

ALL SAINTS LITURGY & MUSIC

a Window to Christ



All Saints Music Ministry Newsletter

We are One Body-

The theme for this year, as we discussed in the first newsletter, is "We are One Body."

This is specifically true in our work in music ministry. Our voices - or music - must always be one, otherwise our choral and ensemble sound falls apart - we don't start at the same time; we don't end at the same time; and our vowels don't sound the same.

In order to become good Musicians, our unity as the Body of Christ must also be evident. We all come with our own preferences; our own musical strengths; and musical weaknesses; but it is our unity

in our relationships and fellowship with each other that creates beautiful sound which in turn engages our congregation.

This is why in our specific music ministry program at All Saints Church, we have a Music Leadership Team and several music ministry events that promote education, fellowship, and prayer.

Through these events, we rise out of our own scope of the world - our own vision - and join with the Church's intentions and Christ's love. The relationships that we create during these occasions not

only reinforce our connections with those we already know but also reach out to the wider musical community and we learn from new experiences - therefore strengthening our own music ministry as an example of the body of Christ.

One of those events is coming very soon: our Second Annual Music Ministry Retreat- January 14th (Saturday) from 8am-12pm.

This will be a great opportunity to share in each other's company; learn about our role in the liturgy as musicians; and sing together. Please mark your calendars!

Mark your Calendars!

January Retreat!

January 14th,
8am-12pm

Why Do I Sing?- Thomas Flottesch

I can think of a lot of answers to this question. I like music. Singing can be fun and a nice change of pace; and the people I sing with are amazing. But, if I am to be honest, those are reasons why I continue to sing. They are not why I started to sing. I think the answer to that can best be answered by two words, "growing pains".

I was not always the best Christian. In fact, I was pretty lousy, but that is another story. The important thing is that along my faith journey, I learned an important thing. Like any relationship, my relationship with God is always in motion. It is never constant and I always need to be looking for new ways to grow. One of those came when I was in graduate school in Pullman, WA. Our parish had a guest priest whose sermon was about giving. I remember that before the offering, he challenged us to, "Feel a twinge; to feel the pain of

giving". I know "feeling the pain of giving" may sound odd, but it struck a chord. Being a starving graduate student meant that departing with money would be a bit too painful. So, I decided to join the choir instead. It was a small parish and there were only three of us in the choir. I wouldn't say we were great singers, but we did our best. We tried hard; we were sincere; and others appreciated our effort. It taught me an important lesson: God doesn't need you to be perfect but He needs you to be present.

Fast forward a few years to when I joined All Saints. I was amazed by how good the music was. I definitely thought there was no place for an amateur hack like me, but my wife had other plans. She noticed a call for new choir members in the bulletin and placed a call on my behalf. The next thing I knew, I was on my way to my first practice. I

was incredibly nervous. I really did not think I was good enough. I remember telling Kathy that if she thinks I stink, she has permission to kick me out. Fortunately, that didn't happen. Instead, everyone was incredibly warm and welcoming. It was one of the best decisions I have made at All Saints.

So, I guess that's why I sing. I sing because it is a personal challenge, but I am not alone in meeting it.

The music is not always easy, but when I struggle I find help and guidance in the voices around me. Singing forces me out of my comfort zone, but in a positive way. It make me do what I normally don't, and as Ronald Osborn said, "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."



What in the world is an Introit Hymn?



You may have noticed that for the past several weeks, we have started our worship several times with songs entitled “Introit Hymn.” You may be wondering, what in the world is an Introit Hymn? And why has Aana decided to do these to begin our Liturgies so often?

At the beginning of our Liturgies, prior to the Mass, there is a portion of the Liturgy entitled “Entrance Introit and antiphon.” These are psalm settings that are intended to begin our Liturgies. Often these entrance antiphons - based on the psalms - are thematically connected to the scriptural readings in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgical Event of the Day. They begin with an antiphon (similar to a refrain); incorporate verses; end with a doxology (praise to the Trinity); and then the antiphon repeats once again.

For example, read the following entrance antiphon for Holy Thursday:

“We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and made free.”

Or the entrance antiphon for Christmas (Midnight Mass):

“The Lord said to me:
You are my Son; this day
have I begotten you.
(Psalm 2:7)”

Although the Church— in Her pastoral wisdom— intends that these entrance antiphons and introits be used readily at our liturgies. They allow for variations of this requirement as the antiphons can be challenging to sing and difficult to engage parishes of different cultures.

“In the dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Communion chant: (1) the antiphon from the Roman Missal or the Psalm from the *Roman Gradual* as set to music, there or in another musical setting; (2) the seasonal antiphon and Psalm of the *Simple Gradual*; (3) a song from another collection of psalms and antiphons, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops or the Diocesan

Bishop, including psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) a suitable liturgical song chosen.... This is sung either by the choir alone or by the choir or cantor with the people.”

In our cultural demographic, option four is the most commonly used and is very important to our Catholic Tradition as well! However, missing out on those entrance antiphons can be disappointing! The psalms interwoven in our liturgical ritual provide a strong scriptural foundation and thematic continuity for us.

These Introit Hymns, provided by the publishing company, World Library Productions (WLP) are based on “introit antiphons and psalms from the Roman Gradual for the Sundays and solemnities of the liturgical year. The beautiful, poetic hymn verses include psalm paraphrases from the finest English-language metrical psalters and new psalm paraphrase texts by Tietze. All are set in metrical form to familiar hymn tunes that have been sung during the last 40 years.” (WLP)

So enjoy these common hymn tunes when they pop up as our opening songs in the future. You will recognize catchy melodies - with the thematic scriptural material specific for our liturgy of the day!