



# NPM Wichita Noteworthy

## How Can I Keep from Singing?!

### New Diocesan Guidelines for Mass

My choir didn't waste any time getting back to practice on March 10. That was the day that the new Mass guidelines were communicated to the Diocesan Priests. We also sang for Masses on March 14. It was a great feeling.

In short, here is a high-level summary what the guidelines say. These guidelines all say "may," and not "will or shall." The more detailed guidance to the Priests provides context for each item.

I share this in good faith. There very well might be good reason for not enacting these options immediately. It's been a very long and trying year. We want to continue to be safe and keep those around us safe. Please continue to be patient. Let's be grateful that we can come back and sing the liturgy again – including the Triduum and Easter! To be clear, masks and social distancing will still be required for choirs.

#### **Effective Immediately**

- The Collection may be taken up by the ushers.
- Choirs are permitted to sing with proper social distancing between members and with masks.
- Hymnals and Missalettes may be returned to the pew.
- Pastors may increase seating capacity from 33% to 50% while ensuring that people have the option for safe social distancing.
- All liturgical Ministries should be restored.
- Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Ushers, Organist, Cantor, Choir, etc.

#### **Effective April 3, 2021**

- Holy Water may be returned to the Church after the celebration of the Easter Vigil. The Holy Water fonts are to be cleaned and disinfected weekly at a minimum.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Office of Worship, Bishop Kemme, and the consulting Priests for these new guidelines.

## Memberships

I recently attended an NPM Chapter Director's meeting where memberships were discussed. It is the plan of NPM to discontinue local memberships in favor of everyone having at least a basic National NPM membership. Currently you can be a local member and not a National NPM member. The National NPM board has been studying the association needs and has come back with all members must be National members, putting the organization in line with many other National organizations. The basic membership starts at \$39/year.

To make up for the lost local revenue, there will be rebates from membership given to the chapter. The NPM Wichita board still has some discussion on this topic, but I wanted you to be aware in case you are already an NPM National member, and your membership is up for renewal. The local rebate on a basic membership will provide us with about 25% of the revenue we would have received with a local membership. It's likely that local events will require a nominal attendance fee or freewill offering with this change.



Tom Wierman,  
Chapter Director



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 2, 2021**

**Annual Chapter Meeting**  
Church of the Magdalen (Parish Hall)

**July 27-30, 2021**

**NPM National Convention**  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
npm.org

**September 12, 2021**

**Vespers and Musician Blessing**  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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## Newsletter Feature

It is with deep regret that I announce we are losing our wonderful newsletter feature writer. Carol Nigrelli and her husband Craig will likely be moving. Carol brought a great gift of storytelling in the features that she shared with us. They were fun, creative, entertaining, and deeply insightful. I can't thank Carol enough for the gift she shared with us. Secretly I'm praying that Craig takes a job locally and they get to stay in Wichita. I know that sounds selfish, but Wichita has been a great place for them as well. We wish them all the best.

## Annual Meeting

Time to be thinking about our Annual Meeting and the election of Chapter Secretary. A gigantic thank you to Melissa Seiler for serving in this role for the past two years. Melissa will remain active but is stepping down from board Secretary.

Jeff Bogner is "new" to Wichita and has agreed to be a candidate for board Secretary. Here is a bit about Jeff.

Jeff started accompanying at his home parish, St. Dominic in Garden City, in elementary school. He played the piano and sang at church until his high school graduation. He then took his talents to St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. After graduating from K-State, he moved to Wichita and currently works as a mechanical engineer for a local consulting firm. He is an accompanist/cantor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The chapter will conduct this election by email vote. Shortly you will see a ballot. Please open the email and complete the voting process. Thank you in advance.

As well, I will soon be stepping into the role of Past Chapter Director. Not long ago you elected Charlene Dreiling as Chapter Director-elect. She will become Chapter Director at the Annual Meeting. Thank you for allowing me to serve as chapter leader these past three years. It was such a pleasure to work along side all of you in the efforts of our chapter.

