

ORDINARY TIME I

— From the Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship & Spiritual Life —

RELEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF SYMBOLS

N HIS apostolic letter Desiderio desideravi, Pope Francis calls us to rediscover the richness of symbolic language in the liturgy. He poignantly observes, "Every symbol is at the same time both powerful and fragile. If it is not respected, if it is not treated for what it is, it shatters, loses its force, becomes insignificant." The Holy Father's words challenge us to examine how we engage with the symbolic nature of the liturgy, especially in an age that often overlooks or misunderstands symbols.

Symbols, at their core, are visible realities that point to invisible truths. They communicate more than words can convey, inviting us into deeper participation in the divine mysteries. Yet Pope Francis warns that modern mentality has grown blind to the necessity of symbols. Unlike St. Francis of Assisi, who could see creation as a reflection of God and call the sun "brother" and the moon "sister," many today struggle to perceive the sacred in the physical world. This loss of symbolic vision renders the Church's liturgy, with its rich tapestry of gestures, objects, and signs, "inaccessible" to many.

The Holy Father asks a pivotal question: "How can we become once again capable of symbols? How can we again know how to read them and be able to live them?" This question resonates deeply for those who seek to safeguard the beauty and depth of the liturgy.

The task of relearning the language of symbols begins with catechesis. As inheritors of centuries of liturgical tradition, we are called to pass on this symbolic wisdom to future generations. Symbols in the liturgy—like water, bread, wine, light, incense, and gestures—are not mere embellishments; they are carriers of grace and meaning. They draw us into the mysteries they represent, opening a doorway to encounter the divine.

Msgr. Kevin Irwin, a noted liturgical theologian, echoes Pope Francis' concern. He observes that many Catholics today have become disconnected from the deeper meanings behind the Church's symbolic actions. "Understanding the symbols of the liturgy requires both formation and participation," he writes, "and it's through these symbols that we are drawn into the very life of God."

One way to bridge this gap is by fostering spaces where the faithful can engage with the symbols of the liturgy in accessible and meaningful ways. Msgr. Irwin's extensive writings on liturgical theology, as well as parish-level catechesis, provide practical tools for rediscovering the beauty of liturgical symbols. By immersing ourselves in the richness of these signs, we can better communicate their meaning to others. Relearning the language of symbols is not merely an intellectual task; it is a way of living. To be capable of symbols means to approach the liturgy with a sacramental worldview, where physical realities are seen as infused with spiritual significance. It means reclaiming a sense of awe and wonder at the simple yet profound signs through which God communicates His grace.

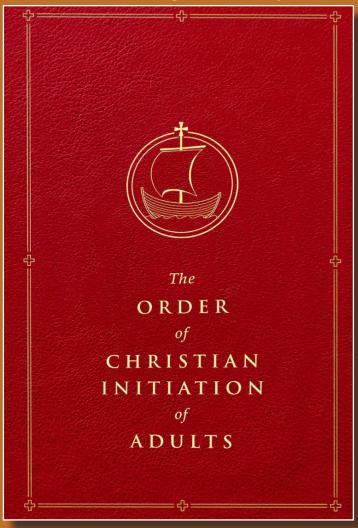
This Jubilee Year provides a timely opportunity to rekindle our capacity for symbols. As we step into sacred spaces adorned with beauty and tradition, let us take Pope Francis' invitation to heart: to respect, understand, and live the symbols of the liturgy. By doing so, we allow the power of these sacred signs to transform us and draw us deeper into the mystery of God's love. - Fr. Vigoa

Preparing Catechumens and Candidates: A Pastoral Responsibility

s PASTORS, one of our most important duties is ensuring that those in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) are well-prepared to receive the sacraments of initiation. The journey of catechumens and candidates is deeply personal, and their readiness for the sacraments reflects not only their spiritual growth but also the care and guidance provided by the Church.

A practical and meaningful step in this process is scheduling individual meetings with each catechumen and candidate. These one-on-one encounters allow pastors to hear their stories, understand their faith journeys, and address any questions or concerns they may have. These meetings also offer an opportunity to build a pastoral relationship, demonstrating the Church's commitment to accompanying them through this transformative time.

Additionally, pastors should gather with the OCIA team to review the progress of all catechumens and candidates. This ensures that any potential issues are identified and resolved well in advance of Easter. It is a very sad and difficult situation if problems are only uncovered



at the last moment, leading to someone being unable to proceed with receiving the sacraments. Having to relay such news is a painful experience for both the pastor and the individual involved.



It is important to remember that candidates do not complete their sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigilonly Catechumens do. The Church's preference, as outlined in the National Statutes for the Catechumenate (No. 33), is for these candidates to receive their sacraments during the Easter season, either on Easter Sunday or any Sunday within the Easter octave. Pastors must also secure the necessary delegation from Archbishop Wenski to confirm baptized Catholics. This step ensures that all canonical requirements are met and highlights the Church's care for properly celebrating the sacraments.

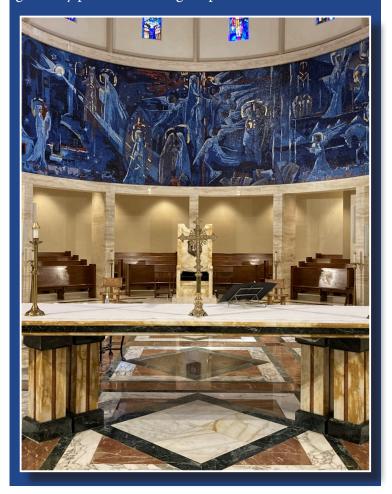
Preparing catechumens and candidates is not just a procedural task but a pastoral mission that reflects the Church's call to nurture faith. By taking the time to meet individually, ensuring proper preparation, and following liturgical norms, we accompany these individuals with care and reverence as they draw closer to Christ and His Church. Each new member who is baptized strengthens the Body of Christ and adds to the Church's growth, fulfilling the mission Jesus entrusted to His followers from the early Church to today. Let us strive to make their journey a joyful and grace-filled experience. -RJV

Understanding Intinction in the Liturgy

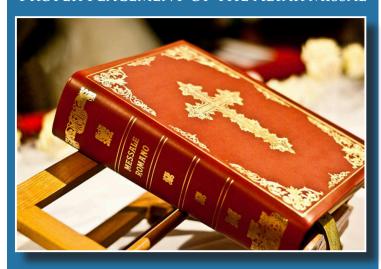
HE practice of receiving Holy Communion by intinction—dipping the consecrated host into the Precious Blood—is an option foreseen in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). However, it remains rare in the United States and is strictly prohibited for the faithful in the Archdiocese of Miami. This clarification is particularly important as intinction has become more visible in some places following the COVID-19 pandemic, despite its limited use in the U.S. historically.

The GIRM allows intinction primarily for concelebrants during Masses with large numbers of priests. According to GIRM 249, concelebrants may receive Holy Communion by intinction when carefully arranged, ensuring enough Precious Blood is available. Each concelebrant takes a particle of the host, intincts it partly into the chalice, and consumes it while holding a purificator. The practice is often reserved for liturgies with significant logistical challenges, such as large concelebrations like chrism or ordinations.

For the faithful, the U.S. bishops' guidelines emphasize that Communion under both kinds is generally preferred through separate administration.



PROPER PLACEMENT OF THE ALTAR MISSAL



COMMON oversight in many parishes is the tendency to place the altar missal on the altar before Mass begins. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), this practice should be avoided, as the missal is only required on the altar from the Preparation of the Gifts until the purification of the vessels (GIRM 306). Placing the missal prematurely detracts from the altar's symbolic role as the central focus of the Eucharistic celebration, yet in many places, the missal seems to remain on the altar permanently, almost as though it were a fixture rather than a liturgical book.

