

NPM Winter Meeting – January 21, 2023
St. Rose of Lima Church, Hill City

Schedule of Events
(order of programs is subject to change)

- 9:30 – 10:00am Registration / Refreshments (*Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont*)
- 10:00 – 10:05am Welcome (*Fr. Mark Horn*)
- 10:05 – 10:15am Opening Prayer (*St. Rose of Lima*)
- 10:15 – 11:15am Forming Our Faith as We Worship (*Fr. Mark Horn, St. Rose of Lima*)
- 11:15 – 12:15pm Multicultural Music in Liturgy (*Maria Munoz, Blessed Sacrament*)
- 12:15 – 1:00pm Lunch / Business Meeting
- 1:00 – 1:40pm Sage On Stage (*Toni Ramos, St. Isaac Jogues*)
- 1:40 – 2:30pm Introducing New Music to the Congregation (*Roger Severson, St. Rose of Lima*)
- 2:30 – 2:45pm Closing Prayer (*St. Rose of Lima*)

To help us secure an accurate lunch count, please RSVP to Carman Timmerman (ph. 605-391-4053, or by email, carman.timmerman@gmail.com), by Wednesday, January 18, 2023.



St. Rose of Lima Church, Hill City

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Director's Letter

The season of Advent is in full swing, and for all of us, rehearsals and preparation for Christmas liturgies are underway. Christmas music fills the airways, and we often find ourselves in a mad dash to send Christmas cards, attend kids' and grandkids' school concerts, bake holiday goodies, clean and decorate the house, shop for and wrap presents, prepare for family and guests visits ... whew! It all puts us at risk to miss the opportunity to truly embrace and savor this time of anticipation for the Lord's birth.

I recently watched one of my favorite Christmas movies, "The Nativity Story." This beautiful depiction of Mary's journey in the months leading up to the birth of Jesus always puts helps to put perspective on my 'busy' and 'stressful' day. Here's a young girl, in an unconsummated marriage, pregnant, and scared ... but graced with an unshakeable faith in God. Two of my favorite lines in the movie come from Mary – "There is a will for this child greater than my fear of what may happen to me," and – speaking to Joseph after Jesus was born – "God gave me the strength I prayed for, and so did you." What a powerful lesson in faith, trust, and surrender to God's will – to all of us!

Let's keep our Blessed Mary close in our minds and in our hearts in these final weeks before Christmas. What a marvelous meditation to calm and center our spirits! Cards will be completed, holiday treats will be baked, presents will get wrapped, and all your hard work and rehearsals will pay off, as you provide beautiful music to touch the hearts of the congregation in the wonderful Christmas liturgies!

The new year is just around the corner, and we are excited to begin our 2023 series of quarterly meetings. We have a great line-up of programs in store for the year ahead, and the fun begins on January 21st, in Hill City! More details can be found inside this newsletter ...

On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we offer our deep appreciation for your commitment and desire to serve in music ministry. You are such a blessing to your parish! We wish you and your families a most happy and blessed Christmas!

Bonnie Josten
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter



Winter Meeting 2023 Preview

Mother Nature threw a wrench in our Spring meeting plans last year, delivering blizzard conditions which forced us to postpone our scheduled meeting in Hill City. We had such a great day planned for all of you that we want to give it one more shot, so we will return to Hill City and St. Rose of Lima Church for our Winter 2023 meeting, on Jan 21, 2023. With just a few small adjustments, we are happy to bring back most of the originally scheduled programs for the day. We are in for a treat!

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.

We are delighted to bring back Maria Munoz from Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City for a discussion on multicultural music in our liturgies. As many of you know, Maria has been a key resource to introduce and promote bilingual music for many years, and with an increasing Hispanic population in our diocese, she will provide us timely information and several music suggestions that we can incorporate in our music repertoire.

Toni Ramos from St. Isaac Jogues Church in Rapid City will take the stage in our ongoing “Sage on Stage” series, to share her experiences, challenges, and successes from her years in music ministry.

Roger Severson from St. Rose of Lima will provide us 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 ... er, note ... to learning new songs!

What a fabulous start to the new year! We hope to see you in Hill City on January 21st!



St. Rose of Lima Church, Hill City.

