



DIVINE MERCY
PARISH



GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

Identity, Mission, Service, and Responsibilities

SACRED MUSIC OFFICE



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DIVINE MERCY PARISH – SACRED MUSIC OFFICE

Guidelines for the Sacred Music Ministry

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PREAMBLE

The mission of Divine Mercy Parish is to become faithful, fruitful disciples ourselves, inviting others to the joy of knowing and following Jesus Christ. Integral to the vitality and ongoing formation of parishioners and visitors who walk through our doors is worship that lifts hearts and minds to God through beautiful, reverent, and joyful sacred music. The Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish exists to serve the liturgical life of the Church through recognizing music as an integral part of divine worship and as a means through which the faithful are invited to deeper participation in prayer and the celebration of the sacred mysteries. Divine Mercy Parish, composed of St. Andrew Church, St. Maria Goretti Church, and St. William Church, seeks to cultivate a unified Sacred Music Ministry in which each worship site, choir, and Music Minister contributes according to its gifts, traditions, and pastoral needs. The Sacred Music Office provides coordination and guidance so that the musical life of the parish may develop with unity, continuity, and fidelity to the Church's tradition. These Guidelines are established to provide a clear framework for the identity, organization, responsibilities, and collaboration of those who serve within the Sacred Music Ministry. Clear norms and defined responsibilities support communion among ministers, assist in effective coordination, and help ensure that every person entrusted with a musical role understands the nature of his or her service. All members of the Sacred Music Ministry share the same dignity as servants of the Church, while recognizing that different ministries involve different responsibilities, preparation, and forms of service. Whether serving as volunteers, appointed ministers, or collaborators with specific responsibilities, all are called to offer their gifts with humility, dedication, and a spirit of ecclesial service. The Sacred Music Ministry is committed to fostering musical, liturgical, and spiritual growth by providing opportunities for formation and by encouraging each minister to develop the abilities necessary to serve the liturgy with reverence and excellence. These Guidelines establish the common principles and practices of the Sacred Music Ministry while allowing appropriate pastoral flexibility according to the needs of Divine Mercy Parish and the circumstances of its liturgical life.

CHAPTER I

IDENTITY, MISSION, AND BELONGING WITHIN THE SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

1. Sacred Music in the Liturgical Life of the Church

Sacred music holds a unique and essential place within the liturgical celebration, contributing to the full, conscious, and active participation of the faithful. It is not merely an artistic addition or an element of decoration, but an integral part of the Church's worship, serving the proclamation of faith, the unity of the congregation, and the prayer of the Church. Through the ministry of Singers, Cantors, Organists, Instrumentalists, Choir Directors, and all who contribute to the Church's musical life, the faithful are drawn more deeply into the mystery being celebrated. For this reason, every musical contribution within the liturgy shall remain oriented toward the worship of God, the prayer of the community, and the reverence proper to the liturgical celebration. The beauty and excellence of sacred music find their true purpose when they support the liturgical action, foster the participation of the faithful, and lead the community toward a deeper encounter with God.

2. The Mission of the Sacred Music Office

The Sacred Music Office is responsible for promoting, coordinating, and developing the parish's Sacred Music Ministry, preserving the musical heritage of the Church while responding to the pastoral needs of the community. Under the leadership of the Director of Sacred Music, the Sacred Music Office establishes the liturgical, musical, and formative vision of the parish and coordinates its implementation in collaboration with Choir Directors, Cantors, Organists, Instrumentalists, and all those entrusted with musical ministry throughout Divine Mercy Parish. The Sacred Music Office oversees the preparation of liturgical celebrations, repertoire planning, formation of Music Ministers, stewardship of musical resources, and continued development of a unified sacred music program across the parish's churches.

3. Sacred Music as Ecclesial Ministry

The Ministry of Sacred Music is an authentic ecclesial ministry through which Singers, Cantors, Organists, Instrumentalists, Choir Directors, and all who serve in the Church's musical life offer their gifts in service to divine worship. Those entrusted with a musical role within the liturgy shall exercise their responsibilities with preparation, humility, availability, and a deep awareness of the sacred nature of their service. Rather than seeking personal recognition, Music Ministers serve the prayer of the congregation by supporting the liturgical action and helping reveal the beauty and dignity of the sacred mysteries.