The GIRM specifies that during the preparation of the altar, an acolyte or lay minister should arrange the necessary items, including the corporal, chalice, paten, and missal (GIRM 139). For priests celebrating without servers, a nearby credence table or lectern offers a practical solution, keeping the missal accessible while preserving the altar's sacred role. Proper preparation beforehand ensures a smooth flow of the liturgy and fosters reverence by adhering to liturgical norms. By forming the habit of properly preparing the altar and placing the missal only when needed, priests can enhance the dignity of the Mass and demonstrate a deeper respect for the liturgical norms that guide our worship.



BEFORE YOU BUILD OR RENOVATE: SEEK THE PROPER APPROVAL

Building, renovating, remodeling, or enhancing a church space is an exciting and meaningful endeavor for any parish. Whether it involves constructing a new church, making minor aesthetic updates, undertaking a liturgical reordering, or carrying out a full-scale restoration, such projects have a profound impact on the spiritual life of the community. However, before making any changes, it is essential to follow the proper archdiocesan procedures to ensure that the project receives the necessary approvals and remains both theologically sound and architecturally appropriate.

The Catholic Church has always upheld the sacredness of its worship spaces. According to the Code of Canon Law, a church is a sacred building designated for divine worship, and the faithful have the right to access it for liturgical celebrations. Because of this, any significant modification to a church's architecture or interior design must be done with great care, ensuring that the sacred nature of the space is preserved and enhanced.

One of the most common mistakes pastors and parish councils make when considering renovations is moving forward with plans before obtaining the necessary approvals. While enthusiasm for improvements is commendable, there is a formal process in place to ensure that changes align with the Church's liturgical norms and the vision of the archdiocese.

<u>Step One</u>: Seeking the Archbishop's Approval

Before any renovation or construction project begins, the pastor must first seek written approval from the Archbishop. This is not merely a bureaucratic formality but a necessary step to ensure that the project is undertaken with the full guidance and blessing of the local Church. The Archbishop, as the chief shepherd and liturgist of the diocese, has the responsibility to oversee all sacred spaces to maintain their integrity and liturgical function.



Upon receiving the request, the Archbishop will assign the Office of Worship and the Building Office to oversee the project. These offices work in tandem to ensure that renovations adhere to liturgical principles and architectural best practices.

Once the Archbishop grants initial approval, the Office of Worship and the Building Office will collaborate with an archdiocesan committee composed of experts in liturgy, sacred architecture, and construction. This committee provides invaluable guidance on:

- Liturgical Fidelity Ensuring that the renovations enhance the worship experience and maintain proper theological symbolism.
- Architectural Integrity Preserving the historical and artistic heritage of the space while integrating necessary improvements.
- Practicality & Functionality Addressing real needs of the parish community while respecting the sacred nature of the church.

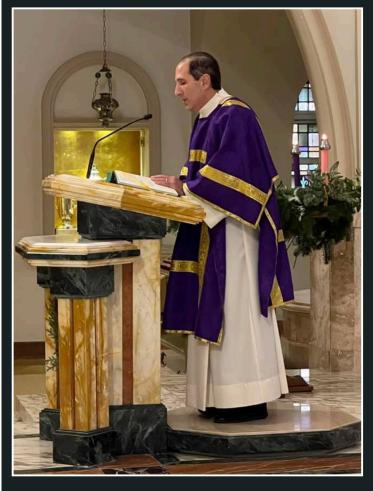
AVOIDING "WRECKOVATION" WHILE EMBRACING RENEWAL

The term "wreckovation" has been used to describe renovations that have stripped churches of their traditional beauty in favor of modernist aesthetics. While some well-intentioned projects have unfortunately resulted in the loss of sacred art and architectural harmony, proper planning and adherence to diocesan procedures can prevent such missteps.

Rather than seeing renovation as an opportunity to "update" a church to contemporary trends, it should be viewed as an opportunity to restore, renew, and enhance the sacredness of the space. The goal is not to make a church look like a conference hall or a multipurpose room, but to make it a place where heaven and earth meet—a true house of God.

Every church renovation, whether minor or extensive, should be undertaken with a deep sense of responsibility. The sacred space entrusted to us today will serve generations of worshippers in the future. By following the proper procedures—starting with the Archbishop's approval and working with the diocesan offices and expert committees—parishes can ensure that their enhancements truly serve the glory of God and the good of the faithful.

