

CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Litany and Prayer for Church Musicians

PRIEST: In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN

O Heavenly Father, on this day proclaimed National Church Music Sunday by our Archdiocese, our parish recognizes the women, men, and youth in our parish who give their time and musical talent in service to You, our Lord, and to Your Church.

Bless them, O Lord, as they sing praises to You, and glorify Your Name. Let their music be a witness to Your majesty and love, and remind us all of Your presence in our lives.

Help them to bring the Word of God to our parish family through Your music, through chant and hymn singing.

Help them to fulfill all the responsibilities this music ministry requires. Giving of time and talents to learn the hymns of our faith, teaching others these musical prayers, actively participating in the dialogue of our worship, and striving to enhance the beauty of our liturgical life.

Help them to grow as disciples of the Lord by making every effort to hear the Word of God, integrate His teachings into our lives, and sharing it with others through music.

PRIEST: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CHOIR: Kyrie Eleison.

...Continue Litany, followed by:

PRIEST: Master, Lord our God, You commanded that everything be done for Your glory. By Your blessing, stretch forth Your hand to these Your servants who sing hymns of praise for Your glory. Grant them the wisdom and ability to sing our Orthodox prayers. Grant them good health, a happy life, and bless their good efforts. For You are a gracious God and to You we give glory, together with Your Father who is eternal and Your All Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and forevermore.

PSALTI/CHOIR: Amen.

Apolytikion of St. Romanos in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

(English Translation) The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Father. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ.

By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal.

Wherefore, O Holy Romanos, your soul rejoices with the angels.

[first offered in the parish of Holy Trinity, Charlotte, NC]

Another prayer of unknown origin, said to be the oldest prayer for chanters and church singers

Through the prayers of St. John the Damascene, St. Romanos the Melodist, St. John Koukouzelis, and all of our Holy Fathers, Our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us!

We pray to Thee to open and consecrate our spiritual and physical hearing, and give us the strength to testify with our modest mouth your endless perfections in fullness of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Help us to clean ourselves, in body and soul, in clear thoughts and calm spirit, and that through singing that we dress ourselves in light of love and life, in communion with You and all the saints.

Help us to praise and glorify You through singing in a proper way, fervently praying and endlessly praising You for all our undeserved gifts that you poured upon us, and not to sing in vanity and to judge ourselves, but to join the Angelic choirs who constantly glorify You with Your Eternal Father and with Your Most Holy, Meek, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen