

Music Ministry

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

Music Ministry Office: 494-1660
www.stmarkevangelist.com

Courtney Guernsey (Assistant Director of Music Ministries), x330

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing to the glory of his name;
Give to him glorious praise... (Ps. 66)*



The Music Ministry of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church is comprised of children, teens and adults of all ages who commit themselves to fostering the sung prayer of the assembly - inspiring its communal worship of God, nourishing its faith life, and supporting its parish mission statement: "To spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all God's people by word and action." Each week, the members of St. Mark's Music Ministry seek to enhance the spirituality of our community through sung prayer. They do this in a variety of ways: through their participation in a choir, as instrumentalists, or as cantors. Our members come in a variety of shapes and sizes – young through young at heart – but all with the same purpose: to return their gifts of time and talent to their community so that all may be inspired to praise and honor God. In the process, friendships are formed, knowledge is gained, faith is deepened, and perhaps, even a new part of one's self is awakened.

Perhaps you have choir experience, play an instrument, or have other musical talents? Or, perhaps you simply love to sing and wish to nurture and develop that interest? Whatever the case, we would love to have you join us for music, fellowship and sharing as we praise God through this special ministry. We encourage you to share your gifts with your parish community. Each choir or ensemble has scheduled rehearsal time weekly, unless otherwise noted, and sings/plays for a specific liturgy on Sunday, or as scheduled at other liturgies and special events at St. Mark.

As the 2007 Music Ministry year commences, our parish embarks on new ground as we add a new element to our Faith Formation program – Life Teen – as well as implement a new Mass schedule. These changes have involved a re-structuring of our Music Ministry. As you read further, we will explain each area as we know it to be at this moment. The coming months will help us refine the details. In the meantime, we welcome all who are interested in serving in our Music Ministry and value their individual gifts and contributions. Below you will find a list of offerings. For more information, please contact the Music Ministry Office. We look forward to hearing from you!



Music in the life of the Church... As Roman Catholics, the richness of the faith of the Church is celebrated through many signs and symbols. Among these, music is considered of preeminent importance in the worship life of the Church. Music brings life to texts so that they speak more fully and effectively. It serves the expression of faith – communicating ideas, feelings and theology. It sets a tone for a celebration or season. It accompanies ritual actions. Music tells the stories of our faith in song and provides

another means to meditate on them in personal prayer. In every aspect, it serves and directs our worship to God.

CHOIRS & VOCAL ENSEMBLES



The Second Vatican Council stated that at times the choir would assume the role of musical leadership within the assembly of the faithful (assisting, reinforcing or elaborating on their sung prayer), while at other times it would retain its own distinctive ministry (singing works whose musical demands not only challenge those who are part of that musical ensemble, but also enhance the prayer of the liturgy and echo the faith of the Church). The success of any ensemble (like a team) is determined by the commitment of its members to *group* rehearsal or practice. Though choirs are made up of individuals who love to sing, it is the weekly formation *together* which makes those individuals a *choir*. Therefore, a commitment to the rehearsal schedule is primary to the ensemble's growth in numbers, musicality and fellowship. Music reading ability, while always helpful, is not a requirement for membership. Music is learned during weekly rehearsals, and note reading skills will develop and improve over time, as will the understanding of choral ensemble singing.

St. Mark offers choral opportunities for children, youth and adults in the following areas:

1) "10:00 Choir" – Bill Gokelman, director 499-0543 (h)

***Rehearsals begin: August 6 (Wednesday) @ 7:00 p.m. in the main sanctuary.
New members should contact the director prior to the first rehearsal.***

This choir ministers at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and other Holy Days throughout the year. Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the church; additional rehearsals as given in schedule. In addition to the parish repertoire of hymnody, the choir sings traditional and contemporary SATB choral literature in a variety of styles. M.S. Students entering 8th grade, H.S. students and adults of all ages are welcome. For more information, contact the director.

2) 5:00 Life Teen Vocal Ensemble: Contact the Music Office.