If your parish is considering building, renovating or an enhancement project, remember: before paying an architect or lifting a hammer, start with a letter to the Archbishop.



DEACONS: A GENTLE REMINDER

Deacons hold a vital role in the liturgy, assisting the celebrant and serving as a bridge between the sanctuary and the assembly. However, it is essential for deacons to remain mindful of their gestures and postures to maintain the dignity and clarity of the celebration. Here are a few key points to keep in mind:

PRESIDENTIAL GESTURES

One of the most common oversights is the deacon opening his hands while greeting the assembly. This gesture, known as the "orans" position, is a presidential act reserved for the celebrant. When offering greetings such as "The Lord be with you," the deacon should keep his hands joined in front of his chest, demonstrating his role as an assistant, not a presider.

GENUFLECTING WITH REVERENCE

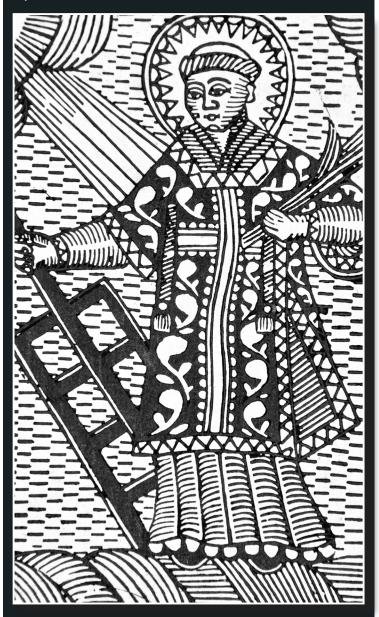
Proper reverence to the Blessed Sacrament is crucial, especially when the tabernacle is located in the sanctuary. Deacons should genuflect upon first entering the sanctuary and again when leaving, but not during the Mass itself. Once the liturgy begins, all reverence is given to the altar. A bow is the appropriate gesture of reverence, aligning with the actions of the celebrant and other ministers.

VOCAL RESPONSES

Deacons are often tasked with voicing responses during the liturgy, but care must be taken to ensure these are done in a subdued and respectful manner. Responses should be spoken clearly yet softly, avoiding a tone that might distract or overpower the celebrant's voice. The deacon's role is to complement the celebrant, not to draw attention away from him.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Gestures and postures may seem minor, but they carry significant meaning in the liturgy. By adhering to these guidelines, deacons can fulfill their roles with reverence and humility, contributing to the beauty and harmony of the Mass. Slow, deliberate movements, rather than quick or rushed actions, further enhance the sense of sacredness and reflect the solemnity of the liturgy. Let us strive to be attentive to these practices, honoring the sacred nature of the liturgy and the roles entrusted to us. -RJV



PONTI ORKES

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

The Archdiocese of Miami in communion with the Universal Church and Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Year of 2025 with a solemn Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, 7525 NW 2nd Avenue on Saturday, December 28 at 5:30 PM. The Jubilee Year 2025 marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world have designated their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Jubilee Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive their faith.

Here in the Archdiocese of Miami, designated as special places of prayer for Jubilee Year Pilgrims are the following churches and shrines.

St. Mary's Cathedral 7525 NW 2nd Avenue Miami, Fl, 33150 The National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity (La Ermita) 3609 South Miami Avenue, Coconut Grove (Miami), Fl, 33133

Our Lady of Schoenstatt Shrine 22800 SW 187th Avenue Homestead, Fl, 33170 St. Mary Star of the Sea Basilica 1010 Windsor Lane, Key West, Fl, 33040

St. Clement's Catholic Church 2975 N. Andrews Avenue Wilton Manors, Fl, 33311 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 11691 NW 25th Street, Doral Doral, Fl, 33172

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

For centuries a feature of holy year celebrations has been indulgence, which the church describes as a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for their sins. The basic conditions to gain an indulgence are that a person is "moved by a spirit of charity," is "purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion" and prays for the pope.

