

**Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral Parish  
Rockville Centre, New York**

# **The Cathedral Chorale (Adult & Teen Choir)**



**Michael L. Bower, Director**  
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**Handbook: 2020-2021**

Saint Agnes Cathedral  
29 Quzaly Place  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Most Rev. John Barres, D.D., S.T. D., J.C.L.  
Diocesan Bishop  
Reverend Michael F. Duffy, Rector

**Associate Pastors**

Rev. German Villabon, O.S.A.  
Rev. Alessandro da Luz  
Rev. Bright Appiagyei-Boakye

**In Residence**

Most Rev. William Murphy, S.T. D. Bishop Emeritus  
Rev. Msgr. Jim Vlaun  
Rev. John McCartney

**Director of Music:**

**Michael L. Bower:** [mbower@stagnescathedral.org](mailto:mbower@stagnescathedral.org)

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Music helps us express what words alone cannot. When we are at Sunday Liturgy and all are lifting their voices in song, the sound of the assembly, celebrant, choir, cantor, and organ really does create a wonderful expression of faith.

Each member of the Chorale has the opportunity to explore their faith through the music they sing. Equally important, they strengthen the faith of those around them with the beautiful melodies and texts. By sharing the gifts God has given them, our singers enrich the lives of many.

## **St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Chorale**

This publication is a 2020/2021 resource for our choir members and families. It provides Choir Policies, Schedules, Calendar of Events and a membership directory.

### **Attendance Policy**

Members are expected at all rehearsals, liturgies, and performances, and are expected to be on time. The accompanying schedule has events which are boldfaced or “boxed” to show they are the most important events of the year. To be excused from a choir event, please sign out in advance on the schedule posted on the Chorale bulletin board in the rehearsal room. In the case of an emergency (you have not signed out for a rehearsal or liturgy), members must phone the music office. Unexcused absences are followed up with a phone call. After two unexcused absences, a meeting with the director will be required before continuing in the choir program.

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE DIRECTOR OF ANY ABSENCES  
AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE**

### **Liturgy Schedule**

The Cathedral Chorale usually sings every third Sunday at the *Televised* 11:00 AM Liturgy. All members are required to be present for warm-ups by 10:15. Sectional rehearsals begin on Sundays at 9:45 (Generally these are for new singers, Tenors, and Basses, but subject to rotation with Sopranos and Altos). Please be prompt! There are several special liturgies on the calendar each season, many celebrated by Bishop Barres. These liturgies are “boxed” on the accompanying calendar to show their importance. Please take the choir calendar into account when planning family vacations, especially around the Christmas and Easter holidays.

### **Dress Code**

Choir members should dress for liturgies and other performances as if they were attending an important event. Please wear dress shoes, dress pants, skirts or dresses, dress shirts etc.

### **Choir Robes**

Each Choir member is assigned a robe to be used throughout the choir season. The robes are numbered, and hung on a hanger with the same number. The robes are hung in numerical order so robes can be easily found on Sunday morning. Please take time to hang up your robe properly after Mass. **Please be sure to put your Name and number (#) in your robe. This is Important!**

### **Musical Scores**

Each member is assigned a numbered folder and corresponding hymnals and song-books. Each member has a box for music (anthem octavos, liturgical music supplements, etc.) Music is regularly collected after the pieces have been sung. **It is the responsibility of each member to return music that is requested in a timely manner. ALL music must be returned immediately at the end of the season or a fee will be charged to the member.**

### **Organization of the Choir**

The **Chorale** is made up of adults and teenagers from the Parish and neighboring communities. Entrance into the Choir is by interview/audition only. The members, all of whom are volunteers, prepare weekly for the purposes of leadership in sung prayer for the Cathedral Parish liturgies. The singers are either professional musicians or trained choral singers.

### **History**

The **Cathedral Chorale** was formed in 1980 for the purposes of including women's voices as part of the singing ensembles in the Cathedral (an outgrowth of the Choir of Men and Boys). Entrance into the Choir is by audition/interview only, and is made up of trained volunteers from the Parish and neighboring communities. Previous directors include Paul LaMedica and Christoph Tietze.

