

The St. Patrick's Pipe Band Of Sacramento

esprit-de-corps is built on our Catholic Faith, superior performance, hard work, a genuine respect for other people, and high standards of personal conduct and self-discipline.

Missions & purpose:

- 1) To promote & spread devotion to St. Patrick, co-patron of the Sacramento Catholic Diocese, known for his great Faith.
- 2) To maintain a traditionally structured bagpipe band in the Sacramento area for Catholics, providing musical support in Catholic processions and pro-life events.
- 3) To teach and promote a high quality of musicianship among its members, training young men & adults in a profession or hobby that they may enjoy for a lifetime.
- 4) To constantly & continually pray for each other, band benefactors, and the success and missions of the band.
- 5) To train its membership in the practice of manly Catholic virtues, and to go out into the world, courageously providing a lay Catholic presence in the community.
- 6) To provide a place for men, young & old to play martial music together, bearing in mind and spirit the Jesuit motto: "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!" encouraging virtue among its members and listening audiences.
- 7) To compete at an appropriately graded level in the Western U.S. Pipe Band Association, as a means to improving skills and promoting unity among the members.
- 8) To sing traditional canntaireachd, and learn traditional bagpipe and drum musical notation.

MEMBERSHIP & OFFICES:

The Chaplain: The chaplain provides spiritual and practical guidance to the membership. At his discretion, he may choose to act as a mediator for band members.

The Band Manager: The person in this position must be 18 years old or older. He directs and manages all band activities, delegating as needed. He consults with professional instructors regarding piping and drumming matters. He appoints the Pipe Major & Lead Drummer and/or other temporary posts as needed. The manager works with the band chaplain for guidance and spiritual direction. The band manager enforces, suspends, and changes the band's rules & regulations as needed. He acts as the "coach" for the membership. The manager is your point of contact for any problem you are experiencing in band. He maintains and updates the band manual on an annual basis.

Paid Consultant Teachers: May be a piper or drummer from the community, experienced in teaching bands.

The Pipe Major (P/M): Leads the band in musical performance. The P/M position is always a delegated responsibility from the manager or teacher. This position may be made by appointment on the day of performance or practice and is subject to change as needs are determined by the manager or teacher.

The Lead Drummer: Leads the drum corps in musical performance under the direction of the Pipe Major. The Lead Drummer position is always a delegated responsibility from the manager or teacher. This position may be made by appointment on the day of performance or practice and is subject to change as needs are determined by the manager or teacher.

Individual Members: Are the backbone of the band and make up the ensemble of pipes and drums. In order to fulfill Diocesan & Parish requirements, any adult 18 years or older participating in the band will need to be fingerprinted and complete an online course at <https://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/> All members or persons associating with the band are required to read the band manual and sign & return the agreement page to the band manager on an annual basis.

The Ensemble: The goal of the ensemble is to play music well in order to fulfill the missions of the band. It is composed of individual band musicians on bagpipe, tenor drum, snare drum, and bass drum. Member participation in the performing ensemble is at the sole discretion of the Band Manager.

Other Positions of Appointment: The band manager will appoint positions of responsibility from time to time including Historian, Recorder, Treasurer, Banner Bearer, Quartermaster, Keeper of Sheet Music, or other positions as deemed necessary.

DUES

This year, normal dues are \$25 per month per member (\$300 per year, per member). The band uses dues from its members in order to help further the missions of the band, pay for instructors, contest entrance fees, other bills, and / or purchase equipment.

The philosophy of the band from its inception is that no member be turned away from band participation for an inability to pay the normal dues. It is expected, however, that every member give some sort of additional support to the band to help meet its financial obligations. If you are not able to pay the "normal dues" listed above, please indicate how you would like to support the band, or note a modified donation amount you would like to make before signing at the end of the manual.

PROGRESSION OF LEARNING FOR BEGINNERS

In general, beginning bagpipers and drummers will attend practices for 30 minutes each week until they are ready to move on to their "big" instrument. Teaching schedules will change according to season & will be kept posted by the band manager.

New drummers will need to know the basic drumming rudiments and be able to play three band sets from memory before moving on to the drum. The teacher will determine your readiness, and once you have reached a certain level of proficiency; you will be given a drum on loan.