4. The Sacred Music Ministry and Its Members

The Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish brings together the Director of Sacred Music, Choir Directors, Organists and Accompanists, Cantors, Instrumentalists, Staff Singers/Cantors, Intern Singers/Cantors, Choir Members, and all others entrusted with musical ministry in service of the Church. While each ministry involves distinct

responsibilities, all members share the same fundamental mission: to support the liturgical life of the parish through sacred music. Every member contributes according to his or her gifts, responsibilities, and form of service, fostering the beauty of worship, the prayer of the assembly, and the continued growth of the ministry. No ministry role exists above another in dignity, since all forms of service are offered for the same ecclesial mission. Different responsibilities, however, require different forms of preparation, commitment, and accountability according to the role entrusted. The Sacred Music Ministry is founded upon the generous service of its volunteer members. Appointed ministries, including compensated positions, exist to support, strengthen, and assist the broader ministry by providing additional expertise, stability, formation, and musical leadership for the benefit of the entire parish community. Whether through volunteer service or an appointed ministry, every contribution is valued as an expression of the gifts through which God enriches His Church and strengthens the worshipping community.

5. Authority and Leadership of the Sacred Music Office

The Director of Sacred Music is employed by the Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish and serves under his direction. As a member of the Sacred Music Ministry, the Director is entrusted with the leadership of the Sacred Music Office and the coordination, development, and implementation of the parish's Sacred Music Ministry in accordance with the vision of the Pastor and the mission of the Church. In carrying out this responsibility, the Director may be supported by staff members and qualified collaborators who contribute their expertise and service toward the development and implementation of the parish's Sacred Music Program. Responsibilities entrusted to the Director of Sacred Music may, when appropriate, be delegated to one or more Assistants of the Sacred Music Office and/or other qualified members of the Sacred Music Office, according to the needs of the ministry. The Director of Sacred Music collaborates with Choir Directors, Music Ministers, and all members of the Sacred Music Ministry to foster unity, continuity, formation, and faithful service within the liturgical life of Divine Mercy Parish.

CHAPTER II

FORMATION, PREPARATION, AND QUALITY OF MUSICAL SERVICE

6. Personal Preparation and Participation in Ministry

Musical ministry within the liturgy requires reliability, commitment, and responsible participation from every member according to the role entrusted to him or her. Each Music Minister shall prepare diligently for assigned responsibilities, become familiar with the repertoire, attend scheduled rehearsals and ministry commitments, and remain attentive to the guidance provided by the Director of Sacred Music, Choir Directors, and other Ministry leaders according to their respective responsibilities. Personal preparation and active participation strengthen the unity, confidence, and readiness of the ensemble while demonstrating respect for the time, effort, and contributions of fellow ministers. Rehearsals are not merely technical sessions, but essential moments of musical, liturgical, and communal preparation, fostering collaboration, refining interpretation, and enabling the ministry to serve the liturgy with unity and excellence. Faithful participation in rehearsals and scheduled commitments reflects a shared commitment to the mission of the Sacred Music Ministry and to the worship of the Church.

7. Musical, Liturgical, and Spiritual Formation

Divine Mercy Parish recognizes ongoing formation as an essential element of the Sacred Music Ministry. The Sacred Music Office promotes opportunities for growth according to the needs of the ministry through qualified instructors, experienced Music Ministers, and other resources made available by the parish. Formation includes the continued development of musical skills, a deeper understanding of the Church's sacred music tradition, and a growing appreciation of the role of sacred music within the liturgy. It also seeks to strengthen each member's understanding of his or her service as a minister of sacred music in support of the prayer of the Church. Formation opportunities and resources provided through the Sacred Music Office shall be accessible to members of the Ministry according to the procedures and availability established by the Sacred Music Office. Active participation in formation opportunities is encouraged as an expression of personal growth and as a contribution to the continued quality, vitality, and mission of the Sacred Music Ministry.

8. Musical Quality and Excellence in Service

The Sacred Music Ministry seeks to offer the parish community a Ministry of Sacred Music marked by care, beauty, and excellence, recognizing that worthy liturgical music requires dedication, discipline, and attentive preparation. The pursuit of excellence is never directed toward personal achievement or recognition but toward offering the Church's liturgy a fitting expression of the beauty and dignity of divine worship. Musical preparation, artistic excellence, ensemble unity, and faithful interpretation find their fullest purpose when they serve the liturgical action, support the prayer of the assembly, and contribute to the evangelizing mission of the Church. Every Music Minister, according to his or her role, gifts, and responsibilities, shall contribute to this

shared commitment through dedication, collaboration, and openness to continual musical, liturgical, and spiritual growth.

