

# MUSIC SURVEY SUMMARY

Thank you, once again, for your feedback! If you haven't already filled out our music survey, but would like to add your voice, please [click here to share your opinions](#). Please refer to this link to a summary of changes implemented as a result of this survey. (Link to article will be provided here sometime after July 12.) Here is a [link to another bulletin article](#) that discusses the liturgical music at St. Justin.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the responses below, or if your concern is not included, please contact Lillian directly:

[lillian@st-justin.org](mailto:lillian@st-justin.org) or (408) 296-1193 x112.

Critique or suggestion from survey	Music ministry response
Do not like children's choir, prefer mature voices.	The children's choir sings only the first Sunday of the month from Oct. to June. At all the other masses, adults (in addition to teens at 7pm) cantor. Please feel free to attend a different mass that weekend. Many enjoy hearing the kids sing and it is an opportunity to engage our youth in our liturgies and encourage their future participation and leadership in the Church. We will continue to have children singing at the monthly Family Mass at 9am.
Clapping and jazzy songs are not appropriate at masses.	Clapping is a form of participation and contributes to the joyful celebration that Mass is intended to be. Songs of different genres can be spiritually uplifting and meaningful for some. However, given multiple similar feedback, we will avoid it at the 5pm and 7:30am masses.
Children are sometimes hard to hear.	Thank you. We will do our best to remedy that.
Please use the organ.	Unfortunately, Lillian is not an organist. If there is anyone who would like to volunteer to play a song, even now and again, at 5pm or 7:30am Mass, please contact her.
Remove organ.	Some may prefer to hire an organist for weddings, funerals or other occasions, so we will keep it for now.
End practice 10 minutes before mass.	Music practice generally ends 5 minutes before mass begins. The cantors, who are all volunteers, do need to go over the music to minimize mistakes and confusion during the liturgy. We also want to practice with the assembly so all members can participate better. The extra 5 minutes can make a difference.
Please don't change the Gloria.	We toggle between only 2 different settings of the Gloria throughout the entire year and change it to mark the change in liturgical season. Everyone seems to know both settings fairly well.
Need more choir members (at 5pm). Need more men voices. Would like to join the choir. Recruit younger singers.	Definitely! Please volunteer (yourself or your child) to join a choir, at any of the masses. All are invited to do so. During the summer, we do not practice other than about half an hour prior to mass. Please do join us if you would like to give it a try.
Psalms in the bulletin is distracting during mass. Prefer the psalm in the book.	Psalms that are printed with the readings are much less lyrical, making them harder to sing and less people will participate. However, we will stop printing the psalm in the bulletin to avoid distracting some worshippers.
Music during "Our Father" requested.	Ideally, all should pray the "Our Father" together, visitors and regulars alike. At this point, participation will likely be bigger if it is recited rather than sung.
Music during consecration should be instrumental only, no singing.	While it may be liturgical acceptable for instrumental-only or choir-only music to accompany the preparation of gifts, and this may occur occasionally, our goal is for everyone to participate. Lyrics of songs chosen for this part of the mass usually reflect the Gospel reading or the scriptural theme of the day and

	therefore helps enforce the day's message. The lyrics can be important and can make an impact. As for the Eucharistic Acclamations (Holy, Amen), they are sung to emphasize our true belief in the mystery of the Eucharistic transubstantiation of the bread and wine to the body and blood of Jesus. Sing it like you mean it!
Inconvenient to switch from book to binder to bulletins.	Removing the music in the bulletin. Looking into screens for lyrics. Music in the binder are the "gems" from other sources. We will try to minimize going to binder for music, especially at the more traditional masses, but may go there on special occasion or for a specific purpose.
Translation for Kordero ng Diyos at 12:15 is requested. Don't know how it translates to Lamb of God.	As with most languages, there is not always an exact word-for-word translation to English. Kordero ng Diyos na nag-aalis (Lamb of God who takes away) mga kasalanan ng mundo (the sins of the world), maawa Ka sa amin ([You] have mercy on us), Kordero ng Diyos, maawa ka (Lamb of God, have mercy). (Words repeated.) Ipagkaloob Mo sa amin ([You] grant to us), ang kapayapaan (peace).
The Kordero ng Diyos is melodramatic.	We will try to play it so it is less so.
If communion long, prefer 2 songs, rather than repeating one.	We always plan two songs. However, timing is critical. Anticipating the end of the communion rite is challenging. Each mass is different and we cannot accurately predict when the action will end. If we reach the end of the first song and only a handful must still receive, it is less awkward to repeat part of the first song rather than start a new one.
Display the correct hymn number.	Sorry, sometimes we get confused and post the wrong song number. In general, we try very hard to have the correct one, but occasionally we make a mistake. We forever strive to minimize the errors.
Distracting to hear someone singing loudly and off-key.	Let us remember that all our voices are God-given. Please be tolerant of others' singing and appreciate their effort to sing praises to our Lord.
Please play hymns in a lower key.	We will try to avoid songs with higher notes. A lower-key accompaniment book is available, which we will purchase and use, but the list of songs in it is limited. Otherwise, changing the key is not simple, but we will make an effort to sing the higher songs in a lower key.
Repeat the same hymns for a month. End with the same hymn every week.	Good suggestion, but we would like to try other methods first. We may have to resort to this if people still find it difficult to sing along.
Piano is too loud.	There was only one comment regarding this, so we will assume everyone else does not experience it. Perhaps a change of location might help. We aim for the piano sound to reach every corner of the church, so it is important that it be loud enough.
Some speakers are not working.	Currently, someone is working on them.
Add Gospel songs.	Perhaps at some masses.
Songs with complex rhythms are hard to sing.	Duly noted, we will use them only at certain masses.
Do not bang the bowl at Lent.	Many like the less verbal way of starting and ending the masses during Lent. The change in procedure reflects the change in attitude, aura and frame of mind during Lent.
Need songs that are easier to sing.	Duly noted. Will try to pay attention to that. Primary focus has been on relevance to the day's readings.
Parish-wide practice or sing-a-long would make a good social event.	Intriguing idea. Will consider it.

Several offered a list of (traditional) songs. Use a wider variety of songs that include traditional songs. Sing songs before 1950.	Duly noted. Thank you! We will try to incorporate most of them at our traditional masses.
Polyphonic choral pieces.	We may try some at the Preparation of the the Gifts, at some masses.
More Vietnamese songs at 12:15.	Perhaps we may try one or two.
Explain importance of music to worship, intention of composer. Educate children of the value of singing.	Lillian has tried to do some of this in rehearsal with her adult, teen and children's choirs. Mass may not be a good time to do so.
Musicians raise hands when time to stand.	The priests will do this.
Create "hipper" sounds with drums, on occasion. Rock 'n' roll!	We may try this at 7pm mass, but first we need a drummer to volunteer his/her time. If you know one, please share the info.
Need more enthusiastic song leaders.	Duly noted. Will encourage cantors to show their enthusiasm better.
Lead clapping better and more obviously.	Duly noted. Will instruct students to clap overhead when leading a song with clapping.
Violin or flute should be louder.	Duly noted. Will try to find a better balance.
Lillian's piano interlude covers up the silence.	Assuming this refers to playing at the end of Communion, it is sometimes difficult to coordinate the end of the song with the return of the consecrated hosts to the tabernacle. Sometimes the action ends prior to the end of the musical phrase. Extended interlude is not intended here, but sometimes it cannot be helped without an abrupt end.

Thank you for reading through this document. Again, if your concern was not addressed here, please contact Lillian at [lillian@st-justin.org](mailto:lillian@st-justin.org) or 408-296-1193 x112.