New pipers will be ready to move on to the bag after they know the basic fingering & gracenotes on the chanter, and are able to properly play three band sets from memory. The teacher will determine your readiness. Once you reach a certain level of proficiency, you will need a bagpipe, case, pressure gauge, reeds, and other misc. items.

INSTRUMENTS, BOOKS & MATERIALS:

DRUMMERS- Will need to spend approximately \$30 to purchase a pair of sticks and a practice pad. All the remaining material will be provided by your consulting instructor.

Should you wish to purchase your own drum, ask the band manager for help. The band uses the Andante brand of drums. A new drum, harness, and case will cost approximately \$1,000.

PIPERS- Will need a *practice chanter*, reed, and book to start with. This material will cost about \$90-\$120 depending upon the quality of your chanter.

- The recommended *practice chanter* is a polypenco (plastic) McCallum Brand chanter. The blackwood practice chanters will have a purer tone & sound nicer, but require careful maintenance to avoid cracking. We recommend purchasing your practice chanter from The Piper's Hut online.
- The required tutor and theory book is titled Rhythmic Fingerwork by James McGillivray.
- The *practice chanter* reeds you should purchase are the Walsh Practice Chanter Reeds, available at the Piper's Hut online.
- It is also highly recommended that you have a metronome. This is above and beyond the book, chanter, and reed. We recommend the Matrix MR-600.
- You may purchase your own bagpipe, or the band can help you fundraise for your instrument. The total cost for all items will be no more than \$1,500.
- The *bagpipe chanters* we use are McCallum polypenco (plastic).
- Replacement *bagpipe chanter* reeds are about \$15. The brand that you need to use with the band is Ross. They come in weak, medium, and hard strengths. Order them online from the piper's hut or purchase them from the band manager.

MAINTENANCE of EQUIPMENT

While at band practice and band functions or performances, you will need to exhibit care for your musical instruments & gear. Instruments when at all possible should not be placed directly on the ground, in dirt, dust, etc. Dirty instruments will not sound a good tone.

Neither drums, nor pipes should be left to sit in a hot car or direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Drums can explode, and the wood on pipes can crack. Temperature extremes have a direct effect upon bagpipes, reeds, and musical tones. Stay aware of your surroundings at events, and make sure to take proper care and storage of your instrument.

It is your responsibility to maintain your instrument in good working order. If you don't know how to maintain it, or have questions then ask your band manager, a consulting teacher, or one of the senior members. We will be happy to take the time and assist you. Sometimes you will need to wait till after practice to have your questions answered.

From time to time you will be issued equipment or uniform items owned by the band. At that time you will sign a form acknowledging receipt of the equipment or uniform item, its dollar value, and instructions for its return. In general, equipment on loan from the band must be returned within one week of leaving the band. An example of items owned by the band: drums, drum cases, drone reeds, bagpipe chanters, kilts.

BAND PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS:

Every band function begins and concludes with prayer led by the chaplain or senior member present.

A detailed list of devotions is listed on the band's website. Every member is issued a St. Patrick's Chaplet, Holy Card & prayer instructions. The first chaplet is "free", & if lost the member will need to pay for their own replacement.

Band members should memorize the Angelus, Regina Coeli, Our Father, Glory Be, Hail Mary, and know how to recite the chaplet of St. Patrick.

All members are encouraged to pray for one another and the band maintains a list of monthly prayer intentions.

BAND MUSICAL REPERTOIRE:

Band members are responsible for memorizing their band music. The official repertoire list for this band year is included below and maintained on the band's website.

The band manager will delegate the responsibility of management of music to one of the senior members of the band. This member is responsible for keeping the music "fresh" and providing copies to the membership at large.

Here is the repertoire list of band tunes for this year:

<u>2/4</u>	<u>3/4</u>	<u>6/8</u>
Mairi's Wedding Barren Rocks of Aden Liberton Pipe Band High Road to Gairloch Highland Laddie	Mists of Time MacGregor of Rorah Immaculate Mary Amazing Grace Green Hills Set (includes After the Battle) Bloody Fields of Flanders	Bonnie Dundee
<u>4/4</u>	<u>Irish Set Performance Tunes</u>	
Scotland the Brave Set (Scotland the Brave, Rowan Tree & No Awa') 2010 March Medley (Garden of Skye, P/M Bob Martin, The Old Rustic Bridge, and Murdo's Wedding)	Minstrel Boy Wearing of the Green Ian Rhuaridh's Lament The Mermaid's Song Paddy's Leather Breeches Bullet Train	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

In general the band's season runs from December through November. New music is usually issued at the end of the season to memorize and get ready for the new performance season. The calendar of events is maintained on the website.

