Eucharistic Acclamations, the Gathering and Communion Hymns. Concentrating on developing an assembly repertoire for those parts of the Mass might well be the wisest choice and dispensing with the optional recessional hymn.

However, a strong recessional song can send forth the assembly with a final repeat of the day's Gospel message, a final reminder of the job they have ahead of them--spreading the Good News and ministering to those in need--or a rousing song of praise and thanksgiving for the many gifts received from God, especially salvation. As Kathleen Basi said in her January 14 workshop, it is the words of the final hymn that are most apt to resonate in the minds of the assembly as they leave.

If a hymn is sung, ideally the procession of ministers finishes during the final verse. (STL, 199) Some celebrants really want that final hymn and will delay departing until the final verse. Others leave immediately and sometimes a big portion of the assembly follows them out the door. If the assembly has been invited to pray a recessional hymn, the music ministers often feel rebuffed when people leave in the middle. The recessional hymn is something to discuss with the pastor and/or the liturgy committee and determine how often or if it should be sung. If a song of praise and thanksgiving was sung after communion, then an instrumental recessional to accompany the ministers down the aisle might well be the best option. What is the Song of Praise and Thanksgiving, you ask?

Many Roman Catholic musicians refer frequently to a "meditation song" as if it is a requirement to have a solo piece after Communion at each Mass. In fact, the Church documents do not call for a meditation song, but rather song or silence after communion.

The time after communion is a separate issue from the communion song. At many parishes, the entire time of reception of communion and prayer after communion is melded into one entity. A series of songs is selected to fill the time. But the Church envisions time for prayer after and separate from the act of receiving communion. There are three options for this time of prayer: silence, congregational or choral singing.

If musical prayer is the choice after communion, the song is to be one of praise, thanksgiving, or focused on the mystery of Holy Communion. The song might encourage commissioning by our participation in the Mass to carry Jesus' message to the world--to be Jesus for the world. The hymn text might express and thus amplify the Gospel message of the day--the message we are commissioned to live and preach. A choral piece is appropriate at times, but with the themes and mood stated above. **Participation might be enhanced by the assembly occasionally standing and singing a Song of Praise and Thanksgiving after communion**, after which the dismissal rite is completed, and everyone goes forth to the strains of an instrumental or choral dismissal/postlude. Go in peace, as it were.



Dr. Mario Pearson, Conductor  
Celebrating his 16th year as director of liturgy, music and principal organist at the Cathedral

### The Cathedral Schola



Stephany Svorinic



Lyra Pherigo



Cara Ellman



Beth Monahan



Kimberly Wilkinson



Kathy Davis



Amy Jeffers



Patricia Mina



Dakota Hayton



Harry Hamblin



Jedidiah Rellihan



Christopher Fuelling



Robert Dothage



Paul Davidson



David Hess



John Ross



Ryan Wornall

## DID YOU MISS THESE? NOTES FROM THE WORKSHOPS

NPM sponsored two workshops during the past few months—a Keyboard workshop on October 22 and a presentation by Kathleen Basi on January 14. Both events were well attended and provided great opportunities to learn new things, reflect and enjoy the company of other pastoral musicians in our area.

Many thanks to Alejandro Manso and Visitation Parish in KCMO for hosting the Keyboard workshop. Thank you so much to the group of experienced and distinguished local presenters: Vicky Neely, Matthew Baumler, John Winkels, Kevin Vogt, George Hans, and Theresa Vitt. The attendees were able to choose from three different presentations in two time slots. Wonderful information, tips, repertoire ideas and excellent hand-outs were provided to help pianists and organists grow in their ministry.

Participants gathered on Saturday, Jan 14, at Good Shepherd Parish in Shawnee, KS, for a delightful morning of learning, reflection, conversation, friendship and delicious food. Many thanks to the Music Ministry of Good Shepherd, Diane Schell and Raffaele Cipriano for hosting the event so beautifully. Kathleen Basi is an accomplished author, composer, presenter and pastoral musician from neighboring Columbia, MO.

Her talk and reflections centered on Team Playing and Accountability in the Music Ministry. Some of Ms Basi's guidance included the following:

- ◆ ALL pastoral musicians—professional or volunteer—exercise a genuine liturgical ministry (Sing to the Lord/STL, 50)
- ◆ We worship, serve and form community.
- ◆ Music Ministry is NOT about egos!
- ◆ Music Ministers need, and should be provided, appropriate formation to serve competently. Three important factors toward success:
  1. Get the pastor on board.
  2. The MORE people involved, the BETTER.
  3. Mandatory rehearsal plus servant attitude, which the leader must embody.
- ◆ Your program will grow if you plan quality music, pray/sing it well and continuously invite participation.
- ◆ The words of the songs we sing should shape our week. It is likely that people leave Mass with the song lyrics more deeply in their memory than the words of the homily.
- ◆ The key to hospitality is listening.

A few thoughts and impressions from participants included: affirmation, finding balance, challenge, splendor, belonging, and attitude is influential—people learn from watching the musical leadership.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN KCMO

**INTERLUDE IN THE DESERT- A LENTEN MUSIC CONCERT** with the Cathedral Schola, Dr. Mario Pearson, conductor, and Justin Cowart, cellist. Friday, March 10, 6:00 pm. Tickets are available on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) starting February 15.

**CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES** with Kansas City's OPUS 76 STRING QUARTET. Tickets are nearly sold out for concerts on February 10 & 17, March 15 & 18, April 20 & 27 and May 4 & 17. For purchase go to <https://feverup.com/m/111136>

NPM CHAPTERS FOR THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY/ ST JOSEPH AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS NEWSLETTER

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Photos from NPM Workshops Oct 2022 and Jan 2023



SCENES FROM THE JAN 14 KATHLEEN BASI WORKSHOP ABOVE AND TO THE LEFT.



OCT 22 KEYBOARD WORKSHOP PICS BELOW. FEATURING KEVIN VOGT AND GEORGE HANS

