

# Blessed Trinity Music Ministry

## Rules to Sing By (revised 9/16/2008)

*Dear Choir Members,*

*In what follows I have tried to specify how we can best fulfill our ministry to the people of this wonderful parish. Thank you for offering yourselves to serve in this ministry. I look forward to working with you.*  
*R Saalfeld*

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Blessed Trinity Music Ministry is a group of many generous and talented people working together to encourage the participation and enhance the worship of our Community at our liturgical celebrations through the vehicle of music.

### PREREQUISITES FOR CHOIR MEMBERSHIP

1. Ability to sing a pitch that has been played on the piano.
2. Ability to sing and hold one's part with others in a section while other sections are singing other parts.
3. Spirit of cooperation
4. Willingness to learn.

### GENERAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Choir Members will ...

1. Attend all activities (rehearsals, warm-ups, liturgies, concerts, parties) from beginning to end. (I will send out an updated calendar periodically throughout the year.)
2. Listen to and follow the instructions of the Director.
3. Not bother other Choir Members or other people in church.
4. Listen (not talk) while other sections of the choir are being rehearsed.
  - a. As the choir grows, it becomes more important to refrain from "chatting" while other sections are being rehearsed, because the more people there are, the more noise they make when talking;
  - b. Very often much can be learned by paying attention to the directions given to the section of the choir being rehearsed. Many of the director's comments will apply to the whole choir;
  - c. One person talking to another prevents both of them from listening to the director;
  - d. If two people are talking loud enough, other people will also be prevented from listening to the director.
5. Always be kind.
6. Handle music with care.
7. Keep music organized.
8. Always have a pencil with an eraser (not a pen) in your hand when we are rehearsing. Then you can mark things such as phrasing, places to breathe, changes in dynamics (loud and soft), word changes. Do not use pen or highlighters on music. Using these make it harder to make legible changes.

### NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE:

If a Choir Member needs to miss an activity, s/he will notify the Director as soon as possible, preferably before the activity, or as soon after the activity as possible.

To notify the choir director of an upcoming absence, a choir member can ...

1. Call the him at the church office (629-8092x202) or mobile (895-2172)
2. Email him ([RSaalfeld@yahoo.com](mailto:RSaalfeld@yahoo.com))
3. Record the absence in the **SIGN-OUT BOOK**.

(Please do not just verbally tell me about the upcoming absence. I will probably not remember it.)

#### REHEARSALS:

1. If a Choir Member needs to miss a rehearsal, s/he should notify me as soon as possible. It may be possible for the Choir Member to make up the rehearsal by attending another rehearsal the same week.
2. If a Choir Member misses two weekly rehearsals in a row, s/he may not sing at a liturgy until s/he has been to another rehearsal. This applies to everyone, but especially (and more stringently) to Cantors. If a Cantor is assigned to a liturgy and misses the rehearsal the week before the liturgy, the Cantor will be replaced by another Cantor who is at the rehearsal.

#### LITURGIES:

1. It is assumed that every Choir Member at a rehearsal will be at the next weekend's liturgy unless s/he has specifically notified me to the contrary.
2. If a Choir Member has to miss a liturgy, s/he should still try to come to the rehearsal the week before the liturgy, since music is rehearsed several, sometimes many, weeks in advance of performance.
3. If a Choir Member is late for a liturgy, s/he should not come into the choir area during a song. S/he should wait till the song is over and then take an available place.
4. If the designated Cantor misses the warm-up, s/he may be replaced at the Director's discretion.