

**NPM Spring Meeting – April 23, 2022  
St. Rose of Lima, Hill City**

**Schedule of Events**

**Morning (9:30am-12:15pm)**

- \*Registration / Refreshments
- \*Welcome / Opening Prayer
- \*Forming Our Faith as We Worship (*Fr. Mark Horn*)
- \*GIA Music Reading Session (*multiple facilitators*)

**Afternoon (12:15pm-3:00pm)**

- \*Lunch / Business Meeting
- \*Sage On Stage (*Ed & Jeanie Fischer*)
- \*Introducing New Music to The Congregation (*Julie Gray*)
- \*Closing Prayer

*To ensure we have an accurate lunch count, please send your RSVP to Pat McDowell (phone 605.787.0638, or by email, [pat.mcdowell44@gmail.com](mailto:pat.mcdowell44@gmail.com)) by Wednesday, April 20, 2022.*

**Director's Letter – March 2022**

The calendar says it's official ... Spring is here! Little signs of the season are cropping up everywhere – warmer days are beginning to outnumber the cooler days, blades of green grass are laboriously working their way into our yards, and the robins and bluebirds are gracing our skies once more!

As our Lenten season progresses, this time of prayer and reflection harbors the seeds of spiritual growth and renewal in each of us. What a beautiful arrival of Spring in our faith as we are now only a few weeks away from celebrating Easter!

Your musical presence is such a precious gift to our congregations in this season – from songs of repentance through Lent, the gentle notes of prayer and petition in our parishes' Mercy Nights, to the powerful days of Holy Week - the Triduum - culminating in Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services. *"Alleluia! He Is Risen!"* Thank you for your many hours of preparation to uplift our congregations in this powerful season in our faith!

We are raring to go with our Spring meeting, which occurs the weekend following Easter. Read on for more details on that, as well as a recap of our Winter meeting. You'll also find an update on our plans to transition to an online newsletter. On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we wish you and your families a joyful Easter! *"One Faith, One Hope, One Lord, One Church for which He died. To Him who was, who is, and shall be evermore!"*

Bonnie Josten  
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

## Spring Meeting 2022 Preview

The glorious strains of Easter hymns will still be in our hearts and on our lips when we gather for our Spring meeting on April 23, 2022. Hill City's St. Rose of Lima Church is our destination, and we have a marvelous day planned for all!

Starting off our day is a presentation from Fr. Mark Horn, entitled "Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: Forming Our Faith as We Worship." It'll be an insightful and enlightening perspective on growth in our faith.

Remember that singing I mentioned a moment ago? Next up is a music reading session with several selections from GIA. Songs were picked to accommodate choirs of either limited sizes or vocal ranges. It features both new songs and some old (classic) songs with new twist! We're confident you'll come away from this session with songs you can readily incorporate in your choir's repertoire.

Following lunch, we're in for a real treat, as our "Sage on Stage" is a double-feature! Ed & Jeanie Fischer from St. John the Baptist Church in Custer take the stage to share entertaining stories and insights from their years in music ministry.

Julie Gray from St. Rose of Lima wraps up our day with a valuable refresher on "Introducing New Music to The Congregation." Solid tips are on the way to ensure our congregations start off on the right foot ... or, note ... to learning new songs!

Happy Spring to all, and we look forward to seeing you the week after Easter! A joyful gathering is in store for us as the Easter season kicks into full gear!



*From L-R, OLPH musicians Kristine Engelhardt, Jeanine Gerlach, Mark Schroeder, and Toni Brumbaugh perform music for the Advent/ Christmas season during the 'Christmas in January' program.*

## Winter 2022 Meeting Recap

The Rapid City NPM Chapter began 2022 – and their chapter’s 31<sup>st</sup> year - with their Winter meeting at St. Joseph’s Church in Spearfish. A small but very engaged and appreciative group of music ministers from across the diocese enjoyed a day of learning, singing, and fellowship. Associate Pastor Zane Pekron welcomed attendees and helped lead the opening prayer, with music provided by musicians from St. Joseph’s.

The day’s presentations began with Andrew Graupmann, Director of Faith Formation at St. Joseph’s, who provided an overview of the Liturgy of the Hours. Graupmann discussed how the Liturgy of the Hours connects to both components of the Mass - the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. As the Church consecrates time throughout the year for specific understanding of our faith, Liturgy of the Hours consecrates time throughout the day. Knowing that at any given point of time in the day people throughout the world are praying the Liturgy of the Hours puts into practice the words of St. Paul, “...pray without ceasing.”