In 1992 Michael Bower became the director of the Cathedral Chorale and sought to further develop this adult and advanced teen ensemble. The Choir has sung twice at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., as well as premiering Gyorgy Orban's *Missa Quarta* in the Cathedral of Salzburg, Austria. In addition to singing regularly at the 11:00 Sunday liturgy, the Choir sings at some extraordinary liturgies such as Christmas and Easter. The Choir has a large repertoire, encompassing various styles of music, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance motets, American Spiritual music, and masterworks from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, as well as contemporary masterworks.

In 1998, the choir performed John Rutter's *Gloria* and *Te Deum* at Carnegie Hall with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. To mark the Millennium, the Chorale joined with the South Shore Symphony to sing Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. In 2003, the Choir sang Handel's *Messiah*, Parts I, II, & III, and in 2004 they presented Mahler's great *Symphony No.2* (the Resurrection). The Choir performed Mozart's *Requiem* for the One Year Anniversary of the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II on April 2, 2006. The Women's Voices sang Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* in the same spring! In 2007, the Chorale was the demonstration choir for The Adult Honors Choir Festival with classes throughout the 2006-2007 year and culminating in a Festival on June 10. The Chorale premiered two new works in those years. The group was featured at the International Cathedral Music Directors' Conference in the Cathedral in January of 2008 and performed *Beethoven's Mass in C, Opus 86*, and other masterworks in a concert that same year. In 2009 they sang Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the South Shore Symphony. The Chorale performed Handel's *Messiah* that December and at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., that following April with Bishop Murphy presiding, along with the Bishops and priests of the Diocese. That June, the Choir premiered a new Festival Anthem for choir, alto soloist, and orchestra, commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of the service of Michael L. Bower and Holliday Haynes to St. Agnes Cathedral Parish.

In the Spring of 2011, the Choir performed a concert of the Music of Franz Liszt to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the composer's birth, which included the premier of a new orchestral arrangement of "*Nun Danket Alle Gott*" (*Now Thank We All Our God*). In the fall of 2011, the Choir performed Rutter's *Requiem* for a 9/11 10th Anniversary Memorial, and traveled on a 10 - Day Concert Tour to Italy in July of 2012, singing in St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City), The Shrine of Assisi, San Lorenzo, Florence, and San Marco Cathedral, Venice.

In the 2012-2013 season, the Choir recorded a stunning new Christmas CD (now available through [HeartBeatRecords.com](http://HeartBeatRecords.com)), sang in a multifaceted Christmas Concert in St. Agnes Cathedral, published a new Cookbook, and sang in a Choir Festival in Southampton! For the 2013-2014 Season, special projects include performing in the Hallmark Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, New York City, and presenting the Brahms *Requiem*. This past season, the Choir performed, again, the Christmas Concert in St. Agnes and had a hugely successful 2-week Concert Tour to Ireland/England, singing in Kylemore Abbey, the Galway Cathedral, the Newman University Church, Dublin, Westminster Cathedral, and St. John's, Bath, England.

The 2015-2016 Season included: the Music Ministry being honored at the Annual Parish Party in October, Handel's *Messiah* in December, hosting the Westminster Choir in January of 2016, and a Carnegie Hall Residency in April! 2016-2017 season: events included a 9/11 Memorial Concert, a concert at St. Francis Xavier Parish, New York City. 2017-2018 Season: SeptemberFest! A Christmas Concert, and a Concert Tour to Austria and Germany! 2018-2019: A stunning Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, and Mozart's "Requiem" performance. 2019-2020: The annual Christmas Concert, which was aired on Catholic Faith Network TV.

As well as being a wonderful musical ensemble, this group is a collection of terrific human beings who take music ministry to a new level as a caring organization and outreach in the Rockville Centre Community.