PRACTICE FORMAT and "HOUSEKEEPING":

The Parochial Administrator of St. Stephen's Church has given the band free use of facilities for practice and outlined some "ground rules" or conditions for use of the space. Foremost, it is our responsibility to clean up after we are done using the facilities. The practice area should always be left in a cleaner state than we found it.

If you come to practice earlier, you should assist with setup in the gym or classrooms. When practicing in the gym, the stage is off limits. If you want to set your gear down, place it on tables lining the side of the gym. If there are no tables lining the side of the gym, then please find help and get them in to place. While drumming, drummers need to replace the covers on their drum cases and stow them beneath the tables. There are times when guests are visiting and we want to avoid trip hazards, gear adrift, and a messy looking practice area.

The band manager will keep an attendance log of member participation in all practices and band events. This log is kept to award those who have accumulated the most participation days. From time to time we receive money for services rendered as a band. For the most part, this money goes to pay for teaching consultant services, however, when we have a surplus, the band manager may be able to order new band equipment or uniforms. When this new equipment arrives & is ready to be handed out, those with the top number of participation days will be the first to receive gear.

It is your responsibility to come to practice prepared, with your instrument and properly dressed. The most senior member present should lead the opening prayer. If you are late for practice, you should enter the room

without disrupting goings-on. If you are continually late or in the habit of making disruptions you will hear about it from the band leadership.

When teaching consultants are present at practice, they are in charge of directing activities in cooperation with the band manager. The manager and consultants will work together to plan practice activities, and delegate responsibilities to best meet the band's mission and upcoming performances. When the teaching consultants or the manager are not available, then the eldest or senior member present must decide the practice format.

At the end of practice, after the closing prayer, the senior membership leads a group cheer: "St. Pat!" or other appropriate positive conclusion to the practice.

ATTIRE & DRESS CODE:

The Parochial Administrator of the Church of St. Stephens has outlined a preferred minimum standard of dress for those visiting the church grounds. This standard has been incorporated into the band's uniforms rule listed below. This dress code is to encourage everyone to reflect the fact that we practice in a place of privilege--on church grounds wherein we believe the Real Presence is in the Tabernacle.

The first practice shirt and cap are issued to the member for "free". Additional shirts or caps need to be purchased.

The Practice Uniform:
Shoes, long pants, plain button down or polo shirt with collar.
No clothing with logos, no "holey" pants, etc.
Tuck in shirts, look smart, take pride in your band section.
Other: For the women associating with the band, a modest dress or skirt & blouse is preferred, worn to a length below the knee.

The Performance Uniform:
Glengarry
White long sleeve dress shirt
Black tie and vest
Kilt & Sporrán
Bone colored knee high socks w/ flashes
Black dress shoes

At this time it is the responsibility of the individual members to purchase their own performance uniform gear. The band may help to raise funds in order to purchase your kilt, see the band manager for details.

When wearing the Performance Uniform, band members should wear the entire uniform with the vest buttoned up, tie in place, and shirt sleeves fully extended. If the vest is to be taken off, the shirt and tie must remain in place. At band functions, uniform items are not to be left lying on the ground, chairs, park benches, etc. Rather, they belong on your person or on a hanger.

Wearing the Performance Uniform is a privilege and band members should dress in a way that maintains the honor of the organization. "Take pride in your unit."

Correction and counseling of band members in matters of dress must be left up to the band manager, chaplain, or teaching consultants. They alone are responsible for enforcing the dress code. Consequences for violation of the dress code may include non-participation in practice or the event.

PERFORMANCES & FUNCTIONS:

The band manager will publish a start and end time for events. This and more detailed information will usually come the Friday before the performance and will contain important details. In order to perform, members are required to attend the practice before the performance.

As a general rule, the band will meet for performances a minimum of one hour before start time. This should give all members sufficient time to review the performance on pads & chanters, see the performance area & note any special difficulties with marching in & out, warm up bagpipes and be ready to go on at the appointed time.