Groups of the faithful who wish to organize pilgrimages to one or more of the above designated churches or shrines should coordinate with the designated site so that the pilgrims can be properly welcomed and have access to the Sacraments, especially confession.

9401 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami Shores, Florida 33138 Telephone: 305-762-1233 Facsimile: 305-757-3947



JUBILEE 2025

GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

24 December

Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica



JANUARY 2025

24-26 January

Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025

8-9 February

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

15-18 February

Jubilee of Artists

21-23 February

Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025

8-9 March

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

28 March

24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025

5-6 April

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers

25-27 April

Jubilee of Teenagers

28-29 April

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025

1-4 May

Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May

Jubilee of Entrepreneurs

10-11 May

Jubilee of Marching Bands

12-14 May

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May

Jubilee of Confraternities

30 May - 1 June

Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly



JUNE 2025

7-8 June

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

9 June

Jubilee of the Holy See

14-15 June

Jubilee of Sport

20-22 June

Jubilee of Governments

23-24 June

Jubilee of Seminarians

25 June

Jubilee of Bishops

25-27 June

Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025

28 July - 3 August

Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 September

Jubilee of Consolation

20 September

Jubilee of Justice

26-28 September

Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025

4-5 October

Jubilee of the Missions

4-5 October

Jubilee of Migrants

8-9 October

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

11-12 October

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

31 October - 2 November

Jubilee of the World of Education



NOVEMBER 2025

16 November

Jubilee of the Poor

22-23 November

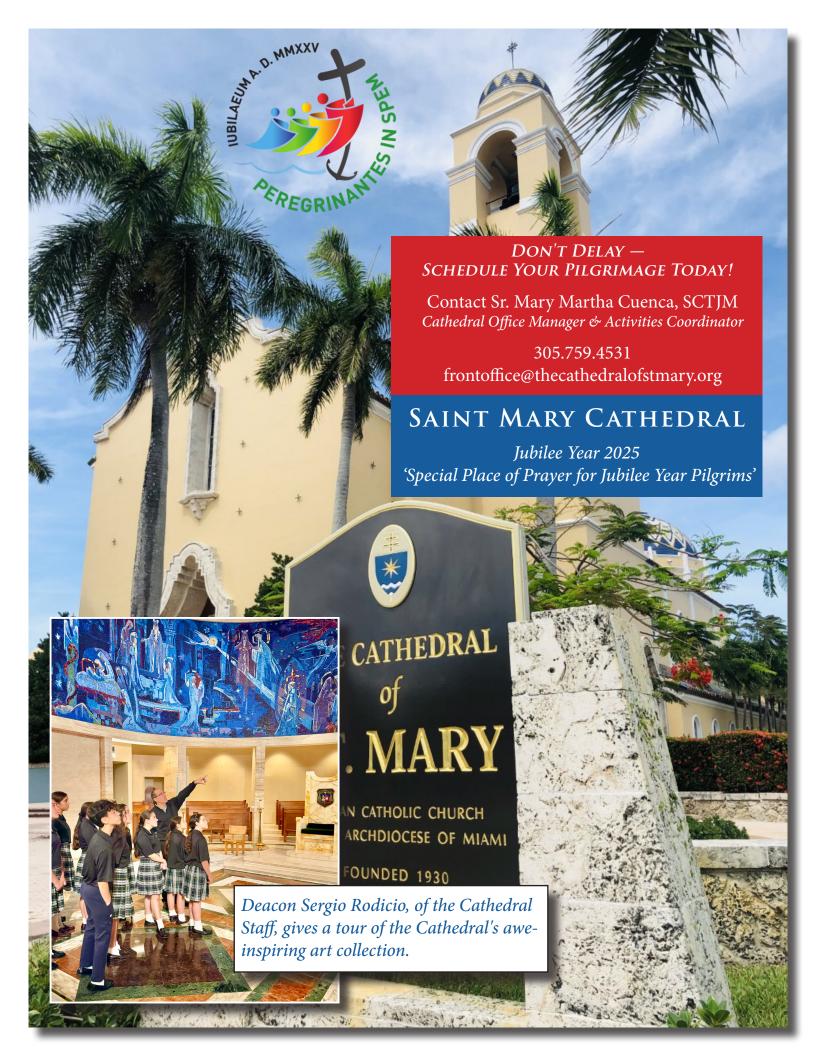
Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025

14 December

Jubilee of Prisoners





Please Share These Pages With Your Parish Musicians!



