

## **NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY**

### **22 Ideas for Commemorating Church Music Sunday and Recognize Your Church Musicians!**

1. List National Church Music Sunday on your church calendar.
2. Announce Church Music Sunday in your bulletin or newsletter; recognize the history and service of your choir and chanters. Include short biographies of some of them, especially those with long-term service.
3. Create a special insert for your Sunday bulletin, newsletter, or website – go to [www.churchmusic.goarch.org](http://www.churchmusic.goarch.org) for a template. List church musicians, present and departed; include historical information about the choir and chanters; recruit new singers.
4. Create a poster for the Narthex or hall with the names and photos of choir members, chanters, and children's choir members.
5. Invite your church musicians to seek a blessing before the start of the Liturgy.
6. After Liturgy, invite all your church musicians to come forward to renew their stewardship. A short Prayer Service or Commissioning Service is available.
7. Hold an Artoclasia for your church musicians following the Divine Liturgy, to guide them in the coming year of service to their Church.
8. Pray for your departed church musicians with a Trisagion service at the end of Divine Liturgy.
9. Present a program of hymns at the close of Liturgy on Church Music Sunday.
10. Publicly recognize choir members and chanters for their years of service. Contact the National Forum for certificates and service awards for church musicians.
11. Host a coffee hour, reception, luncheon, picnic, or dinner in honor of your church musicians. Use it as a time to present recognition awards or gifts.
12. Pass a tray among your parishioners to support the National Forum's national church music.
13. Use a hymn as an instructional tool for the children or parishioners in the sermon or as the priest's closing remarks.
14. Invite Church School children to prepare and sing a hymn during or at the close of Liturgy on National Church Music Sunday.
15. Focus a sermon around St. Romanos the Melodist, other hymnographers, or this year's poster icon. Or sermonize about the value of church hymns as prayers. Use the National Forum's MUSICA issue for ideas: "What Our Hymns Can Teach Us."
16. The Archdiocese annually awards St. Romanos medals to directors who have directed a Greek Orthodox choir for 25 or more years. If your director has not yet received this award, contact the Forum.
17. Distribute copies of one of the MUSICA issues to your parishioners. Suggestions are: "What Our Hymns Can Teach Us" or "Questions and Answers about Orthodox Hymns" or "A Guide to the Divine Liturgy" These booklets are available from the National Forum, priced at \$1.00 per copy, discounted for bulk orders.
18. Designate October as "Choir Membership Month." Plan a recruitment program.
19. Announce the formation of a junior choir if you don't already have one. Motivate and educate parents about the value of their children's participation in the Liturgy and other services.
20. Encourage the church musicians of your parish to support the work of the National Forum and their Metropolis church music federation by becoming stewards.
21. Exchange choirs with another parish and/or invite a guest chanter to your parish.
22. Ask city officials to issue a proclamation about Church Music Sunday. Seek radio, TV, or newspaper coverage.