

Plan for rollout of choirs – updated 7.13.21

Music is a relevant and integral part of the Mass, and the lack of choral singing has left a void in the liturgy. Due to the lifting of dispensations within the diocese, I have plans to begin three groups within the next couple months.

Group 1: St. Mary's Singers

The St. Mary's Singers will be an auditioned group of SATB adult singers that will sing at the 9:30 High Mass every weekend except in the summertime. They will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Auditions will be open to all parishioners high school and beyond during the final week of July. In addition to learning the music for Masses every weekend, we will utilize some basic music theory, ear training, and sight-reading exercises to strengthen the voice and develop musical aptitude; we will also explore a little bit of Gregorian chant. We will sing for holidays and special Masses as necessary (Midnight Mass at Christmas, and the Triduum in the spring, for example). Vocal coaching on an individual basis is also available for those who wish to cantor. Weekly rehearsals for this group will begin on Wednesday, September 1 at 7pm.

Group 2: Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will consist of third, fourth, and fifth graders from the parish and school. This group will be co-directed by Ms. Theresa Pancella from the parish and Mr. Steve Brame from the school. This group will be focused on basic music theory and notation, sight-reading, singing basic hymns and other unison repertoire, and developing the young voice, partially utilizing the Ward method. They will sing the 11am Sunday Mass once every month, and each grade will alternate helping with the Friday morning school Masses. Recruitment and auditions for this group will take place at the end of August, and weekly rehearsals will begin on Saturday, September 11 from 10-11 am.

Group 3: Choristers

The Choristers will consist of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from the parish and school. This group will be co-directed by Ms. Theresa Pancella from the parish and Mr. Steve Brame from the school. This group will begin by focusing on sight-reading, solfege, and beginning to intermediate music theory, and build up to singing in two-part harmony. They will sing the 11am Sunday Mass once every month, and each grade will alternate helping with the Friday morning school Masses. Recruitment and auditions for this group will take place at the end of August, and weekly rehearsals will begin on Saturday, September 11 from 11am-12pm.