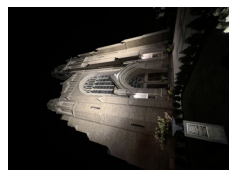


Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
Permit No. 704

St. Agnes Cathedral
Office of Music Ministry
29 Quealy Place
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-4021
(516) 764-9578



With Organ & Voice Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral

2023 - 2024



The Cathedral of St. Agnes
Office of Music Ministry
Rockville Centre, New York
www.StAgnesCathedral.org



Most Rev. John O. Barres, D.D., S.T.D., J.C.L.
Diocesan Bishop

The Very Reverend Michael F. Duffy, Rector



Most Rev. William Murphy, S.T.D., Bishop Emeritus



Michael Bower, Director of Music



Maura Goodwin, Associate Director of Music



Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts

American Guild of Organists

Present

With Organ & Voice
Music at Saint Agnes Cathedral
Rockville Centre, New York

Special Music & Concerts During the 2023 - 2024 Season

Dear Friends,

We are now into the third decade of special concerts and services of music at Saint Agnes Cathedral! While there have been concerts in Saint Agnes for many, many years (under the direction of Mrs. Bertha Reilly, Msgr. Williams, Mr. Paul LaMedica, and Mr. Christoph Tietze, to name a few past directors), the present organization of these events came about in 2000, when our magnificent new pipe organs were built. In addition to hundreds of liturgies, the musicians of Saint Agnes, along with outstanding visiting artists, present concerts and special music to enhance the musical and spiritual life of our community. Many of the concerts feature our wonderful pipe organ and at least one of our choirs. Please plan to attend these wonderful events, which are designed to appeal to a variety of ages and musical tastes.

We are especially grateful to all who have collaborated on presenting these events: The Nassau Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Rockville Centre Guild for the Arts.

The year will open with an organ concert featuring our very own music director, who is a concert organist as well (Michael L. Bower), which will take place on Sunday, October 22, followed by a performance of Cristóbal de Morales's "Requiem for 5 Voices" in the context of a Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day (November 2), and our Annual Girls Choirs Investiture and Mass on November 17!

On the Sunday evenings of Advent, we will have Sung Solemn Vespers, featuring our two cantors Holly Haynes and Christina Buxton (3rd Sunday evening-Gaudete Sunday with choir as well!) On Friday evening, December 15, we will have our Advent/Christmas Concert (Stay Awake, Watch, Make Ready the Way of the Lord!)

To commemorate the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, our Patroness, there will be a Triduum on January 19-21, 2024: Holy Hour, Solemn Mass, and Solemn Vespers. On March 17, we'll have the Choir of Men and Boys' annual Investiture Ceremony and Mass. On the five Sunday evenings of Lent as well as Palm Sunday, we will have Sung Solemn Vespers, featuring again, our two cantors Holly Haynes and Christina Buxton (4th Sunday evening-Laetare Sunday with choir as well!). On Wednesday of Holy Week: March 27, there will be the Office of Tenebrae.

On Sunday evening, May 5, there will be a performance J.S. Bach's "Magnificat in D Major" and Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria." The South Shore Symphony will return for a performance on June 2.

As well as these special presentations, the choirs, cantors, organists and musicians prepare and help us to pray with BEAUTIFUL music throughout the year, each and every Sunday, holy days (Christmas and Easter), Thanksgiving, Confirmations, First Holy Communions, etc.!

We look forward to seeing you at many of these liturgies and events, and having the opportunity to thank you for your support to our Music Ministry!

All the Very Best,
Michael L. Bower, Director of Music

Sunday, October 22, 7:30 PM
Organ Recitalist: Michael L. Bower
Suggested Donation of \$15 and \$10

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 PM
The Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day: Cristobal de Morales
"Missa pro Defunctis a 5 Voci Requiem"
The Cathedral Singers
Free-will Offering

Friday, November 17, 7:30 PM
Saint Cecilia Choir Investiture & Concert
Saint Agnes Junior & Senior Girls Choirs
Free-will Offering

Sundays, December 3, 10, 17*
6:00 PM *Sung Solemn Vespers for the Sundays of Advent*
* Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent with Choir (December 17)

Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM
"Stay Awake, Watch, Make Ready the Way of the Lord"
Advent/Christmas Concert
The Cathedral Choirs, Chamber Orchestra, and Soloists
Suggested Ticket Donation of \$25 and \$20

Friday, January 19 – Sunday, January 21, 2024
Triduum in Commemoration of
The Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
Principal Patroness of the Diocese
and Titular Patroness of the Cathedral
Friday, January 19: 7:30 PM Holy Hour
Saturday, January 20: 5:00 PM Solemn Mass
Sunday, January 21: 4:00 PM Solemn Vespers

Sundays, February 18, 25;
March 3, 10*, 17, 24
6:00 PM *Sung Solemn Vespers on*
Lenten Sunday Evenings
* Fourth (Laetare) Sunday of Lent with
Choir (March 10)

Sunday, March 17, 2024
10:45 *Investiture Ceremony,*
11:00 *AM Mass*
Choir of Men and Boys &
Diocesan Boys and
Teens Choir of Rockville Centre
Free-will Offering

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM
The Office of Tenebrae
The Cathedral Singers
Free-will Offering

Sunday Evening, May 5, 7:30 PM
Cathedral Music Master-Work Series
Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" &
J.S. Bach's "Magnificat in D Major"
The Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra

Sunday, June 2, 7:00 PM
The South Shore Symphony
Ottorino Respighi "Church Windows"
(Vetrate di Chiesa)
Suggested Donation of \$25 and \$20

Michael L. Bower, Concert Organist - Opening of the Music Series Sunday, October 22, 7:30 PM



Since completing his undergraduate studies from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, Mr. Bower has made St. Agnes Cathedral and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York his homebase for a shining career of Sacred Music, including the further development of the various Cathedral Choirs and the birth of a number of new semi-professional groups. At the heart of his ministry is the playing of the Cathedral pipe organs, and this will be an opportunity for the community to hear the organ in all of its glory in a dazzling solo recital!

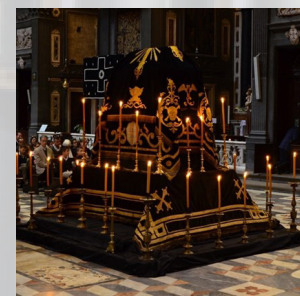
Bower has concertized in Europe as well as the East Coast and the Mid-West of the United States. He received his Master's Degree in Organ Performance at Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with John Walker and performed on the organ at Riverside Church. Michael has performed several times at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Princeton University Chapel, Westminster Abbey, and Notre Dame, Paris. More recently, he performed at St. Paul's Cathedral, Pittsburgh (the famous German pipe organ), and St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Italy. He continues to mount the challenge of the major organ concerto repertoire with the South Shore Symphony and is featured prominently on compact disc recordings of the Cathedral Choirs, showcasing the organ in solo and symphonic repertoire.

This concert will feature some of his favorite recital works.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$15 & \$10

The Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day: Cristóbal de Morales's *Missa pro Defunctis a 5 voci* Thursday, November 2, 7:30 PM

This year's Solemn Mass of All Souls' Day will feature the *Missa pro Defunctis a 5 voci* of Spanish Renaissance composer, Cristóbal de Morales (c. 1500-1553). This composition sets to music the texts of the Requiem Mass which for centuries have formed the Church's liturgical prayer for the dead. The Church prays in the Requiem Mass that the holy souls in purgatory may enter into the eternal rest of heaven. While the texts contain stark reminders of final judgment, they are also filled with hope because of the redemption won for us by Jesus Christ in his saving passion and death on the Cross.



Morales, one of the most famous composers in the world at his time, was the choirmaster at the cathedral of Toledo, following ten years in Rome as a member of the papal choir at the Sistine Chapel. Spanish composer and priest Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599) studied under him, and his works would influence Father Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611), whose Requiem we performed last year, and the Church's most celebrated polyphonist, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594). The *Missa pro Defunctis a 5 voci* was likely Morales' final composition. It was performed in the funeral rites celebrated for Charles V in Mexico City in 1559, and for the funeral of Philip II in 1598. The mysticism of Morales's music has been compared to that of Saint Teresa of Ávila in poetry.

