

Choir!

August 27, 2008

At Sacred Heart of Mary

Dear Parents,

As school gets underway, so does the Parish liturgical music program. The Adult Choir is meeting tonight, to get back to their joyous labor of singing at Sunday Masses. This year, I have been invited by both School and Parish to organize a Children's Choir at SHM. This will give those boys and girls who are especially inclined and able to sing, the chance to lend their voices to the prayer life of the whole Sacred Heart of Mary Community.

The tryouts and rehearsals for the Choir will be from **2:45 to 3:45 p.m. each Wednesday** in the school Music Room. Closer to the time for singing at Mass, rehearsals will move to the Choir Loft, in Church. When this happens, you will be notified in advance of the change. We hope to assist at, on average, one Mass per month, beginning in October and ending in May. At Christmas time, we hope to do some caroling outside the parish, depending on what can be arranged. *[For those who do not join the season-long choir, the customary large caroling group will be organized for Christmas Eve, to include all children who want to participate.]*

Member tryouts will be held **after school on Wednesday, September 3rd and 10th, from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.** If your child is interested in joining, be sure that she or he stays after school on the appropriate day. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Music Room Door, to pick a time and day for a tryout. I will ask each student to sing a scale with me, and to sing a song that he or she already knows, to determine how accurately he or she can sing on pitch, and render a melody. Since it is possible that not everyone who tries out may be able to sing in the choir, I will not post the roster in public, but will notify the homeroom teachers and the families of each selected singer. The dates and times of Masses at which the Choir will sing will be posted when Fr. Gannon gives them his final approval. Tentative schedule is for 5:00 Saturday Masses.

In the Choir, the singers will learn the habits of good singing, including breathing, posture, tone production and diction. All of these, they will learn, make the difference between a group of people casually singing together, and that wonderful and cherished sound we know as a "Choir." Your role in this, parents, is to support this very special work when your children undertake it; assuring that they are present for all the Choir's activities, and being alert to their questions and concerns as the year progresses. You are always welcome to audit rehearsals and of course, your whole families are encouraged to attend the Masses at which the Choir assists. If your son or daughter seems to have a good ear for a tune and likes to sing, I hope you will encourage her or him to join us. Choir is work, but I believe it's the happiest work there is.

I thank you for your support of music in SHM School and Church. Let us work together to grow something new!

Sincerely,



Thaddeus Paulhamus, Director of Liturgical Music