**The Cathedral Schola Cantorum** consists of a small group of advanced members of the Chorale and some members of the Cathedral Parish music staff. The Schola prepares music of a higher level of difficulty and sings for some special liturgies. The group performed a selection of 20<sup>th</sup> Century cappella choral music on February 13, 2008 here in the Cathedral.

**Michael L. Bower**, Conductor and organist, continues to enjoy the privilege of directing this wonderful group of talented musicians here on Long Island! A native of Floyd, Virginia, he began formal piano lessons at age six and was playing for Sunday school services in his home church by 12. He began teaching himself to play the organ at age 13 and held his first position as church organist at Zion Lutheran Church in Floyd at age 15.

Mr. Bower received his Bachelor's Degree Magna Cum Laude in Sacred Music and Organ Performance from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, where he studied organ with Donald McDonald, harpsichord with Mark Brombaugh, and conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt. He was a three-time recipient of the William and Mary Renneckar merit scholarship. During his undergraduate years, Mr. Bower pursued additional organ study with Marilyn Keiser of Indiana University and boys choir training with James Litton, Director of the American Boys Choir, Princeton and Gerre Hancock, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York. He was also a member of Donald Allured's Concert Handbell Choir.

In 1985, he was appointed Associate Director of Music for St. Agnes Cathedral. At this time, he assisted Christoph Tietze in the development of a professional music program, including multiple choirs. He founded the Cathedral Girls Choir and trained the probationer group of the Boys Choir. In 1987, Bower continued specialized studies in organ and boys choir training with Stephen Cleobury at Kings College, Cambridge, and conducting with John Rutter at Clare College, Cambridge, England.

Michael earned his Master's Degree with Honors in Organ Performance from Manhattan School of Music in 1992, where he studied organ with John Walker, Baroque continuo with Kenneth Cooper, and conducting with Amy Keiser. At graduation, Bower received the John Cerovale award for his outstanding performance of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. He has also done graduate work in liturgy at Notre Dame University and the National Pastoral

Musicians Institute. Bower has performed organ recitals on the East Coast, the Mid-West, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and England. He has performed on the organ at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and with the Long Island Choral Society of Garden City, New York. Bower also performed Ned Rorem's "Quaker Reader" in a concert at Columbia University as part of a festival celebrating the composer's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1998. Michael is featured on the Christmas CD of the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys released in December 2002, playing five solo organ selections. He has been a regional workshop clinician in choral vocal production, boys choirs, and organ performance.

Michael's duties at St. Agnes Cathedral include directing the 75-voice Choir of Men and Boys, the 80-voice Cathedral Chorale (Adult), and the Schola Cantorum (16-voice a capella ensemble), and the Cathedral Singers (extremely vocally gifted octet ensemble of the Cathedral's professional singers). Most recently, he has created the Diocesan Boys Choir of Rockville Centre. Mr. Bower has prepared and conducted the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra in performances of many choral masterworks including Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. He has also toured with the Choir of Men and Boys to sing at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, The White House, and the Cathedral Basilica of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. In 1998, he prepared the Cathedral Chorale for a performance at Carnegie Hall conducted by John Rutter. In 2000, Michael prepared the Chorale and other Rockville Centre choral singers for a Millennium performance of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. Michael was the Dean of the Nassau County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Chair of the International Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and past member of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission of Rockville Centre.

Other projects of Mr. Bower include recording at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College for Pipedreams Radio Broadcast in October 2004, playing Widor's *Opus 42 Symphony in g minor* with the South Shore Symphony of Rockville Centre, and performing on the famed Cavaillé Coll organ at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, in July of 2005. In 2007, he performed a solo organ recital at Westminster Abbey, London. In January of 2008, he hosted the Conference of Cathedral Music Directors of the United States and Canada at St. Agnes Cathedral and presented a number of choirs and soloists in concert. That February, he performed Samuel Barber's organ concerto *Toccata Festiva* with the South Shore Symphony and Schola Cantorum. More recent events include taking The Choir of Men and Boys on a singing tour to Washington, D.C., teaching a choral conducting seminar at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Three years ago, he founded a new Diocesan Boys Choir of 45 select young singers and performed organ concerto works at St. Peter's Church, Citicorp Center in 2011. In 2011, he prepared and conducted the Cathedral Choirs in a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem*, and recorded a new Christmas CD with the Choir of Men and Boys and Diocesan Boys Choir. In 2012, he took 100 singers from the Cathedral Choirs and Diocesan Boys Choir on a 10-Day Tour of Italy (July of 2012).

