

CHOIR REPORT 2017

Submitted by Andrea Lutov for 02/05/17 Annual

St. Nicholas Cathedral Choir is volunteers made up of several groups: Sunday 9am Liturgy singers, Sunday 10:45am Liturgy singers and Saturday 5pm Vigil singers. Some sing in more than one choir group. Feast Days, weddings, funerals are sung by those who come to church for that service. The choir staff has the basic structure of Sunday 9am Liturgies and Saturday Vigils alternated between choir directors Andrea Lutov and Dan Schuresko; Sunday 10:45am Liturgies shared between Serge Romanchak and Matushka Olga Meerson. Many thanks to Matushka Olga for giving of herself voluntary to direct choir for a fifth year. Serge has had a year of experience now with 9am Sunday Liturgy as well as 10:45am Liturgy, single combined language Liturgy on Sundays, week day Festal Liturgy, some Vespers and this past month both the Vigil and Liturgy for Nativity on old calendar January 6 and 7 with His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon serving. For upcoming services in Great Lent all directors will participate in the heavy schedule.

For choir rehearsal we have found that week day evenings are no longer the best time to meet. Serge has been holding successful rehearsals for singing in Slavonic in the Annex prior to the Sunday 10:45am Liturgy. Meeting after Liturgy was getting to be too late for people to stay. Rehearsals for singing in English had been called on Thursday nights as needed. In 2017 these singers will meet on various Sundays following 9am Liturgy. We need to make a plan for Great Lent this year for all singers to meet together for Holy Week and Pascha music.

The choir purchased a portable keyboard, kept under lock and key in the Annex, to help us at choir rehearsals. We sang for at least five weddings and five funerals in 2016. The Cathedral is fortunate to have a core of singers who respond to requests for singers for weddings on weekends and funerals often on weekdays. We welcome children to sing with us for Sunday Liturgy. Parents, please encourage children who wish to sing to sing with the choir whenever they can. Each time is a learning experience. We do understand that they might not be able to come every Sunday but we need to keep these young developing voices in our midst.

Our Choir's main objective is to maintain the Cathedral's extensive schedule of services throughout the year and to sing for requested special occasion services. We have gained at least ten new dedicated singers in the last couple years. This has helped the choir especially on Saturday nights for Vigil.

Choir announcements are sent via the choir email list. Any singers not receiving frequent emails notices need to contact Andrea Lutov. The Cathedral Choir welcomes new members. Talk with our singers and contact Andrea on andrealutov@gmail.com to get you on the choir list and introduce you to our choir director team. Heartfelt thanks to singers, readers, and clergy. It is truly a team effort to provide the element of prayer in music for our church services. The choir needs to socialize and sing together more often. Alto Elena Forrest has been at the forefront of this aspect of choir life. Please make suggestions to her and help out when a function is announced.