



St. Mary's
Orthodox Cathedral • Minneapolis

What is POCM?

Pan-Orthodox Choir Ministries is a fledgling ministry dedicated to serving the Orthodox choirs in the Pan-Orthodox community, consisting of the Twin Cities and surrounding areas, by fostering collegiality between individuals (composers, directors, singers) and elevating the caliber of church music.

Beginning in 2022 as a group of choir directors sharing music arrangements from their home parishes, POCM continued to grow in 2023, exploring its identity. We started with a Pre-Lenten fundraising concert for FOCUS (a non-profit serving the homeless and underserved in the Twin Cities area) then, singing for the MEOCCA Lenten Vespers services, and hosting a Composer's Retreat in St. Cloud, MN for local American-Orthodox composers. The year 2024 promises to be just as full as we continue to discover what POCM is, and what it can become. Next year we look forward to a choral workshop focusing on vocal technique and church musicianship, a Pre-Lenten concert for FOCUS, another Composer's Retreat, and *perhaps* even more...

If this is something that interests you, feel free to reach out to POCM@stmarysoca.org to get connected.

Our Directors



Mark
WESCHE

... has a BS in Physics from the U of WI, Whitewater. Lead director of POCM, he has been conducting various Orthodox choirs since 2012 from different Dioceses of the OCA and Greek Traditions. He has a passion for music that "reaches into your soul" (whatever that means...), helping people be the best church musicians they can be, and cake.



Rdr. Zachariah
MANDELL

...has an MA in Classical Languages and Literature from SUNY Buffalo, and an M.Div from St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, where he studied liturgical music. He has directed Orthodox church choirs of all sizes since 2013, and is currently the Music Director at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He loves exploring all kinds of music, both old and new, and fills whatever time he has left with gardening, football, baking the best focaccia ever (unsubstantiated), and even more singing.



Rdr. Peter
TABELING

... has a BS from the U of Cincinnati in Industrial Design. He is currently the Music Director at St. Herman's OCA in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has a passion for church rubrics, singing church music as often as possible, Cleveland sports teams (where he's originally from), and good beer.