

## **Cantor Notes**

**Major Goals as a Cantor:** your job is to lead the congregation in the music of the liturgy, not to perform. Technically, the instrument leads. Be alert, and be prompt so as not to interrupt the flow of the celebration.

Take charge; be firm. Use a strong voice and speak directly into the microphone.

When not on the riser leading songs, stand either on the floor between the riser and ambo, or on the floor in front of the cantor seat. Do not hide behind the pillar. You should sit in the cantor chair beside the pillar, except that you may kneel in the first pew during the Eucharistic Prayer if you choose to do so.

Cantors are scheduled three months in advance. When new schedules are issued, please review them carefully and advise of any dates which you cannot serve.

If you have a last-minute emergency and cannot fulfill your assignment, please contact other cantors to find a substitute, or call the choir director (936-825-0565) or (936-727-0443) if you are unable to find a substitute. Please do not wait to request help if you need it. Calling someone after Thursday night practice means that they have not had an opportunity to practice for the Liturgy of the week.

To prepare to cantor:

1. Read/meditate over the weekend readings in your "Living Liturgy" book.
2. Practice selected music; cantor practice is at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. If you are unable to attend cantor and choir practice for the two weeks preceeding your assigned date to cantor, please have someone substitute for you. It is vital that you be as prepared as possible to lead the assembly.
3. Have all your music organized before Mass begins. Put any personal music or notes in the cantor book, and remove them after Mass.
4. Arrive at church early, and sign in on the Liturgical Ministers sign-in sheet in the back of the church.
5. Verify the music agenda with the worship aid.
6. When appropriate, introduce new music to the congregation.
7. Any announcements and/or music introductions will be printed out for you. Please do not improvise!