2022 Fall Meeting & St. Cecilia Banquet

A lovely autumn day greeted over 35 attendees at the Rapid City NPM Chapter Fall meeting and St. Cecilia Banquet on October 8, 2022. Our Lady of the Black Hills in Piedmont hosted the event, and attendees were treated to a day of singing, learning, laughter, prayer and celebration.



Fall Meeting attendees sing during opening prayer.



After welcoming attendees to the meeting, Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek began the day's presentations with a discussion on the USCCB document "Music and the Proclamation of God's Word." Fr. Andrzej began with the origins of noises and sounds, how humans could hear a sound, replicate it, then join with others to increase the sound, creating notes and pitches. Throughout history, music has been a way to express feelings and emotions, and a means to capture messages and memories to the listener. This is evident in the music selected by families for weddings, funerals, or special occasions, as music recalls to us a pivotal life event (the song "tells the story" of our life).

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek discusses "Music and the Proclamation of God's Word."

Fr. Andrzej noted that in liturgy, music is a powerful catalyst for the proclamation of the Word of God. The songs remind us not only who we praise, but why we praise. It touches our hearts and souls, lifting us to a different reality. As God's heavenly choir on earth, we should help make the congregation in the pews part of that larger choir, as well. He talked about teaching new music to the congregation, recalling his time at Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Keystone, when Sr. Eleanor Solon would teach new hymns before Mass. Fr. Andrzej expressed gratitude for all those involved in his journey to singing – from the choirmaster who kicked him out of seminary choir, to the classmates who encouraged and inspired him to continue, thanking them for all teachable moments. He closed by expressing the joy of praising God in the company of others who have the same desire, noting some lives will be forever changed by the experience.

Next in the day's programs was Tammy Schnittgrund, who facilitated a Cantor Master Class. Tammy is a long-time music educator in Rapid City, teaching orchestra at the elementary, middle school, high school, and college levels. Within the national NPM organization, she served for several years as the head of NPM's National Committee for Cantors, and has taught and/or adjudicated cantors ranging in age from 14-90.



Tammy Schnittgrund gives “cantor student” Joshua Weaver some tips during the Cantor Master Class.

In the Master Class, Tammy reiterated the role of the Cantor in singing the Psalm an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word. She dispelled a common myth on ‘performance’ of a Cantor, noting that “actors act to entertain, but Cantors sing to pray.” Tammy encouraged the cantors to strive toward an objective that when they sing, the congregation should not ‘see’ them, but only hear the Word of God. Tammy noted two publications every Cantor should have: “The Ministry of Cantors” by Sr. Kathleen Harmon, and “Guide for Cantors – The Liturgical Ministry Series” by Budziak, Ferrar, Laughlin, and Tate.

Tammy addressed six critical areas of focus for a Cantor: Phrasing/Breath, Tone Quality/Intonation, Diction, Text Interpretation, Stance/Gesture, and Eye Contact/Engagement. Several cantors from diocesan parishes sang a prepared psalm, then through coaching and demonstration, Tammy helped them understand and utilize these six focus areas to improve their Cantor skillset. The class was well-received by not only the Cantors but all attendees, as well, who gleaned valuable takeaways from her presentation.

Tammy Schnittgrund and “cantor student” Megan Snyder review gestures of the cantor during the Cantor Master Class.



Following a delicious meal prepared by Olive Garden, the business meeting and awards ceremony commenced.

Bonnie Josten was re-elected to her 3rd 2-yr term as Chapter Co-Director, and she was also elected to serve as Co-Programming Coordinator. Carman Timmerman was elected as Secretary/Treasurer. In new business, Jackie Schnittgrund addressed concerns about recent news from the two largest parishes in our diocese – Blessed Sacrament Church and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, both in Rapid City – that they have discontinued the practice of sharing music from their libraries with other parishes. Noting that very few musicians within the diocesan parishes receive payment for their services, nor receive any music budget from their church, Jackie expressed concern on the undue hardships this decision places on the smaller parishes if they are denied the opportunity to borrow music from parishes that have an abundance of copies. Several attendees noted that there are easy-to-maintain tracking systems that can be used to monitor what music is loaned, to whom it is loaned, and how many copies are loaned, adding that loaning music is a common practice amongst schools throughout the state, and inquired why the parishes couldn’t utilize these systems. When asked if he would support a diocesan policy allowing the loaning of music between parishes, Bishop Muhich indicated a preference to leave the matter up to the individual parishes.

