



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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## PAPAL MASS MUSIC

- 570 singers in four choirs
  - 250-voice Papal Mass Choir, 175-voice Children's Choir, 80-voice Gospel Choir and 65-voice Intercultural Choir, and selections by Denyce Graves and Placido Domingo
  - An orchestra of 45 musicians will play the music for the Mass and preludes
  - The choirs will sing in English, Italian, Latin, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean
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The music at the Mass reflects the diversity of the Archdiocese of Washington with the choirs singing in 10 languages. Tom Stehle, pastoral associate for liturgy and music at Our Lady of Mercy parish in Potomac, MD and director of music for the Mass, solicited input from a host of colleagues throughout the country and local parish music directors for songs to be included in the celebration. The proposals were reviewed by an archdiocesan committee, Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl and were approved by the Vatican. "We chose music that complements the scripture and themes of the day as well as music that is familiar or easily sung by those in attendance," Stehle said. "It is music that represents our long Catholic and Christian tradition and the current diversity of our church."

### Choirs

**The Papal Mass Choir**, directed by Tom Stehle, is made up of 250 adults from 83 parish choirs throughout Washington, DC, and suburban/southern Maryland, as well as members of the Diocesan Choir of Arlington, VA. The members were chosen from more than 560 people who auditioned for the choir.

**The Papal Children's Choir** is made of 175 children from parish and Catholic school choirs throughout Washington, DC, and suburban/southern Maryland. They are in grades four through eight. Parishes and schools could submit the names of up to 10 students to be part of the choir. More than 400 names were submitted; 175 names were selected at random. The children are directed by Kathleen DeJardin, director of music ministry at Holy Trinity parish in Georgetown.

**The Papal Gospel Choir** includes 80 gospel singers from parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington. This choir has its own instrumentalists who will accompany the singers and is directed by Lynné Gray, director of music at St. Anthony parish in Northeast Washington, DC, and Henry Herrera, director of gospel choirs at St. Thomas More parish in Southeast Washington, DC, and St. Camillus parish in Silver Spring, MD.

**The Papal Intercultural Choir** includes 65 singers from 35 countries. Membership in the choir was by invitation to ensure representation of the wide diversity in the Archdiocese. Some members of the choir will play instruments, such as African drums and Andean pipes, to accompany the singers. The choir is directed by Tracy McDonnell, director of music at St. Camillus parish in Silver Spring, MD.

## **Cantors**

- Ms. Jennifer Muller Goltz, director of music, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC
- Deacon Stephen Bell, C.S.P, in formation, St. Paul's College in Washington, DC
- Mr. Jose Sacin, cantor, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle and St. Ann's parish, both in Northwest Washington, DC

## **Music**

All of the choirs will sing separately and together with the assembly during various parts of the Mass. The 45-piece orchestra that will accompany them contains brass, woodwind and percussion, hand bells, piano and organ.

## **A Sampling of the Music**

- During the processions and prelude the program includes:
  - All choirs performing the opening Spiritual "Plenty Good Room," newly arranged by Washington Symphonic Brass founder, Phil Snedecor.
  - The Children's Choir singing "Send Forth Your Spirit" by Andrew Wright and "Ave Verum" by Mozart.
  - The Gospel Choir singing "I Call upon You God" by Leon Roberts and "Lord Make Me an Instrument" by Roger Holland.
  - The Papal Mass Choir singing "Sing Aloud Unto God Our Strength" by Daniel Nelson and "Spirit of God Within Me" by Robert LeBlanc.
  - The Intercultural Choir singing "Let'Isikia" arranged by Tracy McDonnell and "Source d'eau Vive" by C.E. Haugel.
- During the pope's arrival, the Papal Mass Choir will chant "Tu Es Petrus" and lead the choirs and the assembly in the familiar Te Deum hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name."
- The prelude prior to the liturgy will include American opera singer Denyce Graves singing "We Are One in the Spirit" with the Papal Mass Choir, the Children's Choir and the assembly.
- Among the six communion hymns, the Gospel Choir will sing "Jesus is Here Right Now" by Leon Roberts; the Intercultural Choir will sing "Bienaventurados" by Lourdes Montgomery; and the Papal Choir will sing "All the Earth" by Lucien Deiss.
- "Panis Angelicus" will be sung by world-renowned tenor, Placido Domingo, General Director of the Washington National Opera.