Sponsored by the Office for Worship of the Diocese of Cleveland
and the Cleveland chapter of the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians (formerly NPM)

7TH ANNUAL DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR FESTIVAL

NEW location and grades this year!

Saturday, February 20, 2027

Held at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Parma

★ *Music teachers who bring their students to the festival can earn **7 clock hours** of professional development!* ★

New this year! We will offer two "tracks" - one for younger treble singers and one for middle and high school singers. The day for the treble choir will be slightly shorter than the SAB choir and require less challenging music. Singers will learn the music at their parishes, then join together for a day of music-making and friendship led by **Jacob Young, guest conductor**. The day will culminate in singing at the **4:00pm Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Parma**.

Repertoire, schedules, and forms will be coming soon. Scan the QR code or click here to fill out the interest form, or email Angi Bak at choirbak@gmail.com if you think your singers may participate. You will be added to a mailing list to receive updates.

Jacob Young is a conductor, music educator, and arts leader based in Northeast Ohio. He serves as Assistant Director of Children's Choruses with the Cleveland Orchestra and Director of the Preparatory Chorus within the Cleveland Orchestra Children's Chorus program. He is also the Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair and Music and Choir Teacher at St. Vincent–St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio, where he directs the choral program and serves as Director of the Music Ministry Team.

At St. Vincent–St. Mary, Mr. Young teaches Music Theory, Music History, Music Appreciation, and Musical Theater while planning and preparing music for school liturgies and special worship services throughout the academic year. During his tenure, he has grown the choral program from five students to more than fifty singers and has presented sessions for both the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) and the Ohio Choral Directors Association (OCDA) on student recruitment, retention, and repertoire selection for developing ensembles.
An active conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout Ohio, Mr. Young regularly works with singers of all ages and experience levels. His work in Catholic sacred music includes preparing and conducting Théodore Dubois'The Seven Last Words of Christ with the St. Hilary Parish Choir and serving as guest conductor for the choir's performance in the WCLV Jubilation Choir Church Choir Festival. As a vocalist, he has appeared as a featured soloist in performances of Franz Schubert's Mass in G Major.

Prior to his work at St. Vincent–St. Mary, Mr. Young taught music for thirteen years in Ohio and Kentucky, including serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Education at The University of Akron and directing choirs at The School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio. Throughout his career, he has directed ensembles ranging from elementary-aged children to adults, with choirs under his leadership consistently earning Superior and Distinguished ratings at regional and state adjudicated events.

Mr. Young holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Ohio University. He is an active member of the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the Ohio Choral Directors Association (OCDA). His principal conducting teachers include Dr. Peter Jarjisian, Charles R. Snyder, and Dr. Stephen Carraciolo.

Mr. Young is passionate about helping singers develop healthy vocal technique, music literacy, artistic expression, and a lifelong appreciation for choral music. He resides in Northeast Ohio with his wife, Carissa, and their four children: Cecilia, James, Augustine, and Maris.

Join Mr. Young at the Diocesan Youth Choir Festival on Saturday, February 20, 2027!