— From the Archdiocesan Director of Sacred Music —

ADOM PARISH MUSICIANS TO GATHER AT GESU CHURCH IN MIAMI ON FEBRUARY 26TH

LL musicians serving in a leadership capacity in any parish within the Archdiocese of Miami are cordially invited to attend an informal gathering at Gesu Church (118 NE 2nd St, Miami, FL 33132) on Wednesday 26 February from 7 until 8:30pm. Free Parking is available in the lot directly behind the church. RSVP by 14 February to Host Musician Danny Cabrera at danny91195@gmail.com or by calling 305.904.4316. All Music Directors, Choir Directors, Cantors, Pianists, and Organists are encouradged to attend! Refreshments will be served, and we'll receive an update on the work of the Music Office and how best it can serve you in your work in the parishes.

ADOM PARISH MUSICIANS' GATHERING

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025 7-8:30PM GESU CHURCH, MIAMI

ENJOY FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER ADOM MUSICIANS!

RSVP BY 14 FEBRUARY TO HOST MUSICIAN DANNY CABRERA AT DANNY91195@GMAIL.COM OR BY CALLING 305.904.4316





ARCHDIOCESE of MIAMI

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
OFFICE of WORSHIP

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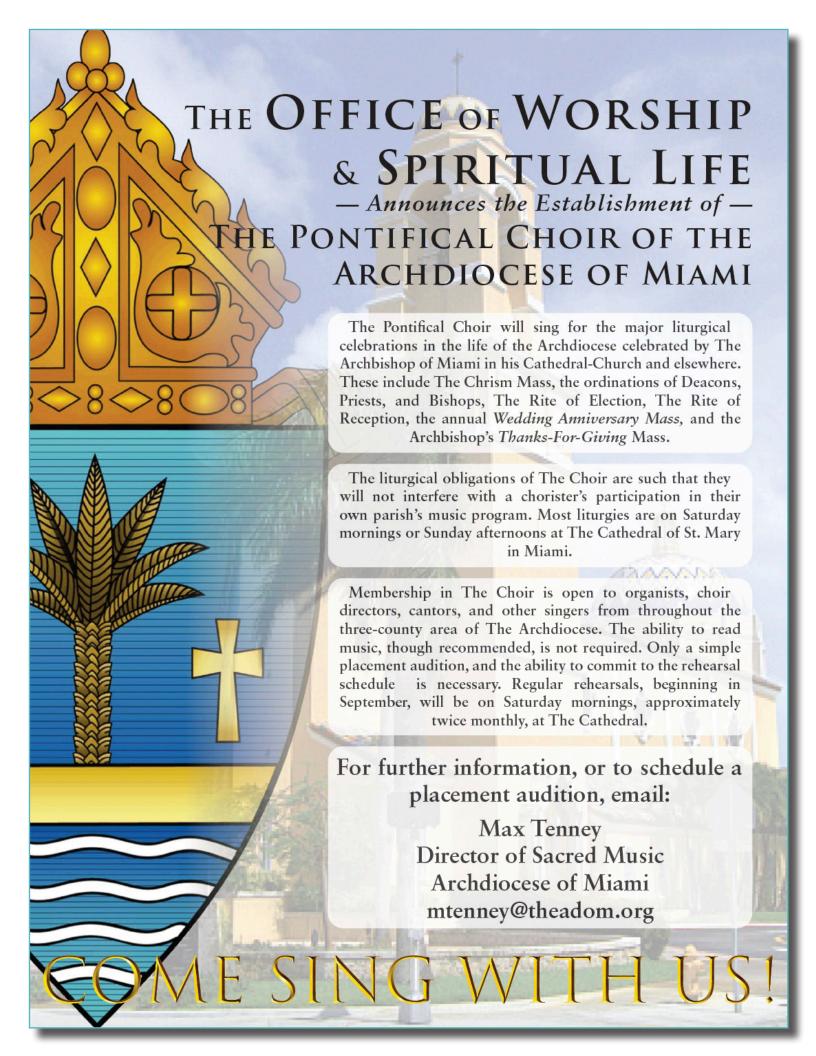
ARCHDIOCESAN ORGAN INSTITUTE