In 2013-2014, projects including taking a select ensemble of 60 singers from his marvelous choirs to perform in the Hallmark Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, New York City, presenting the Brahms *Requiem* and Mozart *Mass*.

This past year saw the GREAT SUCCESS of the Christmas Spectacular Concert in St. Agnes, and the Cathedral Choirs of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Concert Tour to Ireland/England of July 2015! 2015-2016 Season: Maestro Bower opened the Concert Year for St. Agnes with a solo organ recital, recorded on a new compact CD, produced and directed Handel's "Messiah," presented the Westminster Choir at the Madison Theatre of Molloy College, and took a select group of his Cathedral, Diocesan, and Master Chorale singers to perform in Carnegie Hall!!!

2016-2017 Season: he presented a 9/11 Memorial Concert with the Cathedral choirs, took the Choirs to perform at St. Francis Xavier Church, NYC, and prepared the Choirs for a performance of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," and performed Handel's "Organ Concerto" Opus 4, No. 4. 2017-2018: SeptemberFest, A Christmas Concert, the Poulenc "Organ Concerto," and Mozart "Requiem" with Gerald Wirth and the Vienna Boys Choir. This Past Season: conducting a critically acclaimed performance of the Mozart's "Requiem," soon to aired on Chanel 13! 2019-2020: played and Organ Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral, and conducted the Annual Christmas Concert in St. Agnes, which was aired on Catholic Faith Network TV on Christmas Day!

<p>St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Chorale  <b>Adult and Teen Choir 2020 - 2021 Schedule</b>          (Please note that items on this schedule are subject to change)</p>
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**PLEASE NOTE REHEARSALS AND MASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, BASED ON PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING.  
 PARISH CENTER OR CATHEDRAL**

**September**

10 **Thursday** 8:00-9:45 PM **First Rehearsal!**  
*Welcome New Members! Refreshments!*

13 <b>First Sunday!</b>	9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal (Rehearsal Rm) 10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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17 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

24 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

27 **SUNDAY Happy Birthday Maestro Michael L. Bower!**

**October**

1 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

4 **Sunday** 9:45 AM **Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help**  
 10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 27th Sunday in  
 Ordinary Time

8 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

15 Thursday 8:00-9:45PM Rehearsal

22 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

25 **Sunday** 9:45 AM **Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help**  
 10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 30th Sunday in  
 Ordinary Time

**PLEASE NOTE REHEARSALS AND MASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, BASED ON PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

*In memory of deceased Choir Members  
 REST IN PEACE*

**October (con't)**

29 14 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

**November**

5 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

12 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

15 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 33rd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time



**RESPONSES DUE FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT!!!**

22 Sunday 10:00 AM ALL at Rehearsal  
ALL at 10:00 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – Solemnity

26 Thursday 9:00 AM Thanksgiving Day Mass!  
Televised (Rehearsal for ALL at 8:15 sharp!)  
Thanksgiving Day Mass! SCHOLA CANTORUM



**Of Christ the King**

**December**

3 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

6 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 2nd Sunday of Advent

**\*10 Thursday 8:00-10:00 PM Dress Rehearsal in the Cathedral  
for Prelude Service and Midnight Mass  
YOU MUST ATTEND THIS REHEARSAL! TENTATIVE**



13 Sunday 6:30—8:30 PM Select Group  
Final Piano Rehearsal for Hallmark Christmas Concert at St.  
Patrick's Cathedral!!! Select Group—Rehearsal here at St. Agnes!

