



NPM Summer Meeting – June 17, 2023 St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis

Schedule of Events

- 9:30 – 10:00am Registration / Refreshments
- 10:00 – 10:05am Welcome (*Fr. Timothy Castor*)
- 10:05 – 10:15am Opening Prayer (*musicians from OLPH, Rapid City*)
- 10:15 – 11:30am Concurrent Workshops (Introductory to Intermediate): Keyboard/Organ (*facilitator – Barry Furze*); Vocal Techniques/Cantoring (*facilitator – Tammy Schnittgrund*); Leading Groups/Rehearsal Techniques/Producing Good Sounds (Part 1) – (*facilitator – Jackie Schnittgrund*)
- 11:35 – 12:20pm Concurrent Workshops (Introductory to Intermediate): Keyboard/Organ (*facilitator – Barry Furze*); Vocal Techniques/Cantoring (*facilitator – Tammy Schnittgrund*); Leading Groups/Rehearsal Techniques/Producing Good Sounds (Part 2) – (*facilitator – Jackie Schnittgrund*)
- 12:25 – 1:10pm Lunch / Business Meeting
- 1:15 – 2:00pm Concurrent Workshops (Intermediate to Advanced): Keyboard/Organ (*facilitator – Barry Furze*); Vocal Techniques/Cantoring (*facilitator – Tammy Schnittgrund*); Leading Groups/Rehearsal Techniques/Producing Good Sounds (Part 3) – (*facilitator – Jackie Schnittgrund*)
- 2:05 – 2:50pm Group Breakout sessions/Q&A; Demonstration on making hymns beautiful with a variety of resources
- 2:50 – 3:00pm Closing Prayer (*musicians from St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis*)

To help us secure an accurate lunch count, please RSVP to Carman Timmerman (ph. 605-391-4053, or by email, carmantimmerman@gmail.com), by Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Director's Letter

Hurray for Spring! We've shaken off the cold and snowy doldrums of late winter, and now, lured outside by the inviting warmth of the sun, we arm ourselves with tools, seeds or plants, fertilizer, and water, to commence the spring and summer ritual to plant and nurture a kaleidoscope of colors in our flower beds and tasty vegetables in our gardens. It is a labor of love, and we are delighted when our efforts yield beautiful and plentiful results.

As a flower or vegetable garden thrives under our care, so too does the 'garden' of our music ministry. As music ministers, we understand the value and importance of music in liturgy, and even more, how music done well/beautifully can enhance the encounter with Christ for our parishioners in the Mass. As such, we should never become complacent with just 'doing,' but instead, strive continually to 'do well' or better in our ministry.

With that in mind, we are excited to offer a 'gardening' course in the form of mini-workshops at our upcoming Summer meeting. This is a tremendous opportunity for both new and seasoned music ministers to grow in their skills, to weed out bad habits and/or nurture new practices, all with the vision to go from 'good' to 'great' in your ministry! See the article below for important details. On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer, and we hope you'll join us in June for some musical 'gardening!'

Bonnie Josten
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

Summer Meeting 2023 Preview

Whether you are new to music ministry, a seasoned veteran, or if you know someone in your parish you'd like to recruit, our NPM Chapter's summer meeting offers everyone a tremendous opportunity! The mini-workshops are back! Mark your calendar for June 17, 2023, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Sturgis. We have day filled with multiple workshops in a variety of disciplines within music ministry, which will be facilitated by a stellar line-up of well-known, well-respected leaders in music ministry from our diocese!



We strongly encourage you to invite your fellow music ministers from your parish to attend, as well as individuals in your parish who you would like to recruit or who have expressed interest in joining music ministry. This is a marvelous opportunity for newcomers (whether vocal or instrumental) to get valuable insights on the basics. For established musicians or leaders of ensembles of any size in your parish, you can learn strategies to take your skills up a few notches, and discover ways to get the best from your singers & musicians.

