

Understanding the Mass

The Choir and Musicians

*Each week, we are explaining a different part of the Mass - the items that are used, the parts of the church, and the roles of the people who help us celebrate Mass. This week, our topic is the **Choir and Musicians**.*

As we stand for the entrance procession that begins Mass, you may hear the **choir** (singers) and **musicians** (people who play musical instruments) leading the first hymn of Mass. A **hymn** is a religious song or poem of praise to God - these are special songs that we sing at Mass, though we can sing them anytime we like!



We celebrate Mass together as a way to love and praise God...and singing is a special way to pray.

Many of the hymns we sing in church have been written based on the Bible - the Old and the New Testament - and their words teach us about God. And music makes us happy. So when we sing with joy during Mass, we share that joy with God too.

The choir and musicians will sit in different places depending on which church you go to - sometimes they sit near the front of the church, and sometimes they sit upstairs near the organ.

The patron saint of musicians and sacred music is Saint Cecilia (~200-235), who loved music and “sang to God in her heart”. She died as a martyr, which means she was killed because she refused to turn away from her faith during the Roman persecution of Christians.

This week, we invite you to pray together as a family:

Dear Jesus,

You gave Saint Cecilia the courage to keep believing in You, all the way to her moment of death. And you inspired her to share her love of You in song. This week, we pray for our family, our parish and especially for those who serve You by singing and playing music at Mass each week. Help us all to love you as much as Saint Cecilia did, even when it's hard. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