***Rehearsals begin: August 7 (Thursday) @ 7:00 p.m. in the main sanctuary
for vocalists. (See also: information for Instrumentalists later in this brochure.) New
members should contact the Music Office prior to the first rehearsal.***

New this year, this vocal ensemble (in conjunction with our 5:00 Instrumental ensemble) ministers at the Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Life Teen Mass, H.S. Confirmation and other Holy Days throughout the year. This choir is comprised of a diversity of ages and families. Rehearsals: Thursday evenings 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the church; additional rehearsals as given in the schedule. The ensemble focuses on contemporary vocal literature in 2-pt, SAB (and occasional SATB literature), as well as music in a variety of styles from the general parish repertoire. M.S. Students entering 8th grade, H.S. students and adults of all ages are welcome. For more information, contact the director.

3) See also: *Children's & Descant Choir*

CANTORS

A cantor is a minister of sung prayer, fostering the prayer of the assembly during the responsorial psalm, as well as at other times during the liturgy. A cantor's primary role is as servant and minister to the assembly.

1) Cantor (H.S. & Adult): Cantors who sing for weekend Masses, special liturgies, weddings and funerals are normally members of one of our choirs.  ***Additional formation and rehearsal is required for this ministry.*** If you have served in this capacity or would like more information, please contact the Music Office (x330) to schedule an appointment with the DMM or ADMM.

2) See also: *Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)* – Cantors/Accompanists (Elementary, M.S. & H.S.)

INSTRUMENTALISTS

We are fortunate to have many individuals who share their gifts as instrumentalists with our parish, either as members of an ensemble or in other instrumental capacities within the Music Ministry.

1) Instrumental Ensembles



Instrumental Ensembles minister at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Masses. Members of these ensembles include M.S, H.S. & adults who play brass, woodwind, string or percussion instruments.) Rehearsals for each group are as follows:

10:00 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble: Rehearsals scheduled 2-3 Sunday afternoons a month after Mass – sometimes in sectionals; sometimes as a full ensemble. These rehearsals will take place from 11:30 – 12:45 p.m. in the Day Chapel, unless noted otherwise. Occasionally, additional rehearsals are scheduled closer to major holy days and celebrations. These may take place on a Wednesday or Saturday with the 10:00 choir. Please refer to the schedule posted on the parish website.

5:00 Life Teen Instrumental Ensemble: Rehearses every Sunday from 3:30-4:45 p.m., in the church, unless noted otherwise. Occasional Thursday rehearsals may be scheduled nearer Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and other events. This ensemble ministers at the Sunday 5:00 p.m. Life Teen Mass with the vocal ensemble.

Because of the nature of each rehearsal schedule and the schedule of music for services, members must exhibit proficiency on their instrument and make a commitment to group rehearsals. Instrumentalists wishing to participate in one of our ensembles are asked to contact the Director of Music Ministries or Assistant Director to determine where their gifts may best serve the community. A subsequent interview will be scheduled either by the director of the ensemble or the DMM/ADMM.

2) Instrumentalists – *Other opportunities*

Instrumentalists wishing to participate in other instrumental capacities within the Music Ministry are asked to schedule an interview with the Director of Music Ministries to determine where their gifts may best serve the community.



3) Accompanists (piano, electronic keyboard, organ):



Our community often celebrates special liturgies or participates in events outside the weekend schedule (e.g., Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Evening Prayer, Stations of the Cross, Retreats, Bible Study, etc.). These may sometimes require the skill of a pianist/keyboardist or organist. Proficiency on the instrument and leadership skills, rather than age, is of primary consideration. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the Director of Music Ministries for an appointment.

4) See also: *Bell Plate Choir*

CHILDREN & YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY

Our children and teens are not the future of the Church. They are a valued, loved and gifted part of the Church *now*. Through their involvement in Mass and other celebrations – singing in the choir, playing instruments, or serving as a cantor – we seek to bring our children and youth to a joyful encounter with Christ through prayer (sung and spoken) and ministry to our community. “If they are formed by conscious and active participation in the eucharistic sacrifice and meal, they should learn day by day, at home and away from home, to proclaim Christ to others among their family and among their peers, by living the “faith, that works through love” (Gal.5:6). (*The Directory of Masses with Children, #55*)

Children, tweens and teens are involved in many areas of our Music Ministry. For more information see:

1) Children’s & Descant Choir: (*Seasonal for Christmas*)



Our Christmas Children’s Choir begins its Monday rehearsal schedule on November 3 from 5:00-6:15 p.m.* to prepare for singing at the Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass. This group welcomes children ages 7-13 years of age. Children ages 11-13 are invited to participate in the Descant Choir, which embellishes the repertoire of hymns and anthems with harmony. ***The Descant Choir rehearses with the Children’s Choir and extends their rehearsal to 6:45 p.m.** In order to achieve success in this group, participants must be able to read fluidly and commit to the group rehearsal schedule. **Registration is required.**

2) Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Music Ministry – **Cantors/Accompanists (Elementary, M.S. & H.S.)**

Open to elementary, M.S., H.S. and adults who wish to minister as cantors or accompanists during weekend CLOW celebrations for children who gather to break open God’s Word. **Cantors:** *Formation in this ministry*



is required. Prayer and leadership skills pertaining to the ministry of cantor, as well as basic musicianship skills, are learned through regular rehearsal. **Elementary school cantors generally rehearse as a group on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Rehearsals to be announced.** *Middle-, High-School and adult cantor* rehearsals are scheduled individually with the director or assistant director.

Accompanists: Since the cantor, accompanist and assembly of children are intricately connected through sung prayer, keyboard proficiency is required in this area of ministry in order to offer strong support to the assembly's song. For information on serving as cantor or accompanist, please contact the Music Ministry Office (x330 or x316).

3) Bell Plate Choir



Open to Elementary (3rd grade) through Middle-School aged youth, this group began informally as part of our CLOW Music Ministry. A fall session will be offered as we begin to establish this ensemble more firmly within our Music Ministry. **Rehearsals are on Mondays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. The FALL SESSION begins to be announced. (The bell choir will minister at the Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass with the Children's & Descant Choir.) Registration is required for the session.** Rehearsals are an important part of developing music reading and bell ensemble skills. Because there are a limited number of bells and because the "group" element of rehearsal is so important, the size of the ensemble is limited. Participants must be able to make a commitment to the ensemble's rehearsal schedule. For more information, contact the ADMM, Courtney Guernsey (x330).

4) See also:

- ***Instrumentalists (Sundays, 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.)***
- ***Accompanists***
- ***10:00 Choir***
- ***5:00 Life Teen Choir/Vocal Ensemble***

MUSIC MINISTRY SUPPORT



We always welcome volunteers who are willing to give their time to support the clerical work of the Music Ministry and Music Ministry Office (i.e., librarians, typing and copy assistance, hymnal supplement preparation (seasonal), and for our Music Ministry Newsletter – forthcoming). We also welcome those H.S. students looking for service hour opportunities for Confirmation or school organizations. Frequently, times are flexible and can accommodate a volunteer's schedule. Please contact the Music Ministry Office (x330) if you are interested in offering your time in this way.

St. Mark Music Ministry Profile & Philosophy

The membership of our Music Ministry is primarily stewardship-based, generously returning the gifts of time, talent and treasure with which God has so richly blessed us. It is comprised of:

- a (55+) member **ADULT CHOIR** (with some high school members) which sings at the Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass,
- a (20+) member intergenerational **LIFE TEEN VOCAL ENSEMBLE** (middle school through adult-age) who combine to minister at the Sunday, 5:00 p.m. Life Teen Mass,
- a number of talented **INSTRUMENTALISTS** (comprising, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitars & piano) of middle school through adult-age instrumentalists who serve at our Sunday 10:00 & 5:00 p.m. Masses and other special services throughout the year
- a core of approximately (20) **CANTORS (high-school through adult-age)** which come primarily from our choirs and minister at various weekend liturgies and special celebrations
- a core of approximately (10) **CANTORS (elementary through middle-school age)** which minister for our celebrations of Children's Liturgy of the Word and other celebrations within the larger community
- a **SEASONAL CHILDREN'S & DESCANT CHOIR** which sings for our 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass
- **CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) accompanists** (elementary through adult-age) who serve that ministry most Sundays during the year
- an **Elementary/M.S. BELL PLATE CHOIR**. Joins the Children's & Descant Choir in the fall to minister at the Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass; will minister at one or two Sunday liturgies during the Easter season.
- **Music Ministry Support** - volunteers who support the clerical and set-up needs of the Music Ministry and Music Office (music librarians, music ministry newsletter (forthcoming), clerical and copy assistance, hymnal supplement preparation (seasonal), etc.