9. Liturgical Repertoire and Planning

The Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish is guided by the vision established by the Sacred Music Office through the Director of Sacred Music, ensuring unity and coherence in the repertoire selected for the parish's liturgical celebrations. The selection of the repertoire, including vocal, choral, organ, and instrumental music, is guided by the nature of each celebration, the liturgical season, the theological content of the texts, the function of each ritual moment, and the principles of the Church's sacred music tradition. The parish repertoire seeks to preserve and promote the rich heritage of sacred music through:

- Gregorian chant;
- sacred polyphony;
- the tradition of congregational hymnody;
- contemporary compositions consistent with the liturgy and the tradition of the Church.

Within this shared framework, Choir Directors, Cantors, Organists, Instrumentalists, Staff Singers, Intern Singers/Cantors, and other Music Ministers assist in the implementation of the parish's musical program according to their respective roles and responsibilities. The Director of Sacred Music oversees the overall musical direction of the parish and ensures that repertoire choices and music planning remain faithful to the liturgical vision of the Sacred Music Office.

CHAPTER III

MINISTRIES, ROLES, AND MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

10. General Principles of Liturgical Service

All members of the Music Ministry are called to approach their service with appropriate preparation, recognizing that their musical contribution is an integral part of the prayer of the Church. Preparation includes familiarity with assigned music, punctual attendance at rehearsals and liturgical services, and readiness to serve with attention, discipline, and reverence. Those who serve within the Sacred Music Ministry shall exercise their ministry with humility, discretion, and awareness that their role is directed toward supporting the prayer of the assembly and the sacred character of the liturgical celebration. The presence, conduct, and collaboration of all Music Ministers shall reflect the dignity of the liturgy and the responsibility entrusted to those who serve the musical life of Divine Mercy Parish.

11. Selection and Admission to Ministry

Admission to any role within the Sacred Music Ministry takes place through a process of discernment coordinated by the Sacred Music Office. This discernment considers the needs of the Ministry, the responsibilities of the role, and the individual's availability, ability to collaborate, ministerial disposition, and commitment to serving the liturgy according to the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Musical preparation, previous experience, and skills demonstrated are considered according to the specific role involved. When appropriate, the Sacred Music Office may also consider the potential for musical growth through formation opportunities offered within the ministry. The purpose of this discernment is to ensure that those entrusted with these roles, as well as those being considered for them, can develop the qualities necessary to serve the Church with competence, humility, and fidelity to the mission of sacred music.

12. Membership and Admission to all Parish Choirs

Membership in the choirs of Divine Mercy Parish follows the general principles of discernment described in §11, while also considering the identity, mission, and particular needs of each ensemble. Choir admission may include auditions, conversations, observation periods, or other forms of evaluation according to the standards established by the Choir Director in collaboration with the Sacred Music Office. Different choirs within Divine Mercy Parish may have different musical identities, levels of formation, and service requirements according to their pastoral purpose. These differences reflect the diversity of gifts and responsibilities within the same Music Ministry.

13. Specific Admission Process for the St. Maria Goretti Choir

The St. Maria Goretti Choir, as an ensemble committed to a high standard of musical service, requires a formal audition process according to the standards established by the Sacred Music Office. The audition process is intended to assess the musical preparation

and abilities necessary for participation in the ensemble and to ensure that members can contribute effectively to its mission. The criteria and procedures for the audition process are determined by the Director of Sacred Music.

14. The Ministry of the Choir Director

Choir Directors are entrusted with the musical leadership and formation of their respective ensembles within the Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish. Each Choir Director serves primarily within one of the parish churches, guiding the ensemble in service to the liturgy according to the vision established by the Director of Sacred Music and the unified program of the Sacred Music Office. The responsibilities of the Choir Director include preparing and guiding the ensemble, supporting the musical and liturgical formation of choir members, and assisting in the implementation of the parish's Sacred Music Ministry program according to the needs of the liturgy and the responsibilities assigned. In certain pastoral or liturgical circumstances, the roles of Choir Director and Organist/Accompanist may be fulfilled by the same person, provided that the individual possesses the necessary musical preparation, liturgical awareness, and leadership abilities required for both responsibilities.