*Andrew Graupman, Director of Faith Formation at St. Joseph’s, discusses Liturgy of the Hours*

Graupmann described the origin of the Liturgy of the Hours from the Jewish temple sacrifices and its evolution to a sacrifice of praise in the synagogue, taking on the tone of praying at specified times of the day. Liturgy of the Hours has its foundation in the Psalms, which eloquently transform human experiences into prayers to God. As the Psalms are a vital expression of our feelings, Liturgy of the Hours elevates our praying of the Psalms into sacrificial prayer. This discussion led to an engaged Q&A with attendees, with sharing of Liturgy of the Hours resources, both online (I-breviary / E-breviary), or the 4-volume set, shown by St. Joseph’s resident seminarian, Blane Schriock.

The next program of the day was entitled “Christmas in January,” with choral groups from Custer (St. John the Baptist), Rapid City (OLPH), and Spearfish (St. Joseph’s) each sharing a selection of beautiful songs from the Advent and Christmas seasons. With the last-minute absence of one parish’s musical group due to illness, Jackie Schnittgrund pivoted quickly to fill the remainder of this program segment with a music-reading session on several Christmas songs, all of which could accommodate any size of group, variety of vocal ranges, and instrumentation. Attendees greatly enjoyed all the musical selections performed throughout this program.

Following a delicious luncheon prepared by St. Joseph’s Altar Society, Christy Leichtnam of OLPH was the featured presenter in the ever-popular “Sage on Stage” series. Drawing upon her 40+ years in music ministry, Leichtnam prepared a ‘quiz’ for the attendees, with points awarded or deducted, to a variety of humorous questions based on her experiences. With questions ranging from ‘have you replied to a compliment by listing all the things that went wrong?’ to ‘have you forgotten to play a Mass part?’ and ‘have you showed up to play at the wrong service?’ had the crowd in gales of laughter and sharing of

similar experiences. Leichtnam closed on a poignant note, indicating that despite things that can and do go wrong, we (as music ministers) weather the storms, and shared that ministering to parishioners through music is one of the most rewarding experiences in her life.

The day closed with a panel discussion on “Music Minister: Person of Prayer and Song.” Moderated by Carman Timmerman, it featured panelists from OLPH (Toni Brumbaugh and Jeanine Gerlach), St. John the Baptist (Ed & Jeannie Fischer), and Blessed Sacrament (Jackie Schnittgrund). The panelists were asked a variety of questions, including: what prompted your involvement in music ministry, describing the influence of music ministry in your prayer life, how to stay centered in prayer during Mass, and how this led you to join other ministries.

Answers provided by the panelists were honest, insightful, and moving. Many of them grew up exposed to music in their families or through involvement in school/college. Prayer life (through music ministry) was universally enhanced for the

*Leslie Spiers at the piano, and Grace George, both from St. Joseph's Church, perform an original composition by Leslie Spiers, in the 'Christmas in January' program.*



panelists, citing preparation/planning of weekly hymns/psalms, preparation as a psalmist, and embracing one's choir as an extension of their own family in prayer. Preparation was considered paramount to many of the panelists to prayerfully experience in the Mass, while one admitted her focus on accountability and readiness has – to a degree – sacrificed some of the prayerful component of Mass, yet feels at peace in the Mass experience. All of the panelists cited experiences in ministries beyond the weekly Masses, including Taizé prayer groups, Mercy Nights, participation in Liturgy committees, service as a lector, and joining other prayer groups. Closing comments from the panelists included: never underestimate the power of music on parishioners, and make sure to take opportunities to get away and get inspired. Music ministers need time to ‘refuel and recharge.’



*Music Minister: Person of Prayer & Song panel discussion. From L-R: Jackie Schnittgrund, Ed & Jeannie Fischer, Jeanine Gerlach, Toni Brumbaugh, and moderator Carman Timmerman.*

Closing prayer was led by musicians from OLPH and Blessed Sacrament. The meeting attendees provided very positive feedback on the day's activities and greatly enjoyed the time of learning and fellowship.

We encourage all Rapid City Diocese music ministers and clergy to attend quarterly NPM meetings at which education, prayer and fellowship are the focal points. For more information about the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians, go to our website ([www.npmrc.org](http://www.npmrc.org)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com /NPMRapidCityChapter](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter) ).

