

# *Department of Liturgical Music*

## **THE CHURCH OF SAINT ROCCO**

### *The Role of Liturgical Music & Services:*

*“By itself, the question of the liturgy’s essence and the standards of the reform has brought us back to the question of music and its position in the liturgy. And as a matter of fact, one cannot speak about worship at all without also speaking of the music of worship.”*

— Pope Benedict XVI

Although secular music is not allowed before, during, or after any mass, an eclectic array of options can assure your musical expectations are met. Parishioners are encouraged to review the parish’s Planning Guides for Funerals & Weddings, found on the website and in the narthex of the church at the entrance of the choir loft staircase.

#### ***Mass of Christian Burial (Funerals):***

Although a competent funeral director may provide *appropriate* musical requests, families should contact the music director to be made aware of *all options* the parish can offer. Considerations may include incorporating a specific language, the deceased’s affiliations (Men of St. Joseph, Holy Name Society, Legion of Mary, Women Guild, Santa Maria Del Prata Society, Military Service, etc.) Similar to current funeral practices, music can be prearranged (far in advance) as a convenience to the family.

#### ***Holy Matrimony (Weddings):***

Couples are encouraged to begin the music planning process at least three months prior to their date of marriage. After reviewing the wedding planning guide, a demonstration of the music and consultation in the choir loft with the music director and wedding coordinator assure the couple is adequately prepared for the wedding rehearsal and their requests can be met.

#### ***Additional Considerations & Services Offered:***

**The standard music personnel are the parish cantor and organist.** Other instrumentalists may be hired in addition to the organist: it is strongly suggested such are hired through the music director as they are familiar with the church, organ, and liturgical music. At an additional cost, one may hire a featured solo instrumentalist (such as a violinist) or form an ensemble (string or brass quartet).

A **printed program** can serve as an aid to those in attendance at the liturgy. It is particularly helpful for those who choose bilingual readings, sacred pieces, or plan to have a multilingual congregation in attendance. Although the parish will not provide programs equivalent to a publisher, we are more than happy to provide basic programs at an additional charge; samples provided upon request.

*The Staff of Saint Rocco Church provides the music for all weekend and weekday liturgies, funerals, and weddings - effective September 18, 2021 outside musicians may not be requested and will not be permitted to replace the parish music staff. The music for all parish liturgies is selected in accordance to the Mass of the Day and Liturgical Season by the Music Director in collaboration with the Pastor. It is in this respect, music requests for parish-wide liturgies (not funerals or weddings) will not be honored.*