15. The Ministry of the Organist/Accompanist

The Organist/Accompanist fulfills an essential ministry within the liturgical life of Divine Mercy Parish, providing accompaniment that supports the prayer of the congregation, enhances the sacred character of the celebration, and serves the musical direction of the Sacred Music Ministry. Those entrusted with this ministry shall possess appropriate musical preparation, liturgical awareness, and the ability to collaborate effectively with other music ministers. The Organist/Accompanist contributes not only through musical skill, but also through sensitivity to the liturgical action, attentiveness to the needs of the assembly, and commitment to the pastoral and musical mission of the parish. The ministry of the Organist/Accompanist requires a balance between artistic excellence and liturgical service, recognizing that instrumental accompaniment exists to support the worship of the Church and the participation of the faithful.

16. The Ministry of the Cantor in Celebrations without a Choir

In liturgical celebrations where a choir is not present, the Cantor fulfills a distinct and essential ministry within the Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish. This ministry requires appropriate musical and liturgical preparation, reverence, humility, and a spirit of service. The Cantor guides the song of the congregation, assisting the faithful in their participation in the prayer of the Church. The Cantor's voice is offered in service to the congregation and the liturgical action, not as a form of personal performance. This ministry requires not only vocal ability, but also an understanding of the liturgy, and the ability to collaborate effectively with other Music Ministers.

17. The Ministry of the Cantor within the Choir

When a Cantor is selected from within a choir for liturgical celebrations, this ministry is entrusted to members who possess the necessary musical preparation, liturgical awareness, and ability to guide the assembly in prayer. The selection of Cantors within each choir is coordinated by the Choir Director or by a designated person responsible

for organizing the Cantor rotation within the ensemble. These selections are made according to the musical and liturgical needs of the celebration, the formation and abilities of the ministers involved, and the direction established by the Sacred Music Ministry.

18. Staff Singers/Cantors and Intern Singers/Cantors

Staff Singers/Cantors and Intern Singers/Cantors are members of the Sacred Music Ministry appointed through specific selection and service procedures established by the Sacred Music Office. These appointments provide additional support for the mission of Divine Mercy Parish and require a level of preparation, reliability, availability, and commitment appropriate to the responsibilities assigned. Staff Singers and Intern Singers/Cantors may receive a primary assignment within a specific ensemble or church while also collaborating with other areas of the ministry according to liturgical needs. These roles represent a particular form of service within the Sacred Music Ministry and are governed by the guidelines and procedures established by the Sacred Music Office, including any applicable ministerial appointment, professional expectations, and responsibility guidelines.

19. The Ministry of Instrumentalists

Instrumentalists, including brass, strings, or other instrumental collaborators, may contribute to the music of Divine Mercy Parish during celebrations, solemnities, or other occasions according to the needs of the liturgy and the direction of the Sacred Music Ministry. Those who participate in this ministry shall offer their musical gifts in a manner that supports the sacred character of the celebration, complements the work of the regular Music Ministers, and contributes to the beauty of the Church's worship.

CHAPTER IV

ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND PRACTICAL NORMS OF THE SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

20. Structure and Coordination of the Sacred Music Ministry

The Sacred Music Ministry functions through coordinated collaboration among the churches, ensembles, and ministers of Divine Mercy Parish according to the direction established by the Sacred Music Office. Each choir, ensemble, and ministry area maintains its identity and responsibilities while participating in the unified vision of the parish. The Sacred Music Office coordinates liturgical planning, formation, communication, and collaboration among ministers to ensure effective service throughout the parish. Responsibilities within the Music Ministry may be adapted according to pastoral, liturgical, and music needs while remaining consistent with the mission and direction established by the Sacred Music Office.