For attendees who may be traveling a fair distance, and who are either the sole music minister at your parish, or one of a few, we understand you may want to attend multiple workshops, to collect as much training as you can. To accommodate that need, the morning will consist of two sessions of concurrent workshops. You can go to one workshop in the first session, then a different one the next hour. Then, if you need to leave to take care of music for your Saturday evening service, you will have had opportunity to cover multiple topics before you go.

In the afternoon, we'll take the training up a notch, and dive into more intermediate to advanced sessions, to better round out your skills and take the quality of musicianship from 'good' to 'great.' To close the day, we will regroup to discuss lessons learned, and plan for how you can implement the knowledge you have gained when you return to your parishes. We will end with a demonstration of how to bring the very best to a hymn, regardless of how many singers or musicians are available.

Here are the workshops to be offered, and their facilitators:

Keyboard/Organ techniques (*Barry Furze – St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis*). Barry received degrees from both Harvard University and the University of Chicago. His career as an educator and school administrator included 16 years as superintendent of schools in Sturgis. Now approaching his 70th year in music ministry, Barry is a past recipient of the St. Cecilia for Laity award, and serves as organist and music director at both St. Francis of Assisi Church in Sturgis and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Newell.

Vocal Techniques/Cantoring (*Tammy Schnittgrund - St. Therese Church, Rapid City*). Tammy graduated with degrees in education and fine arts from both Northern State University and University of Montana, and has taught orchestra to students at all grade levels in the Rapid City public schools for 27 years. She currently serves as Orchestra Coordinator for the Rapid City schools, as well as Director of Strings at SD Mines for the past 14 years. Tammy is a past member of the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra and has worked as a guest clinician. She served on the Rapid City NPM Chapter board (she is a prior recipient of the Peggy Langenfeld Memorial award) and was a member of the NPM Standing Committee of Cantors for 12 years, serving as its chairperson for 4 years.

Leading Groups/Effective Rehearsals/Producing Good Sounds (*Jackie Schnittgrund – St. Therese Church, Rapid City*). Jackie graduated from Northern State University with a degree in music, and is a retired music educator in the Rapid City public schools, having taught at elementary through high school levels for a number of years. She also conducted Chorus Angelorum, a 55-person choir at Blessed Sacrament Church for over 44 years, and produced three CD's of their music. In addition, she is a co-founder of the Rapid City NPM Chapter, and served for over 20 years in leadership roles for both the local and national NPM organization. Jackie is the recipient of the Peggy Langenfeld Memorial and St Cecilia Award for Laity, and was twice awarded the national Chapter Leader of the Year by the NPM organization. Currently, Jackie leads 'Village Voices,' a 30-person choir at the Westhills Village senior living facility.

We are grateful to our facilitators for so generously giving of their time and talent for these workshops. You will come away from this day filled with workable solutions to take your musicianship and music leadership to amazing levels! We look forward to seeing you at St. Francis of Assisi Church on June 17th!



2023 Spring Meeting Recap

About 20 music ministers from across Rapid City and neighboring communities gathered for the Rapid City NPM Chapter's Spring meeting at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Rapid City on March 25th. Although small in number, the group was very engaged in a day filled with enculturation of Lakota and Filipino celebrations, music reading/skill-building, and a timely refresher of valuable information on wedding planning tips for music ministers.



Fr. Ed Witt, SJ, welcomes attendees and shares history of the St. Isaac Jogues parish.

Fr. Ed Witt, SJ, welcomed attendees and gave a quick history lesson on the establishment of St. Isaac Jogues Church and the Mother Butler Center in downtown Rapid City, and eventual relocation/rebuilding to its present location following the 1972 Rapid City flood. Following Opening prayer, our first program of the day resumed a discussion on multicultural music that we began at our Winter meeting, where we focused on the Hispanic culture and integration of Hispanic music in our liturgies. In this segment, we shifted focus to both the Lakota and Filipino cultures, with multiple presenters.

