

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Hello, St. Bernadette! My name is Jill Russo, and I am delighted to be serving you as your new Director of Music. I know that it can be an adjustment when you have a new staff member, so let me tell you a little about myself.

I am a Jersey Girl, born and raised in Ocean County, and grew up in Brick Township. I attended college in Boston at Berklee College of Music for two years, majoring in Vocal Jazz Performance. I ended up leaving Boston to pursue a job opportunity back in Millstone, NJ as a Director of Music at St. Joseph's Church. From there, I have worked at several churches in New Jersey as a Director of Music, (and one in Colorado!), and have thoroughly enjoyed using my time and talents in liturgical music! I have been a Monmouth County Representative for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Trenton Chapter for several years, and have attended many, many NPM Conventions throughout my career in Liturgical Music. I am excited to be working in the Diocese of Metuchen again! (I was also an accompanist for St. Matthew the Apostle in Edison when I first moved back to NJ from Colorado).

When I'm not working, you can find me walking my Siberian Husky, Opie, around town in Highlands, jogging by the beach, or performing in local bars and venues with my husband, Chris. He plays drums for several Jersey Shore bands and teaches drum instruction in his studio in Keyport. We recently got married in April during the pandemic. (which will make for a great story for our future kids!) We live in Highlands with our two cats and our dog, and enjoy performing, travelling, and local restaurants.

I am very excited to be a part of the St. Bernadette community and look forward to getting to know you and continuing to praise our Lord in sung prayer!

