

Our Lady of the Atonement

Parish Youth Choirs 2022-2023



Parents and families,

Welcome to the 2022-23 term for our Parish Choirs! The last year saw the return of choral participation in the liturgies post-COVID, as well as new faces joining us in our efforts to adorn and elevate the Holy Mass. This year we look forward to many exciting things, including our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as Evensongs and grand celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

The primary and most imperative mission of sacred music is this: to bring greater efficacy to the text of the mass, that the faithful might more wholly and fully partake in the Sacrifice on the altar and grow in their understanding of and relationship with God the Holy Trinity. It is not our mission to bring God to the people, but rather to assist the congregation in active prayer that they might come before the Lord ready to receive Him.

So too is it the goal of our program to adorn the mass with the good and beautiful thing that is sacred music. As the people of God have for all ages, we continue now to give to God the best that we have, the most beautiful gifts of our labor and expression of our humanity.

About our program

The parish of Our Lady of the Atonement has long been home to beautiful and reverent congregational worship, augmented by the sacred music of the choirs and organ. Our Anglo-Catholic patrimony offers us two rich liturgical and musical traditions to draw from; that of the Roman Catholic Church alongside that of the Anglican Church.

Youth Choirs

❖ St. Augustine Treble Choir

- **Wednesday, 4:00-4:45pm**
- For singers in grades 3-6
- For beginner and intermediate singers
- Will perform unison, two-part, and three-part repertoire

❖ St. Cecilia Mixed Choir

- **Wednesday, 5:00-6:00pm**
- For singers in grades 7-12
- For intermediate and advanced singers
- May occasionally split to sing as boys and girls separately

Sunday Masses

The youth choirs rotate together in providing music for the 9:00am Sunday mass and for special events throughout the year, such as Choral Evensongs and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. On Sundays when they are scheduled, singers are expected to report to the choir room ready to sing by **8:20am**. **Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, August 17.** Anytime school is not in session with The Atonement Catholic Academy, the choirs will not rehearse (e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas Break, Spring Break, Easter Break).

Attendance

The degree of beauty that is produced by the choirs and rate of progress depends greatly on each singer's participation. While occasional absences are expected due to illness or family obligations, frequent absences are not acceptable and may result in dismissal from the choir. All absences should be communicated to Mr. Oliveros, the director, as soon as possible. If there is a significant expected conflict, please communicate

ahead of time with the director. Singers will be excused if they are scheduled as altar servers and are not able to find a replacement.

Vesting

In the English choral tradition, the choir vests in cassock and cotta much like the altar servers and ministers. Both the St. Augustine and St. Cecilia choirs will vest in red cassock when performing their duties, and St. Cecilia's vestments will expand to include a cotta when appropriately sized pieces can be acquired. The purpose of vesting is three-fold: 1) to mark the chorister outwardly and visibly as serving a liturgical function, 2) to remind the chorister inwardly of the uniqueness of their duty, and 3) to unite the choristers in appearance that they might see themselves and each other as united in mission and purpose.

Voice for Life curriculum

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) publishes a curriculum for use in liturgical choirs which aligns with the practices of most English church choirs and the English choral tradition. This program is called *Voice for Life*, which is broken up into 5 levels, each advancing the students knowledge of choral ensemble skills, musical literacy, music theory, and singing technique. This curriculum has been used in the past at Our Lady of the Atonement, is currently in use at the cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, and it will be reinstated this year in the parish youth choirs.

Each level has a workbook associated with it, which will be issued to the singers for use and study. Upon completion of a level, the singer is eligible to receive an informal examination by the music faculty, and be awarded a medal and ribbon of color corresponding to their level of mastery; white, light blue, dark blue, red, and yellow. The ribbon then becomes a part of the singer's uniform when vested for mass or for performances.

Participation Fee

To help offset the costs of maintaining and growing a program of this quality, there will be a fee collected of **\$20/semester**. This fee will go towards purchasing and maintenance of sheet music, workbooks for the Voice for Life curriculum, vestments, and other such aids as needed by the choirs, as well as hopefully hiring instrumentalists to accompany major services such as Christmas and Easter.

The fee may be paid directly to the parish offices, in hand to the music faculty, or online via the parish's online giving portal.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you making music with your children. As an alumnus of the Academy and longtime parishioner, I have a special place in my heart for this wonderful place and the music we make here. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

In Christ,

Alejandro Oliveros
Director of Music
Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church
The Atonement Catholic Academy
music@ourladyoftheatonement.org

Schedule of choirs for Fall term, 2022

Date	Occasion	Mass Choir
August 21	10 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
August 28	11 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
September 4	12 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Augustine
September 11	13 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
September 18	14 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
September 25	15 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Augustine
October 2	16 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
October 9	17 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
October 16	18 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Augustine
October 23	19 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
October 30	20 th Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
November 6	21 st Sunday after Trinity	St. Augustine
November 13	22 nd Sunday after Trinity	St. Cecilia
November 20	Christ the King	St. Cecilia
November 27	First Sunday of Advent	St. Augustine
December 4	Second Sunday of Advent	St. Cecilia
December 11	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)	St. Cecilia
December 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent	St. Augustine
December 18 (evening)	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	St. Augustine and St. Cecilia
December 24	Christmas Eve	St. Augustine (vigil) St. Cecilia (in the night)
December 25	Christmas	TBD

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Registration Form

In order for your child to participate in the OLA parish choirs, please complete and return this page to Mr. Oliveros. If your child attends The Atonement Catholic Academy, they will need to submit a "Parent Authorization and Direction for After School Arrangements" form to the front office in addition to the registration form.

Please write legibly and clearly.

For Parents

I, _____, have read and agree to all the regulations and expectations of the OLA Parish Choirs. I resolve to have my child attend all rehearsals and events on time as stipulated above.

Signature

Date

For Chorister

I, _____, agree to comply with all the rules and regulations listed above. I will strive to achieve excellence in musicianship and collegiality within the Choir. Furthermore, I agree to be respectful to the Director, staff, and fellow choristers for the greater good of the Choir.

Signature

Date

Chorister Information

Chorister Name: _____

Grade in school: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Chorister Email: _____
(wherever you would like to receive email communications)

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: _____

• • • Return this form to Mr. Oliveros • • •