



SAINT JOSEPH SHRINE

MUSIC PROGRAM

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

Detroit, MI

FALL 2026 AUDITION PACKET

One audition · Every ensemble · All experience levels welcome

Sunday, August 2, 2026	Audition packet available; sign-ups open at sjsmusic.org/auditions
Wednesday, August 26, 2026	In-person auditions · 7:00–8:30 PM · Social Hall · private 10-minute slots
Wednesday, September 2, 2026	In-person auditions · 7:00–8:30 PM · Social Hall · private 10-minute slots
By Wednesday, September 2, 2026	Video auditions due (a full substitute for auditioning in person)
Friday, September 4, 2026	Results communicated to all applicants by 5:00 PM
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	First Cappella rehearsal · 7:00 PM

Sign up for a time slot or submit a video audition at

sjsmusic.org/auditions

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Harold E. Rutila, IV

(810) 845-3497 / harold@sjsmusic.org

ABOUT YOUR AUDITION

Beginning with the Fall 2026 season, participation in the ensembles of the St. Joseph Shrine Music Program is by a brief, confidential audition. The audition serves two simple purposes: to determine your voice placement (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass) and to hear your basic capacity to sing. It is not a competition, and it is not an examination; it is the way we come to know your voice so that we can place you where you will sing best.

Auditions are not ensemble-specific. A single audition serves for placement across every ensemble in the program, from the Gregorian Chant Schola to Cappella and the St. Joseph Chamber Choir.

Singers of every experience level are welcome, from those entirely new to formal choral training to seasoned choristers. Formation in musical literacy is part of the program itself: over the course of two seasons, participants develop proficiencies mirroring a collegiate-level “Music Theory I” understanding of pitch, intervals, solfege, and basic music reading.

THE FORMAT

In-person auditions are held in the Social Hall, one candidate at a time, in private 10-minute slots. Only you and the panel — the Director of Music and, at most, two others — are present in the room. Both audition types (in-person and video) are confidential and are scored on the same rubric.

WHAT TO PREPARE

Sing 1–2 minutes of a prepared work of your choice. Choose something that shows your voice comfortably: a hymn, a chant, a sacred song, an art song, or a folk song are all excellent choices. You may sing unaccompanied, or bring a recorded accompaniment on your phone. Memorization is not required; bring your music if you wish.

THE GUIDED EXERCISES

After your prepared work, the panel will lead you through a short series of guided exercises. Nothing here requires preparation — each exercise is demonstrated first, and the panel will guide you through every step:

1. Range exploration. Simple sung patterns, moving gently higher and lower, so we can hear where your voice sits most comfortably.
2. Echo singing. The panel plays or sings short patterns of two to five notes; you sing them back. This shows us your ear for pitch.
3. A short melody. A simple, familiar-style melody to learn and sing back with the panel’s help.
4. Optional sight-reading. Applicants with music-reading experience may be offered a brief excerpt to read at sight. Declining this exercise does not count against any applicant.

That is the whole audition! Most applicants find it far gentler than they expected.

HOW AUDITIONS ARE SCORED

Every audition — in person or by video — is scored on the same six-category rubric, each category rated 1 (developing) through 5 (excellent):

CATEGORY	WHAT THE PANEL LISTENS FOR
Pitch Accuracy	Singing in tune; matching pitches in the echo exercises
Rhythm	Steady pulse; accurate rhythm in the prepared work and echoes
Tone Quality	A free, healthy, pleasing sound across your comfortable range
Range / Tessitura	Where the voice sits and how far it extends comfortably
Music Reading	Familiarity with notation, from none (perfectly acceptable) to fluent
Overall Impression	Musicality, expression, and readiness to learn

Scores guide voice placement; they are not pass/fail marks. A beginner with a true ear and a willing spirit is warmly received.

SUBMITTING A VIDEO AUDITION

A prerecorded video audition is accepted as a full substitute for auditioning in person, and is scored on the same rubric. Record your 1–2 minute prepared work, then two guided exercises: sing a comfortable scale slowly up and down (range exploration), and the echo-singing exercise — when you open the video submission form at sjsmusic.org/auditions, it will play a short pattern chosen for you; sing it back in your video. One continuous, unedited take is preferred; a phone camera is perfectly fine.

- YouTube: upload your video, set visibility to Unlisted, and copy the link.
- Google Drive or Dropbox: upload, choose Share, set to Anyone with the link can view, and copy the link.
- Vimeo: upload and copy the video link.

Then paste your link into the video submission form at sjsmusic.org/auditions. Videos are due by Wednesday, September 2, 2026. We will confirm by email once we can view your video.

RESULTS

Results, including your voice placement, will be communicated to every applicant by email by 5:00 PM on Friday, September 4, 2026. Cappella rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM; other ensemble schedules are announced with your results.

QUESTIONS?

Write to music@sjsmusic.org. We are glad to help with anything from choosing a prepared piece to sharing a video link.

St. Joseph Shrine · 1828 Jay St, Detroit, MI 48207 · sjsmusic.org