### NPM 2022 Calendar of Events

**Date:** April 23, 2022  
**Event:** Spring NPM Meeting  
**Location:** St. Rose of Lima, Hill City  
**Topics:** Forming Our Faith as We Worship (*Fr. Mark Horn*); Introducing New Music to the Congregation (*Julie Gray*); Sage on Stage (*Ed & Jeannie Fischer*); GIA Music Reading Session

**Date:** June 11, 2022 (tentative date)  
**Event:** Summer NPM Meeting  
**Location:** St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre  
**Topics:** (*planning underway; subject to change*) Presentation by Fr. Ron Garry (topic TBD); Music in Rural Parishes; Sage on Stage; Using Songs From the Hymnal

**Date:** October 2022 (specific date TBD)  
**Event:** Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet  
**Location:** TBD  
**Topics:** (*planning underway; subject to change*) Presentation by Bishop Muhich; Psalm Resources (Tammy Schnittgrund); Successful Recruitment and Welcoming of New Music Ministers, With Focus on Fostering Involvement from Young Adults (group discussion)

If you have any upcoming special music events in your parish or in your community that involve fellow NPM members, email Bonnie Josten ([bonnie.josten@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.josten@gmail.com)) with event information, so we can add it to our calendar.

Notification deadlines (to include in our quarterly newsletters) are as follows:

- Summer Newsletter – May 10, 2022
- Fall Newsletter – September 5, 2022



## Newsletter Distribution Update

As mentioned at our Fall Meeting and in our Winter newsletter, we are proceeding with plans to move our newsletter to online distribution, beginning in 2023. To ensure we reach as many of you electronically as we do via postal mailings, we are launching an effort to obtain email addresses for approximately 40% of our diocesan music ministers for whom we do not have this information.

If you are in the 40% population who do not currently receive emails from us, over the next few months, you may be contacted by music ministry representatives in your Deanery, or by our chapter board members, to provide us an active email address. Alternately, you can contact Bonnie Josten (by phone: 605-390-0378; by email, at [bonnie.josten@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.josten@gmail.com), or by mail, at 3343 Pinewood Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702), to provide us your email contact information.

We are considering multiple options to make our newsletter available. Our primary option is to send you an email with either the newsletter attached, or containing a link to our chapter's NPM website, to access the latest newsletter. If you do not have – or do not wish to provide – an active email account, we are exploring other alternatives, including posting a link to our chapter's NPM website in parish bulletins, or in the West River Catholic. You can copy and paste the link to your browser and have access to our current and archived newsletters.

Thank you for your help in this effort! The money we will save in printing & mailing our quarterly newsletters will be redirected to bringing in national speakers, in our continuing effort to provide you opportunities to engage with and learn from outstanding individuals who are leaders in Catholic music across our country.



**TESTED BY FIRE**  
**RENEWED & TRANSFORMED**

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**45TH NPM ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**LOUISVILLE, KY • JUNE 28-JULY 1, 2022**  
**VIRTUAL • JULY 5-7, 2022**

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Email [npmシング@npm.org](mailto:npmシング@npm.org), or visit [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org) for registration information.



The National Association of Pastoral Musicians, along with other national Catholic organizations, has been invited by the USCCB to participate in the synodal process for the Synod on Synodality. This Synod is different because Pope Francis has invited every Catholic worldwide to participate in Synod 2021 – 2023: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. We know that many of you have already participated at your parish and diocesan levels and may even be the person leading these dialogues. Pastoral musicians have a unique and important voice to share, and we want to make sure it is represented during this important time in the Church's history.

We invite you to attend one of three listening sessions taking place March 28-30; more details and registration links will be found below.

The agenda for each session will include:

- Opening/centering prayer
- Scripture reading to focus our reflection
- Discussion of the topic with time for reaction and voicing

Each session will have a facilitator and at least one notetaker. The role of listening session facilitators is to guide the conversations. The notes from all the listening sessions are anonymous and will be sent to the NPM National Office where we will create a summary. Depending on the group size, we may spend part of the time in small groups. Please let us know if you are interested in a role of facilitator, note taker, or report writer by emailing [npmsing@npm.org](mailto:npmsing@npm.org).

We look forward to engaging in this meaningful dialogue in the coming weeks.

**Monday, March 28: 8 pm Eastern/5 pm Pacific**

**Tuesday, March 29: 12 pm Eastern/9 am Pacific**

**Wednesday, March 30: 4 pm Eastern/1 pm Pacific**

*If you are a national NPM member, you will have received a separate email with Synod information. For those who have provided us their email address, you received an email from Bonnie Josten on March 21, which contained links to register for these meeting dates.*

RAPID CITY CHAPTER OF NPM

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS RAPID CITY CHAPTER  
BY GOING TO:

**NPMRC.ORG OR FACEBOOK**

**AND THE NATIONAL NPM BY GOING TO:  
NPM.ORG**

**Serving the life and mission of the Church through fostering the art of musical liturgy in Catholic worshiping communities.**