Saint Cecilia Investiture and Concert Saturday, November 17, 2023, 7:30 PM
Saint Agnes Junior and Senior Girls' Choirs; Maura Goodwin, Director

The Saint Agnes Cathedral Junior and Senior Girls' Choir is extremely excited to share their annual Saint Cecilia Choir Investiture and Concert with you! We ask the special patronage of Saint Cecilia for the Girls' Choir, during their Choir Investiture and throughout the choral year. Saint Cecilia was a young Roman virgin and martyr, who died in the second century for her faith in Christ. She is the patron saint of music and musicians.

During our special Investiture Ceremony, we will welcome our newest choristers into the Girls' Choir. The Saint Cecilia Concert will feature our young musicians, grades 3 through 8, as they perform a variety of different repertoire. The girls are excited to share some of their favorite choir pieces with you! Please join us for a reception in the Msgr. James P. Kelly Parish Center, following the Concert to congratulate our young singers. We ask for the special intercession of Saint Cecilia, as we give honor and glory to God through sacred song.

FREE-WILL OFFERING



Sung Solemn Vespers on Advent Sunday Evenings
Sundays, December 3, 10, 17*, 6:00 PM



The Advent season is a time of "devout and expectant delight" as the Church prepares for the celebration of Christmas. We prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's first coming by reminding ourselves of his Second Coming at the end of time.

Each Sunday evening during the Advent season, we will pray Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church keeping watch for our Lord when he comes again. The prayer we send up becomes "like incense in the Lord's sight." (Psalm 141:2).

The prayer, which comes from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours, is primarily scripturally based, featuring the chanting of the psalms, reading from scripture, prayers of intercession as well as the singing of hymns and canticles. A homily will be preached each evening.

* On the third Sunday of Advent (December 17), Gaudete Sunday, the celebration of Vespers will be further enhanced with choral singing.

Stay Awake, Watch, and Make Ready the Way of the Lord
Preparation for the Birth of Christ
Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM

Seasonal Favorites will be presented by the Cathedral Chorale, the Choir of Men and Boys, Diocesan Boys/Teens Choir of Rockville Centre, Senior Girls Choir, Master Chorale 2013, Chamber Choirs, directed by Michael L. Bower.

"Music, Movement and Majesty" describes this concert, which includes familiar carols of the "Season, Olde and New," an impressive procession of the Three Wise Men ("We Three Kings"), Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" with the dramatic "standing room" of the audience, in three parts of the Cathedral!

SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION: \$25 & \$20



Triduum in Commemoration of the Solemnity of Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr
Friday, January 19 - Sunday, January 21, 2024

Friday, January 19: 7:30 PM Holy Hour
Saturday, January 20: 5:00 PM Solemn Mass
Sunday, January 21: 4:00 PM Solemn Vespers



Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, is the patroness of our cathedral and diocese. We will celebrate this great feast with a Triduum, three days of celebration, culminating with a Solemn Mass on the feast day itself.

An important martyr in the early Church, Saint Agnes is mentioned in the second listing of saints in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Born in 291 AD, she was raised in a Christian family. Saint Agnes was very beautiful and highly sought after for marriage. However, she made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for our Lord was so great that whenever a man wished to marry her, she would say, "Jesus Christ is my only spouse!" During a persecution, she was ordered to sacrifice to the pagan gods or be violated. She was tortured, but preserving her virginity, she was martyred and finally saw her heavenly spouse.

The first evening, there will be a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Exposition. During this year of Eucharistic Revival in the United States of America, our Cathedral Choirs will sing to guide our meditation and celebration of our faith in Our Lord's Real Presence among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament and ask for the intercession of our patroness, Saint Agnes.

On the eve of the Solemnity of our patroness, Saint Agnes, there will be a Solemn Mass at which *The Cathedral Singers* will enhance our prayer and festive spirit with selections from Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Missa O Quam Gloriosum* and other sacred works.



Sunday evening, we will solemnly conclude the Triduum with Second Vespers of Saint Agnes. The Solemn Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours will consist of hymns, canticles, and chanting the psalms. Our Cathedral Choirs will be featured in the singing of the psalms and we will hear sacred polyphony and choral works. Vespers will conclude with a blessing with a relic of Saint Agnes and the opportunity for individual veneration.