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RAPID CITY CHAPTER OF NPM

Congratulations for the following award-winners:

St. Cecilia (laity) – Toni Brumbaugh (OLPH-Rapid City); Janene Spatz (St. Isadore-Ralph); JoAnn Stilwell (Our Lady of Victory-Kadoka)

St. Cecilia (clergy) – Fr. Timothy Castor (St. Francis of Assisi-Sturgis)

Peggy Langenfeld Memorial – Terry Schroeder (St. Therese-Rapid City)

Emerging Music Minister (Adult) – Ryan Hardy (OLPH-Rapid City)

Emerging Music Minister (Youth) – Megan Snyder (St. Michaels-Hermosa)



*Fr. Timothy Castor
(St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis),
St. Cecilia for Clergy*



*Toni Brumbaugh
(OLPH, Rapid City),
St. Cecilia for Laity*



*Terry Schroeder
(St. Therese, Rapid City),
Peggy Langenfeld*



*Ryan Hardy
(OLPH, Rapid City),
Emerging Music Minister (Adult)*



*Megan Snyder
(St. Michael's Church, Hermosa),
Emerging Music Minister (Youth)*

There were no Service Year Award (10yr, 25yr, 40yr, 50yr) entries received this year, although it was noted two of this year's award-winners have served in their ministry 67 years (JoAnn Stilwell) and 71 years (Janene Spatz), respectively. When the attendees were queried on how many have served 60+ years in music ministry, several raised their hand.

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Following the awards presentation, Bishop Peter Muhich led a commissioning service for the music ministers, including prayers for those fellow music ministers who died this past year (Barb Hendrickson, Blessed Sacrament).

Bishop Peter Muhich leads the commissioning of music ministers.



Closing out the day was a panel discussion on recruiting and retaining choir members. Panel members included Michelle Skoog (EAFB, SD Mines Newman Center), Sue Englin (St. Therese) and Lorraine Ptacek (OLBH). Moderator Carman Timmerman led discussion on several questions: 1) key challenges, 2) youth focus, 3) pastor's support/involvement in recruiting, 4) making new members feel welcome, 5) socialize/fellowship, 6) challenge choirs with new music, 7) burnout concerns/strategy to lure back members who have left, 8) is prayer part of your rehearsal.



From L-R, Michelle Skoog, Sue Englin, Lorraine Ptacek, and moderator Carman Timmerman, discuss Recruitment and Retention of Choir Members.

Responses showed some commonalities as well as differences. Ever-changing turnover at resources is the common challenge at EAFB, while the pandemic effectively dismantled OLBH's choir. Competing schedules/other activities present continual challenges in securing resources to participate.

All panelists agreed on support from priests – pulpit/bulletin announcements, ministry fairs, expressing appreciation to musicians/singers. Focus on youth involvement centered on making inquiries in religious ed classes to gauge interest, or leveraging community service hours for Confirmation students. Socialization/fellowship opportunities exist, but are infrequent. 'Busyness' versus 'burnout' was the greater challenge panelists encounter. They try to find rehearsal times that accommodate the majority of musicians, and indicate they pray together before Mass.

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) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter).

NPM 2023 Calendar of Events

Date: Jan 21, 2023
Event: Winter NPM Meeting
Location: St. Rose of Lima, Hill City
Topics: Forming Our Faith as We Worship (Fr. Mark Horn); Multicultural Music (Maria Munoz); Sage on Stage (Toni Ramos); Teaching New Music to the Congregation (Roger Severson)

Date: Mar 25, 2023
Event: Spring NPM Meeting
Location: St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City
Topics: Multicultural Music by Toni Ramos; GIA Music Reading Session, *(other programs are being finalized)*

Date: June 2023 (TBD)
Event: Summer NPM Meeting
Location: TBD
Topics: TBD

Date: Sep 26, 2023
Event: Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet / Silent Auction
Location: Terra Sancta
Topics: Presentations by national NPM speaker, Sr. Kathleen Harmon

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) with event information, so we can add it to our calendar.

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

- Spring Newsletter – Feb 20, 2023
- Summer Newsletter – May 6, 2023
- Fall Newsletter – Aug 18, 2023

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FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS RAPID CITY CHAPTER  
BY GOING TO:

[NPMRC.ORG](http://NPMRC.ORG)  
OR FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER)

AND THE NATIONAL NPM BY GOING TO:  
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