Many of our members participate in civic and school chorales, band and orchestras, including San Antonio Choral Society, S.A. Lyric Opera, Incarnate Word Community Orchestra, local playhouses, Churchill H.S., MacArthur H.S., Reagan H.S., Johnson H.S., St. Mary's Hall, St. Anthony's H.S., Incarnate Word H.S., Bradley M.S., Bush M.S., Driscoll M.S., Tejada M.S, and our local universities. There is a full-time Director of Music Ministries whose prime responsibility is to oversee the entire music ministry, as well as a full-time Assistant Director, who actively supports the administrative and musical work of the ministry.

The vision and purpose of our Music Ministry echo many documents of the Church which state that sacred music is made all the more holy the more it is joined to sacred text and liturgical ritual. It is primarily because music serves as an expression of our faith that its importance (especially singing at Mass) is referenced so many times. Music inspires our prayer, fosters a unity of spirit, and imparts a greater solemnity to our worship (CSL, #112). Its function is

always ministerial – assisting the assembly to strengthen and nurture its faith while also fostering an atmosphere and means to share that gift of faith.

Our Music Ministry is grounded in the belief that we are stewards of our time and talent. As such, the success of our ministry is dependent on the commitment of these generous gifts of time and talent from our members. Service involves preparation. Therefore, consistent attendance and participation in rehearsal is vital to a successful ministry. Rehearsal allows us to enhance our abilities as an ensemble, be it vocally or instrumentally, so that in turn, we may more effectively and prayerfully minister to our community. Though the ability to read music is always helpful to choir members, it is not a requirement. Basic musicianship skills (including reading) are reviewed at many rehearsals and can be assimilated by a new choir member through regular participation in rehearsal. Because of the nature and scheduling of music for worship, however, an instrumentalist must have some proficiency on his/her instrument to be successful and confident in this area of ministry.

Music - with its numerous and varied styles - gives us an expression of God's presence in the world. As a result, we consistently try to offer our assembly the opportunity to experience music of varying styles, periods, and cultures, both within our hymnal and with supplemental resources. Our community uses the Gather Comprehensive hymnal (GIA Publications, Inc.), as its primary musical worship resource. A variety of instrumentation is utilized during our services, including organ, piano, guitar, brass, woodwind, strings and percussion. A future pipe organ and 7'6" Kawai grand piano comprise parish owned instruments. (We are currently gathering memorial funds for the construction of a new 43 rank pipe-organ. The firm of John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, LLC (Champaign, IL) has been selected for this project. The projected installation for our pipe organ is the Fall of 2009.)

Throughout the years, additional opportunities for spiritual and musical growth, as well as fellowship, have been made available: Fall Music Ministry Day and Liturgical Ministries Day of Reflection, cantor workshops, guitar workshops, ministering at Archdiocesan liturgies, Epiphany Hymn Sing and Dessert Swap, joint choir engagements with neighboring churches, Easter Basket Project (spring project for a needy individual/family in our community), participation in parish-wide activities (such as Habitat for Humanity), family field day/festival, Pipe-Up and Be Heard Pipe Organ Fundraiser, sacred concerts, CD recordings, etc.

Membership in our Music Ministry is open year round. We welcome anyone interested in sharing his or her gifts through music to join us. Please feel free to visit with us after Mass, contact us via email, or call the Music Ministry Office: 494-1660.

Courtney Guernsey (Assistant Director), x330

MUSIC MINISTRY INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE DETACH & RETURN TO THE MUSIC OFFICE: *(please print clearly)*

Name:

Spouse:

Parent or Guardian *(if applicable)*:

Grade/School *(if applicable)*:

Home phone:

Parent cell #:

Work phone:

Parent work #:

Cell phone:

Address:

Apt. *(if applicable)*:

City/State/Zip:

E-mail:

Parent email:

Additional e-mail *(parent or guardian)*:

PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

<input type="checkbox"/>	10:00 a.m. Choir	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5:00 p.m. Life Teen Choir/Vocal Ensemble	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Cantor Ministry <i>(open to H.S.)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instrumentalist	<i>What instrument do you play?</i> _____
	<i>At which Mass are you interested in serving?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun., 10:00 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sun., 5:00 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Children's CLOW cantor <i>(Elem. & M.S.)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Children's CLOW Accompanist	<i>(Sat. 5:00, Sun. 10:00, 12:00 or 5:00 Masses)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bell Plate Choir	<i>(3rd grade through M.S.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music Ministry Support	<i>(clerical, set-up, etc.)</i>