

Cantor Preparation

Major Goals as a Cantor: your job is to lead the congregation in the music of the liturgy, not to perform. Technically, the instrument leads. Be alert, and be prompt so as not to interrupt the flow of the celebration.

Take charge; be firm. Use a strong voice, and speak directly into the microphone.

When not at the cantor stand or at the ambo, remain in your pew. You should sit toward the end of the pew so that you can get up and down without disruption to other people.

Cantors are scheduled several weeks in advance. When new schedules are issued, please review them carefully and advise of any dates which you cannot serve.

If you have a last-minute emergency and cannot fulfill your assignment, please contact other cantors to find a substitute, or call the Music Director (936-825-0565) or (936-727-0443) if you are unable to find a substitute. Please do not wait to request help if you need it.

To prepare to cantor:

1. Read/meditate over the weekend readings.
2. Practice selected music; cantor practice is at 6pm on Tuesday evenings for Saturdays, or at 1:30pm on Tuesday afternoon for 8am Sunday Mass. If you are unable to attend the regular practice, please make arrangements to meet with the Music Director before your scheduled service. It is vital that you be as prepared as possible to lead the assembly.
3. Use the CD's containing all the psalms and Gospel acclamations to practice at home, or listen to them in your car. These are invaluable aids.
4. Have all your music organized before Mass begins. Put any personal music or notes in the cantor book, and remove them after Mass. The same book is used for multiple Masses.
5. Arrive at church early and let the Music Director or accompanist know that you are there.
6. Verify the music agenda with the accompanist.
7. When appropriate, introduce new music to the congregation, at the instruction of the Music Director.

8. Any announcements and/or music introductions will be printed out for you. Please do not improvise!