

You are invited to join St. Augustine's new 11:00 AM choir! Tentatively titled St. Augustine's Schola Cantorum, it will be led by new director Carlos Lara, and will be a mixed chorus with the goal of helping new and experienced parishioners learn to sing Gregorian chant a cappella, traditional hymns and polyphony in four part harmony, then use these to serve and glorify God at mass. It will be a learning choir, so parishioners of all skill levels are welcome. Director Carlos Lara will work individually with new singers to help them find what voice they are, and provide personalized instruction in learning to sing so they can successfully join the choir. Commitments are joining a dedicated rehearsal every Thursday evening from 7-9 PM, as well as rehearsal time every Sunday from 10:00-11:00 AM prior to every 11:00 mass. Questions can be directed to director Carlos Lara at carlos.j.lara@gmail.com. The first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 2nd at the organ balcony at the back of St. Augustine's sanctuary, and interested parishioners are invited to come and see if this opportunity will be right for them.

Biography for Carlos Lara

Carlos Lara was born in Mexico, but grew up in the small town of Wainwright, Alberta. He moved to Edmonton, Alberta for university, where he studied medicine, and will soon be one of Brandon's new family doctors. He moved to Brandon this summer with his wife and young daughter. He studied voice lessons for two years under Angie Money and Judith Richardson, studied piano up to grade 6 with Ester Madsen in Edmonton, and is currently taking online organ lessons with David Simon from Toronto, Ontario. He sang with the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus for from 2006-2011, and the Edmonton Latin Mass/Vital Grandin Chaplaincy choir from 2011-2017 and 2019-2021, the University of Alberta Medical School Courtyard choir from 2013-2015, six months with the St. Joseph's Basilica Edmonton 10:30 AM mass choir, and one year with the St. Joseph's Basilica Men's vesper choir, for which he was occasionally a rehearsal technician. He was the special performances director of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus, which included setting up multiple media and other special appearances, and organizing and directing a 4 part carolling choir. He also directed a choir for Sunday mass at St. Agnes Roman Catholic church in Edmonton for one year in 2016-17, and was one of the co-directors, rehearsal technician and conductor of the University of Alberta Medical Student Courtyard choir from 2014-2015. He took two university level music courses in music history, introduction to classical music, and introduction to early music from Ancient Greece to the Renaissance. He is an avid Pipe organ enthusiast, and has studied pipe organ history, and is also an organ builder, having rebuilt two electric organs and converted them into digital organs using new electronics, and is currently restoring an 1870's reed/pump organ. Carlos loves sharing Roman Catholic sacred music history and skills, and is excited about this opportunity!

"It is a privilege, a gift from God to express the art of music and to assist participation in the divine mysteries." Pope Francis Address to the Scholae Cantorum of the Italian Sancta Cecilia Association.