Members are responsible for their own transportation to and from events. Consequences for being late may include having to sit out the performance, or a temporary assignment to a different position in the ensemble.

APPOINTMENT TO LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE BAND

The bagpipers take turns leading the band and rotate through the position of Pipe Major. When the band manager or teaching consultants are not available to delegate the responsibility, the eldest adult member will decide who will be acting Pipe Major. If an adult is not present, the oldest boy with the most participation days will decide.

Here are some points to keep in mind from the **Royal Drum Major's Association** (www.drummajor.net)

***"Being unreliable:** When placed in a position of leadership, such as Acting Pipe Major, you are the example the rest of the band must follow. Your attendance, your marching skill, your uniform should be in top form. You should endeavor to embody everything that you want your band to project. You should endeavor to be early to every practice. You should be able to answer questions or be able to direct a particular person to someone who knows the answer. If you aren't familiar with a parade route, do a reconnaissance mission before the parade starts, preferably the day before. Find out the layout of the facilities of the field show venue as soon as practicable so that you can direct your band to changing rooms, rest rooms, etc.*

***Dealing with problems with a negative attitude:** When you are the leader of your peers, you must remain positive in every situation both on and off the field. Even in the most dire of circumstances, look for a positive aspect. Remember that a problem is merely an opportunity for improvement!*

***Being a [Self-Centered Performer]:** There is a very fine line between exuding confidence and thinking you are better than everyone else. Confidence inspires others. Being [self-centered] will turn [others] against you. Remember, you are there to make the BAND look good not the other way around."*

Final Reminders And Hints

Be on time for ALL practices and performances. Note in advance the start and end times for performance events and our regular weekly practices. Due to the inherent nature of tuning a bagpipe, the band usually will be at most performances 1 hour before playing.

Any time you are at a band "function", you are official representatives of St. Patrick's Pipe Band of Sacramento, and unofficial representatives of St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish. Please act accordingly.

You are asked, at all times, to clean up after yourself and leave places the band utilizes even cleaner than you found them.

Part of being in the band means accepting the responsibility of holding yourself to the band manual & leadership guidelines, regardless of circumstances.

Remember, you are part of a very unique organization....A one-of-a-kind Bagpipe and Drum Corps...in service to God through the intercession of St. Patrick.

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to be a part of the band.

CUT AND DETACH HERE AFTER SIGNING AND RETURN TO BAND MANAGER

DATE: _____

Suggested voluntary dues are \$25 per month per member (\$300 per year, per member). Note any alternate (& voluntary) dues you wish to pay here: _____

Checks should be made payable to "St. Patrick's Pipe Band of Sacramento."

This year all payments should be given to: __Regina White (treasurer)_____.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the St. Patrick's Pipe Band Member Manual Year 2010. I have read the contents of the manual. I agree to abide by and/or support the implementation of the contents of the manual. In exchange, I will be welcome to participate in all band activities as directed by the Band Manager and teaching consultants.

Band Member/Teacher/Consultant/Volunteer Signature

Adult Witness Signature, for band members under 18

The band manager would like to acknowledge borrowing and modifying text from the online manuals of the Staunton River High School Marching Golden Eagles, Boston College Marching band, and the Royal Drum Major's Association website when creating this manual. I would also like to acknowledge use of the US Coast Guardsman's Manual, 7th edition as an additional source of material for the manual.

APPENDIX

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN PRIVATE LESSONS OR TUTORING FOR THEIR MUSIC:

PIPING:

RYAN MURRAY—(916)813-9150, Grade I piper.

Beginning Pipers may also arrange for lessons with MATTHEW WHITE (Grade IV piper) at (916)225-2634.

DRUMMING:

JANE MCPHERSON--(916)402-0610

LIZA MCADAM—(916)541-8073 OR (916)419-5410

REFERENCE ARTICLE:

Rev. Basil Nortz, O.R.C. "Music and Morality" (online article)

<http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/arts/al0221.html>

For his full set of conferences and talks on this issue, please see the St. Stephen's Parish Bookstore.

Or you may research the article here:

Rev. Basil Nortz, O.R.C. "The moral power of music." *The Homiletic & Pastoral Review* (April 2002): 17-22.