The *Archdiocesan Organ Institute* is an organist training program that seeks to provide skilled pianists with the necessary training to successfully serve as an organist in a Catholic parish. The Institute is led by Archdiocesan Director of Sacred Music, and Saint Mary Cathedral Organist and Director of Sacred Music, Max Tenney.

- Five successive Monday evenings in March 2025, beginning 3 March
- Five different parish locations to provide the student with the most-broad range of instruments possible
- Topics covered will include:
- How does the organ work?
- Hymn & service music accompaniment
- Easy repertoire for voluntaries
- Registering the organ for Mass

For more information, or to register, please contact Max Tenney in the Music Office (305) 759-4531, ext. 111 mtenney@theadom.org







ARCHDIOCESE of MIAMI

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

OFFICE of WORSHIP

& SPIRITUAL LIFE

ESSENTIALS OF CATHOLIC LITURGY

— A FOUNDATIONAL COURSE FOR CATHOLIC MUSICIANS —

Essentials of Catholic Liturgy provides an introduction to the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. Participants will gain the fundamental knowledge needed to prepare and perform music for the sacred liturgy.

- Introduction to the Mass I: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word
- Introduction to the Mass II: Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion Rite, Concluding Rites
- The Liturgical Year
- Sacraments and Devotions
- Three Mondays in Summer 2025
- Held at Saint Mary Cathedral, Miami

Essentials of Catholic Liturgy will benefit:

- Music Directors, Cantors, Accompanists, Choir Members

For more information, or to register, please contact Max Tenney in the Music Office (305) 759-4531, ext. 111 mtenney@theadom.org





Indulgence here at our "Southernmost" place of pilgrimage.

- The Very Rev. Christopher B. Marino Basilica Rector





Affinitas trio

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 16 | 4PM



Wendy Sutter



3 maestros. 5 masterworks. 3 magnificent instruments.

Wendy Sutter, "one of the greatest cellists of the classical stage" (Wall Street Journal), plays her c. 1815 Giovanni Battista Ceruti cello; Paul Posnak, MMC's internationally acclaimed founding artistic director, plays our Hamamatsu handcrafted Yamaha grand piano; and Gary Levinson, senior principal associate concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, plays a 1726 Antonio Stradivari violin.

Together, in trios and duos, they span three centuries of great music reflecting a world of diverse cultures: Beethoven's Opus 11 Trio (1797), Sarasate's Gypsy Airs (1878), de Falla's Siete Canciones populares Españolas (1914), Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello (1922), and Turina's Trio No.2 Opus 16 (1933).

3 maestros. 5 obras maestras. 3 instrumentos magnificos.

Wendy Sutter, "uno de los más grandes violonchelistas de la etapa clásica" (Wall Street Journal), la interpreta c. 1815 violonchelo Giovanni Battista Ceruti; Paul Posnak, el director artístico fundador de MMC, aclamado internacionalmente, toca nuestro piano de cola Yamaha hecho a mano en Hamamatsu; Gary Levinson, concertino principal asociado de la Orquesta Sinfónica de Dallas, toca un violín Antonio Stradiyari de 1726.

Juntos, en trios y dúos, abarcan tres siglos de buena música que reflejan un mundo de diversas culturas: el Opus 11 Trio de Beethoven (1797), los Zigeunerweisen de Sarasate (1878), las Siete Canciones populares Españolas de Falla (1914), la Sonata para violín y violonchelo de Ravel (1922), y el Trio No.2 Opus 16 de Turina (1933).

After the concert join us in La Merced Chapel for a student exhibit featuring works from Miami Arts Studio 6-12 at Zelda Glazer.