16 Wednesday 7:30—9:30 PM Orchestral/Choir  
Dress Rehearsal at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Christmas Concert  
Select Group  
17 Thursday 7:30 Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC





December (con't)



**10 or 17 Thursday 8:00-10:00 PM Dress Rehearsal in the Cathedral for Prelude Service and Midnight Mass YOU MUST ATTEND THIS REHEARSAL!**

**24 Thursday 10:30 PM Warm-ups  
11:30 Prelude Service of Music, & Midnight Mass**



31 Thursday XXXXXX No Rehearsal-Happy New Year!

January 2021! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**3 Epiphany Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy**

7 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

10 Sunday Happy B-Day Mr. President Delmond!



14 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

16 Happy B-Day Doreen Baldwin!

**16 or 23 Saturday 5:00 PM Feast of St. Agnes Mass. Rehearsal at 4:00 DATE TBD Tentative with Covid-19 Situations.  
Schola Cantorum**

**21 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal**

**24 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

28 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

**31 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February**

4 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

11 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

18 Thursday XXXXXX No Regular Rehearsal—Winter Vacation

21 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 1st Sunday of Lent

25 Thursday 8:00 - 9:45 PM Rehearsal

**March**

4 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

**SCHOLA CANTORUM SHOULD ALSO ATTEND RE-**  
**HEARSAL STARTING AT 7:00 FOR CHRISM MASS!**

Or the 11th. TBD



11 Thursday 8:00 - 9:45 PM Rehearsal

14 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 4th Sunday  
of Lent

**18 Thursday 8:00 – 10:00 PM Dress Rehearsal for  
Holy Week Liturgies MANDATORY  
and Womanatory!**



17 *Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

**28 Palm Sunday**  
*(Please note time!)*

**9:45 SHARP!! Warm-ups 11:00 Liturgy-  
for Palm Sunday**

25 Thursday 8:00 - 9:45 PM Rehearsal



**April**

**SPECIAL LITURGIES FOR HOLY WEEK THIS MONTH!**  
**(April 1st, and 3rd)**

**3 Sunday 6:30-8:30 FINAL PIANO REHEARSAL—Concert in Olde St.  
Patrick's Cathedral, Mulberry Street, NYC (REHEARSAL HERE AT  
ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL!)**

**9 Saturday Evening 7:30 Concert in Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC!  
(ALL ARE WELCOMED!!!)  
Warm-up time there TBD**

April (con't)



???	Thursday	9:45 AM	Schola Cantorum ONLY— Singing at The 11:00 AM Diocesan Chrism Mass
			Date TBD
1		7:15 PM	8:00PM Liturgy—Mass of the the Lord's Supper
<b>All singers</b>		Warm-up	
<b>3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>8:00 PM Liturgy</b>
		<b>Warm-up</b>	<b>Great Easter Vigil</b>
<b>All singers</b>			

8 Thursday xxxxxxxx Easter Week—No Rehearsal

15 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

18	Sunday	9:45 AM	Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help
		10:15 Warm-up	11:00 Liturgy – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of

22 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

25 4th Sunday of Easter 11:00 Liturgy Rehearsal Tenors/Basses at 9:45  
Rehearsal Sopranos/Altos at 10:15  
SCHOLA CANTORUM

29 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

May

6 Thursday 8:00-9:45 PM Rehearsal

9 Sunday 9:45 AM Sectional Rehearsal/Extra Help  
10:15 Warm-up 11:00 Liturgy – 6th Sunday of Easter

16 7th Sunday of Easter 11:00 Liturgy Rehearsal Tenors/Basses at 9:45  
Rehearsal Sopranos/Altos at 10:15  
SCHOLA CANTORUM

**June**  
**End of the Year Party!!!!**



**July**  
**Summer Singing Date TBD**

**Board of Officers:**

Robert Delmond, President

Diana Bier, Treasurer

Barbara Kane, Sunshine

Doreen Baldwin, Administrative Assistant

**Hospitality**

Pam Mulderrig and Chorale Helpers!

**Librarian Helpers**

Linda Borut

Volunteers from the Cathedral Parish