

Music Ministry

Director of Music Prior to 1991

Prior to Leanne Moran becoming music director there were several people who shared their music gifts with the Parish. Unfortunately, I can only recall those from 1968 onward when my family became parishioners. Mrs. Pat Foster, Ray Buchannan and Mike Baldwin were music directors at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. The 9:30 a.m. "Folk" Mass had a number of music directors. Frank Casey, Keith Sharpe, Dennis Eshpeter, Dave McArdle and Leanne Moran. Case Ackerboom faithfully played at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass until this Mass was eliminated.

Director of Music 1991-2021

In March of 1991 Leanne Moran was hired by Fr. Tom Lever to serve as the music director for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning 11:30am Masses. As the story goes, Leanne said no the first time Fr. Tom asked but it truly must have been the work of the Holy Spirit to bring Leanne to Sacred Heart Church where she has served as the music director for 30 plus years.

At the time there was also an 8:00am Mass as well as a 9:30am Mass on Sunday morning. Over time, the 8:00am Sunday morning Mass was eliminated and the Sunday morning Mass times were changed to the current times of 9 and 11am. Leanne assumed leadership of the music for the 9:00am Mass as well in the year 2000 (approximately) when Dave McArdle resigned from this position. With one common music director in place the choir members moved freely between choirs - joining with the choir at the Mass that best suited them on any given weekend. A true sense of a choir "family" formed - rooted in friendship and a common love of church music.

Sacred Heart Church was a leader in "modern" music technology having overhead projection for the songs via old fashioned slides and a carousel for many years before current projection systems became common place. Mass music evolved over the years to encompass contemporary Catholic music and contemporary Christian music.

At any given time, the choirs had 30 - 40 members, some younger, some older, some near and some "graduates" who moved away but joined the choir when they were back in town. Additionally, a large variety of instrumentalists playing various instruments participated in the music ministry at Sacred Heart Church over the decades. Many families have also been served by a rather large "funeral choir" that developed.

Choirs joined together for special Masses and Feast Days such as Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas Masses, Feast of the Sacred Heart and such. At these times, practices were often followed up with choir socials so choir members could catch up with one another. No one is really sure if they always needed to practice or if was an excuse for a get-together. The music motto for the Sacred Heart Church choirs became "fake it" and it always worked out pretty well. When people remarked that they wished they could join the choir but had no voice they were

affectionately told, “it’s for God and God doesn’t care”. The Sacred Heart Choirs have a home for everyone all of the time – no matter what.