Discussion on the Lakota culture and usage of Lakota music in liturgy was facilitated by Toni Ramos, her husband Kookie Ramos, and Annette Snow. Kookie and Annette first led attendees in a recitation of the Prayer for canonization of Nicholas Black Elk, then provided an overview of the Four Directions prayer:

- **West (Wiohpeyata)** – denoted by the color Black and represents the Horse Nation and Thunder Beings. This direction guides us in prayer of thanks for the rains that nourish Mother Earth.
- **North (Waziya takiya)** – denoted by the color Red and represents the Buffalo Nation. This direction reflects the hardships we endure or the cleansing one must undergo.
- **East (Wiohiyanpata)** – denoted by the color Yellow and represents the Elk Nation. From this direction dawns the new day, and we offer prayers for wisdom and understanding.
- **South (Itokagata)** – denoted by the color White and represents the Bear Nation. This direction reflects warmth and growth of all living things, fed by the rays of sun from Mother Earth.



Kookie Ramos, of St. Isaac Jogues Church, shares information on the Four Directions Prayer.



Annette then led an overview of the significance of a shawl. For enculturated Mass celebrations at St. Isaac Jogues Church, women will process into the church singing the Four Directions song, either holding or wearing a shawl, in honor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who always wore a shawl. The shawl represents protection, and can be plain or beautifully decorated with beads or sequins, and is frequently used in ceremonial dances. Annette concluded by reciting President Biden's Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples' Day, 2022.

Annette Matt, of St. Isaac Jogues Church, shares information on the significance of the shawl in Lakota liturgical celebrations.

Next, Dr. George Ceremuga led attendees in a widespread overview on health, singing, and prayer, incorporating prayer from Lakota, Hispanic and Filipino cultures. Citing a quote from Nicholas Black Elk, ‘take each step in prayer,’ George suggested we ‘take each breath in prayer,’ noting each breath we take is a gift. George added of the twelve Lakota virtues, the most important is love, so with each breath, we breathe in love, and exhale gratitude. Building on the model of Need/Trust/Love, George led a Smile-Breathe-Love meditation, incorporating the importance of making peace with the past, joyfully living the present, and anticipating the future. Happiness is found in moments, but Joy is constant and rock-solid.



Dr. George Ceremuga shares meditations and prayers from the Lakota culture.

George titled his presentation ‘The Man (King David) Who Was Always Singing,’ and cited the beauty of singing in praise, glory, and honor of God. George further noted the numerous health benefits of singing, including heart health, mood elevation, stress relief, treatment for people with autism or suffering from depression, pain management, and others. He led attendees in singing two original compositions, ‘Talk to Jesus: My Guiding Light’ and ‘Jesus Sana: Jesus Heals,’ and listed a number of other songs (including multicultural) which carry the beautiful message of God’s constant love.

Lastly, Maria Snow gave a presentation in the Filipino Advent celebration of ‘Simbang Gabi.’ Maria, a native of the Philippines, talked about the journey to bring this celebration to the Rapid City diocese. Simbang Gabi (or Miso de Gallo) covers a Novena, or nine-day series of early morning Masses held before Christmas. While origins of the celebration can be traced to 381-384 A.D., the arrival of Spaniards to the Philippines in the 1500s-1600s brought Catholicism to the nation, and record of formal Simbang Gabi celebrations began around 1669. As concession to the farmers who began their workday before sunrise to avoid the mid-day heat, priests began holding the Simbang Gabi Masses in the early morning, so farmers could attend. This cherished custom of Simbang Gabi is a distinct feature of the Philippine culture and became a symbol of sharing.



Maria Snow (St. Isaac Jogues Church) discusses the Philippine tradition of Simbang Gabi and how this beloved Advent celebration has grown in the Rapid City diocese.

Maria said she and other Filipinos in the Rapid City community first approached Bishop Gruss in 2017 with the request to hold Simbang Gabi services. Bishop Gruss was very supportive of the idea, and it began with a 1-day celebration at Terra Sancta that year. Since then, Fr. Brian Christiansen has worked with Maria to expand services to the full 9-day celebration, held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral. She added there is growing involvement in the community for this celebration, whether one is Filipino or not. Children are active participants in the Masses, they have a ‘donkey’ (on wheels) which a Mary portrayer rides, and a wide selection of music is used.

Both Maria and Toni led attendees in songs incorporating bilingual lyrics, Filipino and Lakota, respectively.

