

Music Director for Light of the World Catholic Church.

Light of the World Catholic Church (lotw.org) has approximately 3000 registered households and is in the southwest suburbs of Denver. It is served by two priests and is blessed with a new church building dedicated in January of 2015. The position of Music Director is a full-time position with the standard benefits of the Archdiocese of Denver, reporting directly to the pastor. This position will begin in the second half of June, 2018.

Given that the Mass *“is an action of Christ the priest and of His Body which is the Church, a sacred action surpassing all others,”*¹ liturgical excellence is a strong value cultivated at the parish. Sacred music contributes significantly, since *“through this form, prayer is expressed in a more attractive way, the mystery of the liturgy, with its hierarchical and community nature, is more openly shown, the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of voices, minds are more easily raised to heavenly things by the beauty of the sacred rites, and the whole celebration more clearly prefigures that heavenly liturgy which is enacted in the holy city of Jerusalem.”*² The parish seeks a Music Director who embraces this lofty vision and, at the same time, can implement it as a reality accessible and attractive to ordinary parishioners.

The overall goals for the Music Director are: first, assisting the faithful to enter more fully into the liturgy through active participation in sung liturgical responses and in liturgical music; second, creating beautiful liturgical music from both the treasures of tradition and worthy contemporary pieces.

The goals of the Music Program are:

- Build and sustain congregational singing at the 4:30pm, 8:00am, and 10:30am Masses through quality music selection and execution, as well as the judicious introduction of material. (This does not preclude some motets and other works that do not involve congregational singing.)
- Incorporate the proper antiphons of a given Mass into the liturgical music.
- Strengthen the 10:30am choir by increasing numbers and improving their musical performance.
- Improve the smaller musical ensembles at the 4:30pm and 8:00am Masses through new recruitment and focused training for cantors and the other singers.
- Expand the current rehearsal schedule to give due attention to the different music groups.
- Expand the number of accompanists available to support the Saturday/Sunday music groups and support weddings and funerals.

¹ *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7.

² *Musicam Sacram*, 5.

Standing duties and responsibilities of the Music Director are:

- Lead the music at the 4:30pm, 8:00am, and 10:30am Masses and organize adequate rehearsals
- Organize and direct temporary music groups like the children's Christmas choir and music for the Christmas pageant, and provide on occasion some music for parish retreats or events.
- Oversee the selection of cantor and accompanist for nuptial Masses and funerals.
- Meet with wedding parties to plan music. (Funeral music planning is done by the pastor or parochial vicar when they meet with the family.)
- Approve and coordinate with any outside musicians/vocalists that will be coming to perform at weddings or funerals.
- Ensure that parish musical equipment is well maintained (e.g. piano and organ).
- Contribute as a member of the parish liturgy team under the direction of the pastor.
- Attend the following meetings: weekly liturgical planning meeting, twice-monthly staff meeting, monthly to every other month meeting with the pastor to discuss music selections for the upcoming month or season.
- Participate in the monthly "Community Sunday" in which staff are present after the weekend Masses to promote their ministries.
- Manage music licenses and collections, and work with the A/V team on any music notation or texts that should be projected in the church.
- Prepare a budget for the music program according to the normal process and tools used by the parish staff.
- Please note: There is also a 5pm Sunday evening Mass that is currently served by a group of musicians on stipend apart from the music director. It originated as a "youth Mass" and has a contemporary sound. This could potentially be given to the Music Director, if interested, with a corresponding adjustment of salary. If the Music Director is not directly involved there is still a modest level of coordination required with the 5pm music group.

Liturgical celebrations that require music are: Sunday liturgies, Easter Triduum and Christmas, holy days of obligation, All Souls Day, Mass for Confirmation and First Holy Communion, Weddings, and Funerals.

The following skills are required or highly valued:

Pastoral Skills:

- Ease and ability to work with volunteers, providing motivating leadership to music groups and having an ability to both listen and instruct
- Capability to recruit new members, volunteer and paid, to the music program
- Positive attitude open to collaboration and direction
- Consideration of the parish community, both its limitations and opportunities, and exercising good judgment when choosing music

Liturgical Skills:

- Good understanding of the Roman Rite and the liturgical seasons with a clear understanding of how music serves the liturgy
- Ability to pick fitting liturgical music given the themes of the liturgy and lectionary
- Exposure to liturgical documents of the Catholic Church
- Awareness of the Catholic musical tradition
- Prior experience in Catholic music ministry

Musical Skills:

- University degree in music (performance, composing and arranging, etc.)
- Trained vocalist with experience in piano and/or organ
- Choral conducting and ability to give vocal training such as: breath control, diction, musical phrasing, and unified intonation
- Direct other instruments to play with choir and keyboard
- Familiarity with liturgical chant with an ability to read chant notation (neumes)

Organizational Skills

- Maintain a music library; keep and observe licensing agreements
- Assess needs and build rosters of musicians and singers
- Communicate effectively with members of the music ministry and coordinate their participation
- Foresee and schedule necessary maintenance on musical equipment

Compensation

This is a full-time salaried position that is supplemented by stipends for weddings and funerals. There are approximately 15 weddings and 20 funerals annually. (The current funeral and wedding stipend for accompanist or vocalist are \$125 = \$4375 annually.) The base salary is commensurate with education and experience, starting at a minimum of \$40,000 salary and the liturgy stipends.

A further 6% of the salary is deposited annually into a retirement plan with full vesting at five years of employment with the archdiocese. The position also comes with insurance for health, dental, and vision; as well as life insurance.

Any employment offer is contingent on successfully passing the mandatory background check.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please send by email or mail a resume with cover letter to:

Very Rev. Matthew Book, VF

frmatt@lotw.org

Light of the World Catholic Church

10316 W. Bowles Ave.

Littleton, CO 80127