21. Annual Planning and Structure of the Choral Year

The Choral Year serves as the principal period of activity for the Sacred Music Ministry, corresponding to the time of greatest liturgical engagement within the parish. Concentrating the regular activities of the ministry during this period allows the Sacred Music Office to coordinate formation, rehearsals, liturgical preparation, and musical planning in harmony with the rhythm of the liturgical year, while highlighting the distinctive character of its various seasons. The annual schedule is planned as a whole and may include adaptations in rehearsals, ensemble activities, formation opportunities, and liturgical responsibilities according to the needs of the parish. Periods of reduced activity during certain weeks of Ordinary Time may be incorporated into the schedule to maintain an appropriate balance when additional liturgical celebrations or musical responsibilities occur outside the regular Choral Year. For the effective preparation of liturgical celebrations, practical expectations regarding rehearsal schedules, arrival times, and coordination procedures are established by the Choir Directors. Rehearsals are ordinarily held in locations designated by the Choir Director or the Sacred Music Office and are not normally conducted inside the church. Unless otherwise communicated, members serving with a choir are expected to arrive approximately forty-five (45) minutes before the beginning of the liturgies. For celebrations involving only an Organist/Accompanist and a Cantor, the expected arrival time is thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the celebration.

22. Liturgical Celebrations and Musical Collaboration

Liturgical celebrations within Divine Mercy Parish are prepared through collaboration among the various members of the Sacred Music Ministry according to the musical direction established by the Director of Sacred Music and the unified program of the Sacred Music Office. Choir Directors, Organists, Cantors, Instrumentalists, Staff Singers, Intern Singers/Cantors, and other collaborators contribute according to their respective responsibilities in service of the liturgical life of the parish. Additional musical collaboration may be incorporated for celebrations or pastoral needs according to the discernment of the Sacred Music Office. When extraordinary services or additional musical responsibilities involve compensation, such compensation shall be

determined according to the nature of the assignment and the procedures established by the Sacred Music Office. The Organist/Accompanist ordinarily begins the musical prelude at least two (2) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the liturgical celebration. Outside the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, and except where otherwise provided by the liturgical norms of the Church, the Organist/Accompanist may also provide a postlude following the dismissal of the assembly. During Advent, Lent, and especially on Good Friday, the use of the organ follows the liturgical norms governing sacred music, including any restrictions concerning instrumental music.

23. Extraordinary Services and Musical Activities

In addition to regular liturgical responsibilities, members of the Sacred Music Ministry may be invited to participate in formative, cultural, or other musical activities promoted by Divine Mercy Parish or the Sacred Music Office. Participation in these activities is coordinated according to the purpose of the initiative, artistic requirements, and availability of those involved. Activities requiring responsibilities beyond the ordinary scope of ministry may receive separate compensation according to available resources and the decisions of the Sacred Music Office.

24. Attire and Liturgical Vesture

The attire and appearance of all who serve within the Sacred Music Ministry shall reflect the dignity of the liturgical celebration and the sacred responsibility of their ministry. When liturgical vesture is not required, members shall wear attire that is modest, dignified, and appropriate for the liturgical setting. Practices regarding liturgical vesture may differ among ensembles according to their liturgical role and the direction of the Sacred Music Office. Such differences reflect the particular needs of each ministry and do not represent a distinction among those who serve. Liturgical vesture is reserved for ministerial service according to established parish practices and the direction of the Sacred Music Office.

- *Divine Mercy Community Choir* – Liturgical vesture is not normally required.
- *St. Andrew Choir* – The use of liturgical vesture is determined by the Choir Director in accordance with the established direction of the Sacred Music Office.
- *St. Maria Goretti Choir* – Liturgical vesture is required for solemnities, liturgical feasts, particular parish celebrations, and whenever requested by the Director of Sacred Music.

The Organist/Accompanist regularly serving within the parish may wear liturgical vesture when determined by the Director of Sacred Music or according to established parish practice. Visiting, substitute, or guest organists are not ordinarily required to wear liturgical vesture unless specifically requested for a particular celebration. At the churches of St. Andrew and St. Maria Goretti, Cantors wear liturgical vesture while exercising their ministry. At St. William Church, the use of liturgical vesture for all music ministers is determined according to the direction of the Director of Sacred Music and the specific needs of the celebration.

25. Communication, Confidentiality, Ministry Records, and Musical Resources

Clear and timely communication is essential for the effective coordination of the Sacred Music Ministry. Any absence, scheduling difficulty, or inability to fulfill an assigned commitment shall be communicated with adequate notice to the Sacred Music Office according to established procedures. When unable to fulfill an assigned responsibility, members shall communicate the absence as soon as possible. The Sacred Music Office will determine the appropriate solution according to the circumstances and needs of the ministry. Members shall maintain discretion regarding internal communications, organizational matters, selection processes, and information related to the life of the ministry. Trust, respect, and confidentiality are essential elements of collaboration. Documents related to auditions, selections, appointments, and ministry procedures are maintained by the Sacred Music Office according to internal policies and are used exclusively for purposes related to coordination, formation, and administration of the musical ministry. The Sacred Music Office has responsibility for the use and stewardship of musical resources belonging to Divine Mercy Parish, including parish-owned musical instruments, according to established procedures and the needs of the Music Ministry. Resources and materials provided or maintained by the Sacred Music Office shall be made available to ministry members according to the procedures established by the Office.

