

CHURCH MUSICIAN APPRECIATION DAY
Sunday ~ September 29, 2013

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

On Sunday, September 29th, I ask all the faithful of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey to join me in celebrating “**Church Musician Appreciation Day.**” On that day, which is the Sunday closest to the feast day of *Saint Romanos the Melodist* (October 1), I encourage Rectors, Parish Councils, and the faithful of our parishes to offer special thanks to their choir directors, singers, composers, arrangers, and those who teach church music to our children.



In particular, I ask our clergy to offer the following petitions during the Augmented Litany on Sunday, September 29:

O Heavenly Father, on this day of recognition for the women, men and youth of our choir, and all those who give their time and musical talent in service to Thee, our Lord, and to Thy Church, we ask that Thou wilt ever strengthen and inspire them as they lead us in prayer, singing to Thee, blessing Thy Name, and proclaiming Thy salvation from day to day: We pray Thee, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. [Repeated after each petition]

Bless, O Lord, our choir director(s), singers, chanters, and readers, as they sing praises to Thee, and glorify Thy Name. Let their work be a witness to Thy majesty and love, reminding us all of Thy presence in our lives. We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

O God, Whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: be ever present with Thy servants who seek through music to make perfect the praises offered by Thy people on earth; grant to them even now glimpses of Thy beauty; and make them worthy to behold it unveiled forevermore; we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

