

Westphalia and Folk Parish Policy on the Use of Music by Composers Credibly Accused or Found Guilty of Abuse

Purpose

After conducting a synodal discernment process among parishioners and parish leadership and in accordance with the decree issued on April 5, 2025, “**On the Pastoral Use of Liturgical Music in the Diocese of Jefferson City**,” St. Joseph, located in Westphalia, and St. Anthony, located in Folk, have adopted the following policy governing the use of music composed by individuals who have been found guilty or credibly accused of abuse, or whose compositions have been restricted by their local ordinary or another competent ecclesiastical authority due to such accusations.

This policy applies to all parish liturgies and events where music is used, including Masses, sacramental celebrations, devotional services, and parish gatherings. It is binding upon the Pastor, clergy, parish staff, music ministers, and all individuals responsible for the selection and performance of liturgical music.

Policy Statement

1. We allow use of this music, *caeteris paribus*, at the parishes but will not, as a general rule, introduce it for regular Masses. It is envisioned that it be allowed when requested by parishioners, e.g., for funerals or weddings.
2. To ensure that all hymn texts and musical works used in the liturgy are theologically sound, pastorally appropriate, and fully consistent with the Church’s moral and doctrinal teaching, parish priests—and those entrusted with selecting music for parish liturgies—shall evaluate all musical selections using the criteria provided by the Doctrine Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in *Catholic Hymnody at the Service of the Church: An Aid for Evaluating Hymn Lyrics*.

Implementation & Accountability

- The Pastor or his delegate, shall oversee the implementation of this policy.
- The policy shall be updated as necessary to remain consistent with Church teaching and diocesan norms.

Promulgated by: Rev. Dylan Schrader, St. Joseph, Westphalia



Date: 29 October 2025