26. Continuity of Service, Discernment, and Recognition of Ministry

Participation within the Sacred Music Ministry is a commitment of service entrusted for the good of the liturgy and the parish community. Participation of choir members at Divine Mercy Parish ordinarily continues into the following Choral Year unless the individual chooses otherwise or circumstances require review and communication with the Sacred Music Office. Staff Singer and Intern Singer/Cantor appointments follow separate procedures, as they represent formally established assignments with defined responsibilities and terms of service. The continuation of these appointments is reviewed annually according to the needs of the ministry, the fulfillment of entrusted responsibilities, the commitment and quality of service provided, and the goals established for the musical program of the parish. When concerns arise regarding participation, conduct, reliability, collaboration, or fulfillment of responsibilities, the Sacred Music Office may initiate appropriate dialogue and discern the continuation of an individual's ministry assignment. Such discernment shall be carried out with respect and consideration for the good of the ministry and the parish community. Members who wish to discontinue their service are encouraged to communicate their decision with appropriate notice to the ministry leader responsible.

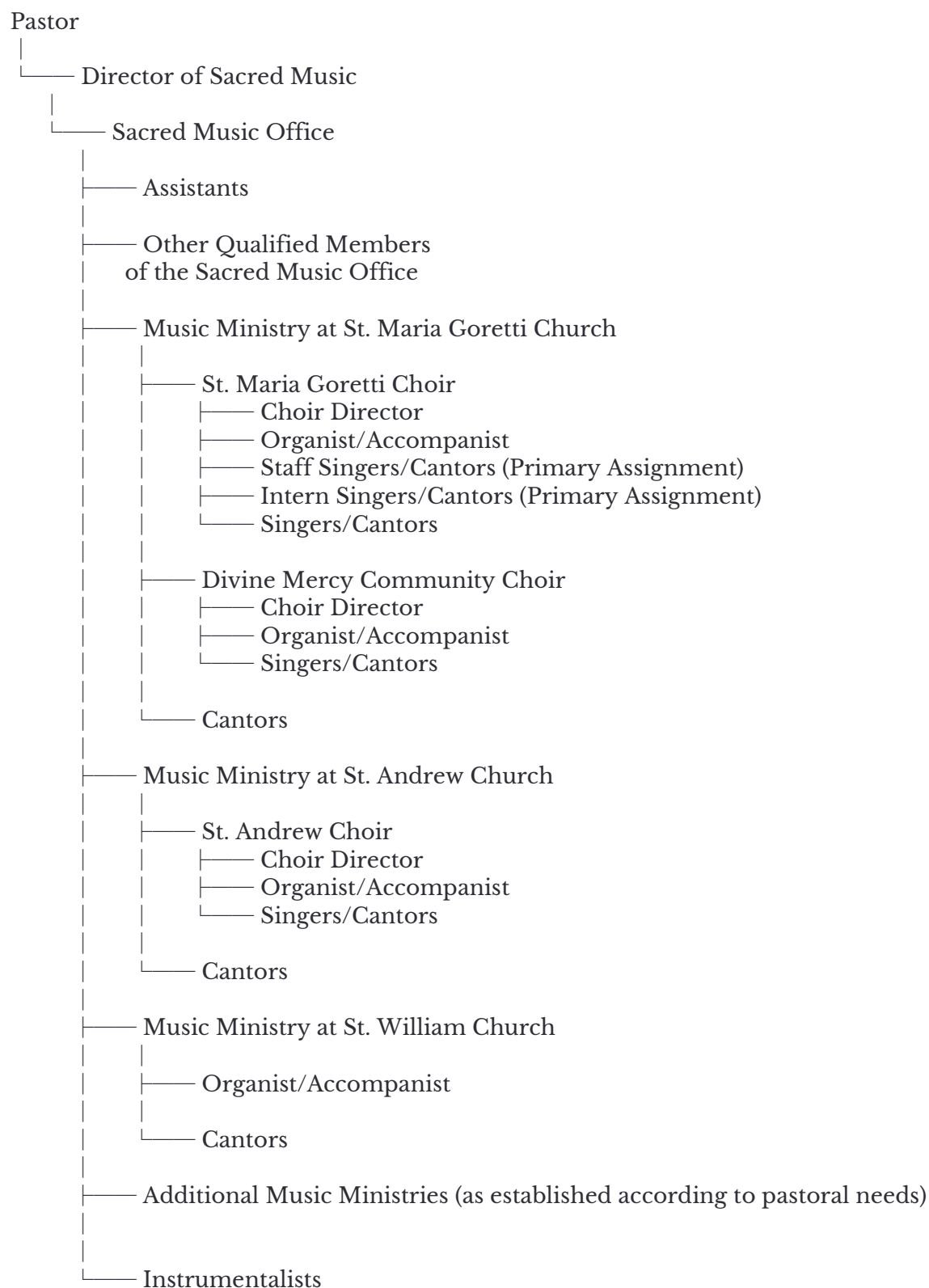
EFFECTIVE DATE, IMPLEMENTATION, AUTHORITY, AND FINAL PROVISIONS

These Guidelines for the Sacred Music Ministry shall become effective on September 1, 2026, and shall serve as the common framework for the identity, organization, responsibilities, and practices of the parish's musical ministry. Upon their effective date, these Guidelines supersede previous written policies, informal procedures, customary practices, or prior arrangements concerning the Sacred Music Ministry. Nothing in these Guidelines shall prevent the Pastor or the Director of Sacred Music from making temporary pastoral, liturgical, organizational, or administrative adaptations whenever extraordinary circumstances or the pastoral needs of the parish so require. These Guidelines shall remain in effect until revised or superseded by the Sacred Music Office with the approval of the Pastor. In the event of uncertainty regarding the interpretation or application of these Guidelines, the interpretation of the Director of Sacred Music, subject to the authority of the Pastor, shall prevail. Questions regarding their application or circumstances not specifically addressed within these Guidelines shall be referred to the Director of Sacred Music for appropriate discernment.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SACRED MUSIC MINISTRY

The following organizational chart illustrates the principal areas of responsibility within the Sacred Music Ministry.



