



# Music Ministry Cantors Guidelines

## **The Cantor (from Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship)**

37. The cantor is both a singer and a leader of congregational song. Especially when no choir is present, the cantor may sing in alternation or dialogue with the assembly. For example, the cantor may sing the invocations of the *Kyrie*, intone the *Gloria*, lead the short acclamations at the end of the Scripture readings, intone and sing the verse of the Gospel Acclamation, sing the invocations of the Universal Prayer, and lead the singing of the *Agnus Dei*. The cantor may also sing the verses of the psalm or song that accompany the Entrance, Preparation of the Gifts, and Communion. Finally the cantor may serve as a psalmist, leading and proclaiming the verse of the Responsorial Psalm.

38. As a leader of congregational song, the cantor should take part in singing with the entire gathered assembly. In order to promote the singing of the liturgical assembly, the cantor's voice should not be heard above the congregation. As a transitional practice, the voice of the cantor might need to be amplified to stimulate and lead congregational singing when this is still weak. However, as the congregation finds its voice and sings with increasing confidence, the cantor's voice should correspondingly recede. At times, it may be appropriate to use a modest gesture that invites participation and clearly indicates when the congregation is to begin, but gestures should be used sparingly and only when genuinely needed.

39. Cantors should lead the assembly from a place where they can be seen by all without drawing attention from the liturgical action. When, however, a congregation is singing very familiar responses, acclamations, or songs that do not include verse for the cantor alone, the cantor need not be visible.

40. The cantor exercises his or her ministry from a conveniently located stand, but not from the ambo. The cantor may dress in an alb or choir robe, but always in clean, presentable, and modest clothing.

## **The Weekend**

- Arrive 30 minutes before scheduled Mass and be prepared to rehearse the Responsorial Psalm and other hymns or songs you believe are needed.
- Review the pre-Mass announcements and be ready to begin with the wave of the presider's hand.

## **The Weekdays**

- Practice your music prior to your scheduled Mass.
- Need additional rehearsal time? Schedule a 30 minute lesson with Patrick.

## **The Schedule**

- The schedule is maintained using Google Drive. Cantors are given access to the schedule and the opportunity to choose what Masses they'd like to serve at on a first come, first serve basis before Patrick starts assigning.
- Order of Services are sent out approximately two weeks prior to scheduled Mass.