

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FALL 2018

This year, we're working on restructuring our approach to children's choir. As a music director, it's most important to me that those involved in music ministry really encounter God and learn to pray through the music. As I evaluated the children's choir program, it became apparent that working with such a wide variety of ages together at once and pushing them through preparations for regular Masses was not accomplishing that fundamental goal. As I looked at what had been successful, where the students came away the most excited and thoughtful, the time of adoration we had during Lent last year came to mind. We didn't end up singing for a Mass during Lent, so I was free to just select music to learn for the sake of singing and praying it, not in preparation for any event. Those were the songs the students loved the most and begged to sing again in later rehearsals.

Based on those moments, I decided to move the focus away from constantly preparing for a Mass to sing, and instead toward facilitating encounter and prayer. For the Fall, I've structured three basic units where we'll learn music in two separate age groups relevant to encountering God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit uniquely. For the first two units, we'll have a third week where we'll come together for Eucharistic adoration or simply prayer and music. During December, we'll be preparing for the Christmas Eve Mass.

In summary, the children's choir will still sing for 3 major Masses this year: Christmas, Easter, and First Communion. The other months will be centered more simply around learning music that helps the students understand God and learn to communicate with Him through music. The sessions will run October-December and February - April (plus the first weekend in May for 1st Holy Communion). I'm hoping this allows for greater flexibility for families, as I know how busy the various times of the year can get, and that it makes choir less of another task students have to accomplish and more a place where they can just come and sing for the sake of doing it.

Please note which rehearsals correspond to each age group, and keep in mind that the Christmas rehearsal dates are still somewhat tentative, as I still need to work with the Nativity coordinators and schedule a cantata for the Advent season.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know. It's such an incredible blessing to me to see how music helps people encounter God, and I'm looking forward to seeing the students again this Fall and building a program that works well for everyone involved.

In Christ,
Kayla