

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Dear Students and Parents,

St. John's Children's choir offers a unique opportunity for children to give their gifts of talent and time back to the church while learning about music and the liturgy. All children in second grade or higher who are parishioners of St. John's or attend St. John's school are invited to participate in this rewarding ministry. Not only do the children provide music for well over 50 masses every year, they learn a lot about the mass, the church, music, and the role of a choir in the liturgy.

Our music ministry program at St. John's has undergone a bit of a makeover during the summer causing a delay in the return of all the choirs, including the Children's Choir. I'm sure that everyone is anxious to get started. After today's organizational meeting, our next practice will be Wednesday, October 15, 2008 from 3:30 to 4:30 in the new choir room. I will be out of town next week and Fall Break is the week after that. We will begin singing at masses again after Fall Break. The Children's Choir calendar will be available at the October 15 practice.

Children and parents are encouraged to read the Children's Choir Guidelines and Information pages. These short two pages give a good overview on how the Children's Choir works and they should answer most questions. In general, the Children's Choir sings at the weekly school mass (usually Friday morning), the 8:30 am mass on the third Sunday of the month and the 11:30 mass on the first Sunday of the month. There are exceptions through the year. The guidelines and calendar will be available on the Music Ministry page of the St. John's Parish website at <http://www.saintjohnbchurch.org/>

Children must have a permission form filled out and signed by a parent in order to participate in the choir. Children who attend St. John's School must show their permission form to their teacher so the teacher can release the child to us at the end of school. Otherwise, a parent will have to bring the child to practice. Permission forms should be turned in at choir practice.

Any parents interested in volunteering should contact me or make a note on the permission form. If you can help every now and then or if you can help every week, I'm sure we can find a way to make use of whatever time and talents you're willing to share. Musical talent is always welcome, but a lot of what we need is adult supervision and organizational help.

For children who participated in Children's Choir last year, I have printed out permission forms with information from last year so that all you have to do is mark the changes. Blank Permission Forms, Guidelines and Information sheets, and Calendars will be available in the church office and on the parish website.

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or if you wish to volunteer.

God bless you all,

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