Assignments within the Sacred Music Ministry may be adapted according to pastoral, liturgical, and musical needs. Assistants and qualified members of the Sacred Music Office may receive specific responsibilities. Ministers may serve in different churches, ensembles, or liturgical celebrations according to the direction of the Sacred Music Office. The responsibilities represented in this structure are complementary rather than exclusive. A Choir Director may also serve as the Organist/Accompanist of the same ensemble when appropriate. At St. William Church, the ministries of Cantor and Organist/Accompanist may be exercised by the same individual whenever appropriate. The Director of Sacred Music may likewise fulfill the responsibilities of Choir Director and/or Organist/Accompanist when required for the effective fulfillment of the Sacred Music Ministry.

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REFERENCES

The Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish carries out its mission in continuity with the principal documents of the Catholic Church concerning the liturgy, sacred music, and the role of those who serve the Church through music. The following documents provide the ecclesial references that guide the principles, vision, and pastoral approach expressed in these Guidelines for the Sacred Music Ministry.

Catechism of the Catholic Church.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM).

John Paul II, *Chirograph for the Centenary of the Motu Proprio* Tra le Sollecitudini, 2003.

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Sacrosanctum Concilium. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 1963.

Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship, prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007.

The Sacred Music Ministry of Divine Mercy Parish exists to serve the liturgical life of the Church, recognizing music as an integral part of divine worship and as a means through which the faithful are drawn into deeper prayer and fuller participation in the sacred mysteries.

Bringing together the communities of St. Andrew, St. Maria Goretti, and St. William, these Guidelines provide a unified framework for those who serve in the parish's musical life. They seek to foster unity, continuity, and fidelity to the Church's tradition while recognizing the gifts, responsibilities, and pastoral needs of each community.

Whether serving as an organist, cantor, singer, choir director, or in another ministry, each member is called to offer his or her gifts with humility, reverence, preparation, and excellence. Through clear responsibilities, ongoing formation, and shared standards of service, the Sacred Music Ministry seeks to cultivate a community of ministers who contribute faithfully and generously to the beauty and dignity of the Church's worship.
