



MUSIC MINISTRY

DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW:

The Music Ministry is committed to enhancing, accompanying and encouraging participation in the music for Mass, funerals and/or other prayerful opportunities at Our Lady of Mercy Parish. We are blessed to have many gifted singers and skilled musicians who are willing to share their talents and lead our congregation as we rejoice and worship God. Music brings joy to the Liturgy and sends our community forth with a song in their heart.

ACTIVITIES:

Opportunities for singers:

- Cantor
- Adult Choir
- Children's Choir
- Funeral Choir
- Festival Choir (special occasions and holidays)

Opportunities for instrumentalists:

- Weekend Liturgies
- Holidays and Special Occasions

EXPECTATIONS

- Regular rehearsals (varies for each Mass time)
- Weekly rehearsal for Children's Choir during the school year (thirty minutes after religious education)
- Special rehearsals for the Festival Choir and Holidays will start three to five weeks before an event
- Separate instrumentalist rehearsals from time to time

Witness Statement 1:

"One winter day back in the 90's (that's the 1990's!), I was quietly singing an old favorite tune to myself while at work. Ginny Fuhrman, a co-worker, overheard me and asked if I liked to sing. I said "yes.". I did some singing with the Barber-shoppers in Columbus, Ohio and in Erie for a short time. She invited me to come to choir practice to see if I might be interested in joining the choir. Not having any formal music instruction, and the fact that barbershop singing and choir singing are so different, I had some real misgivings, but eventually agreed and went to a practice.

Well, I was pleasantly surprised! Everyone welcomed me and made me feel right at home. They helped me with everything I needed to know and had me singing in my voice section in no time. I learn a little more about music every time I go to practice! What's even more valuable to me is that the choir has become a second family.

I really like the way prayer is put to song. It puts feeling into the words and the meaning of the parts of the Mass seems to jump out at me. Looking out at the congregation, I can see in their faces the joy they have participating in Mass."

Pat Schickler

Witness Statement 2:

"I like choir because you can have fun and you get to learn how to sing a bunch of different songs. Brandon is patient with us when we are learning a new song that is more difficult than we are comfortable with. Choir is a fun organization for you to learn new songs and to come closer to God. When I sing with the whole church I am happy. It is so amazing to see that the entire church is singing a song that took us a few weeks to learn."

Abby

Witness Statement 3:

"I feel I have been blessed to have always loved to sing, and to have been in choirs as far back as I can remember --St. James Church from grade school through high school, St. Benedict Academy Choral and Latin Mass chant, OLM choir for 40+ years, my church choir in Florida in winter, and others (a choir that sang for the Pope in Rome in 2016, another choir singing The Messiah). There's always a song in my mind; I even wake up singing. The words of so many "church" hymns are also prayers for me. The caption under my HS yearbook picture reads, "His praise in song." The OLM choir is a quality choir of friends who do their best to sing well and encourage the participation of the whole congregation. I love the choir here at OLM, and I truly do regard my singing as praise."

Margaret McCurdy

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