Boys' Choir Investiture
Sunday, March 17, 2024, 10:45 AM

Our Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and the Diocesan Boys and Teens Choir of Rockville Centre have a rich history here in Rockville Centre and beyond. Beginning its 63rd year, the flourishing 75 voice Cathedral Choirs will invest the new Probationers (first year singers) into the Choir and sing for the 11:00 AM Mass. Veteran singers will also be recognized.



The Choir was begun at the request of the first Bishop of our Diocese, the late Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg. Early special performances include performing with Leonard Bernstein at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at Shea Stadium for His Holiness, Pope St. John Paul II. Under the direction of Mr. Bower, the choir has continued to travel and perform in many places, including, the White House, Lincoln Center, the Vatican, and with Gerald Wirth in Vienna, Austria.

FREE-WILL OFFERING

Sung Solemn Vespers on Lenten Sunday Evenings
February 18, 25; March 3, 10*, 17, 24, 7:30 PM

The season of Lent, by means of penance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, is meant to dispose the faithful, who more diligently hear the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. On the Sunday evenings of Lent, we will pray Solemn Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours. During this season when it is most appropriate to meditate upon the Word of God, we will enter into this scripturally based prayer of singing the psalms and reading from scripture. A homily will be preached at each celebration.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, (March 10) a day marking that the Lenten season is more than halfway through, penitential discipline is lightened up. The evening's liturgy will feature our choir and a fuller usage of the organ, which is only played to sustain singing during Lent.



The Office of Tenebrae
Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 PM



A new favorite at Saint Agnes, drawing from an ancient tradition, the hauntingly beautiful Office of Tenebrae commemorates the betrayal, death, and burial of Christ. In days of old, it comprised the Church's early morning prayers, though it would be anticipated on the night before. The image of light and darkness is prominent in this celebration, as fifteen candles will be extinguished gradually, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples.

The prayer will begin with the Office of Readings from the Church's current Liturgy of the Hours with the chanting of the psalms and reading from scripture. It will continue with other distinctive elements of the traditional Office of Tenebrae, readings from sacred scripture and early Church Fathers, as well as the singing of the Lamentations of Jeremiah, and the Allegri "Miserere," which was originally composed for the Office of Tenebrae. The congregation will be engaged in the prayers and singing, while at the same time, masterpieces will be brought out from the Church's treasury of sacred music to enhance our prayer.

FREE WILL OFFERING



Cathedral Music Master-Work Series
Sunday, May 5, 7:30 PM

Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" & Johann Sebastian Bach's "Magnificat in D Major"
The Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra
Michael L. Bower, Conductor



The St. Agnes Music Department will continue the tradition of presenting great sacred classical music master-works with the performance of these two gems, composed for choir, orchestra, and soloists. Vivaldi's setting of the Gloria takes on the form of an extended cantata, where the various parts of the text are given a separate movement. Vivaldi composed this setting of the Gloria text when working at the famous orphanage turned music school: the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice, Italy.

Bach's setting of the Magnificat takes a similar format of dividing up the texts for the purposes of creating individual movements. Bach was newly appointed to the St. Thomas Church (Thomaskirche), Leipzig, Germany, when the 1st performance took place in 1723, 300 years ago this year! The orchestration is a delight to hear, as are the choral and vocal solo parts. The challenging Baroque music is further decorated by the use of five-part singing of the Choir (SSATB!)

SUGGESTED TICKET DONATION: \$25 & \$20

The South Shore Symphony
Sunday, June 2, 7:00 PM
Ottorino Respighi "Church Windows" (Vetrata di Chiesa)
Adam Glaser, Conductor

The South Shore Symphony will return again to the Cathedral to perform under the direction of their new conductor, Adam Glaser.

Ottorino Respighi composed "Vetrata di Chiesa" in 1926. Three movements are based on Gregorian chant melodies. They describe the drama of major Church events as depicted in the stained glass windows of Italian churches, including the Flight into Egypt, St. Michael the Archangel, the Matins of St. Clare, and St. Gregory the Great!



Adam Glaser begins his tenure as Music Director and Conductor of Long Island's South Shore Symphony in the 2023/24 season. He is currently Music Director of the professional-caliber Juilliard Pre-College Orchestras and Director of Orchestras and Associate Professor of Music at Hofstra University. Glaser also serves as a cover conductor for the New Jersey Symphony.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$25 & \$20