Following a delicious homemade luncheon featuring native Filipino cuisine, the Rapid City NPM Chapter board members Jackie Schnittgrund, Terry Schroeder, and Jeanine Gerlach put their conducting skills to great use, leading attendings in a variety of songs from publisher GIA in a music-reading session. The selections were chosen for choral groups of varied size and vocal ranges (SAB, SATB), as well as options for solo instrumental add-ons. Jackie, Terry, and Jeanine offered strategies to the singers, including vocal performance, as well as varied options for voices on verses. A number of attendees commented on how this music could be incorporated in their parishes.

Closing the day, Amber LeFaive Larsen, former director of music at Cathedral OLPH, gave a presentation on Wedding Planning in the wake of changes to the wedding rite by the USCCB in recent years. Amber gave a brief biography, from event planning for the Sioux Falls diocese, a degree in music education, and six years in music ministry leadership at OLPH, citing how her role at the Cathedral provided her many encounters with couples planning the music for their wedding. Noting how planning for the overall wedding event can be stressful for couples, her goal was to ‘de-stress’ the process for them.



Amber LeFaive Larsen instructs attendees through the USCCB liturgical guidelines for weddings.

Amber provided guidelines for the following: Wedding between a Catholic and a Catechumen (or non-Catholic), Wedding within a Mass, and Wedding with no Mass. In meeting with couples to discuss selections for music and readings, she reminds them to read and listen to the lyrics first, reminding them they are in a sacred place of worship. Readings should reference divine – not human – love. Which songs/lyrics speak to your heart and remind you of why you want to be married? For preludes/postludes and for responsorial psalms, Amber encourages couples to ‘trust your musicians,’ as they have a wealth of suitable options across multiple genres. She further recommends sharing the chosen readings with your musicians, so they can make an appropriate psalm selection to complement the readings. Mass settings vary by churches, but accommodations are made to the bridal couple’s preference.

Amber pointed out the Church is trying to steer away or discourage use of Unity Candles/Unity Sand, and draw focus instead to the vows and rings, which represent the more physical sign of commitment. Consideration is given to couples for cultural adaptations (giving of arras, laying of lasso, etc). Usage of taped music is allowed at the discretion of the presider. To the question of couples requesting a family member or friend to sing the psalm, Amber reminded attendees that trained cantors play an important liturgical role - for the psalms, Gospel acclamation, and Mass Parts.

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](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter)).



**2023 Rapid City Chapter NPM Silent Auction
Fall Meeting September 23, 2023
Terra Sancta Retreat Center**

We need your auction items!

Clothes, jewelry, crafts, canned goods, décor, services—you name it, we'll sell it!!

Profits support the Rapid City Chapter's activities.



Here's how you can support the NPM auction:

- ★ Contact me, starting now, and I'll come get your auction items
and/or
- ★ Bring your auction items to the
June 17th NPM Spring Meeting at
St. Francis of Assisi Church in Sturgis

Contact:

Carman Timmerman / carmantimmerman@gmail.com / 605.391.4053

NPM 2023 Calendar of Events

Date: Jun 17, 2023
Event: Summer NPM Meeting
Location: St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis
Topics: Mini-Workshops (keyboard/organ; vocal techniques/cantoring; leading groups, effective rehearsals/producing good sound) – Facilitators: Barry Furze, Tammy Schnittgrund, Jackie Schnittgrund

Date: June 29, 2023
Event: Diaconate Ordination (all music ministers are invited to join the diocesan choir)
Location: Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City
Information: Contact Ryan Hardy (ryan@cathedralolph.org) for info on rehearsal schedules

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:

- Fall Newsletter – Aug 18, 2023



46TH ANNUAL NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION
**Walking with
the Saints**
JULY 10-14, 2023 • RENO, NEVADA | JULY 18-20, 2023 • VIRTUALLY

Check their website for more information, <http://npm.org>, or send your inquiries to npmsing@npm.org.

~~~~~  
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://FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER)

AND THE NATIONAL BY GOING TO:  
[NPM.ORG](http://NPM.ORG)  
~~~~~