

SAINT AGNES PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
GENERAL INFORMATION

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Donna May has degrees in both Elementary Education (Gr. K-6) and in Music Education (K-12) from Kent State University. She also has certification from Hamline University in Orff Schulwerk and Kodaly methods. She has taught at St. Agnes for twenty-five years, both in the grade school and in the high school. Currently, Mrs. May is the Music Department Chair and oversees the Music Curriculum for grades K-12. She teaches general music classes and choirs for grades 5 – 12. She also directs the high school chorus for the annual Spring Musical. In addition, Mrs. May directs the Parish Children's Choir and Renaissance Chamber Choir. She lives in Northfield where she conducts an active group of senior women called the Seasoned Singers and is an active soloist with regional orchestras and churches.

CONTACT INFORMATION: dmay@saintagnesschool.org
Work: 651-925-8718 Home: 507-645-6965 Cell: 507-649-7399

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Saint Agnes Parish Children's Choir is to sing sacred music that supports and enhances the Liturgy of the Mass. The singers work to develop vocal skills and musicianship through the art of sacred choral music. The mastery of these skills enables the singer to develop discipline, self-confidence and most importantly, a deeper understanding of the Faith.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Singers must be between the ages of 9 and 16, with unchanged voices and have a desire to praise God through sacred song. Although there is no formal audition, the singer must be able to match pitch.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire of the choir includes various settings of the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin and English, psalm settings, hymns, and sacred anthems appropriate to the season. Repertoire is chosen from the rich tradition of sacred music of the Catholic Church spanning the eras of Plainchant, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are scheduled for **Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm to 4:30pm**, with occasional exceptions. Rehearsals begin with attendance and warm-ups in Schuler Hall and then move to the choir loft of the church. This year's rehearsal and performance schedule is listed on a separate handout and can also be found on the Saint Agnes Church website, www.stagnes.net or by emailing the director at dmay@saintagnesschool.org.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since rehearsal time is limited to once a week, it is important that the singers arrive **ON TIME**. Although this is a voluntary organization, tardiness and absences from rehearsals and performances will be noted. There will inevitably be occasional conflicts. An excused absence requires that you inform me ahead of time either by email or phone. If, however, your singer misses a significant amount of rehearsals or performances this probably isn't the group for you at this time. Please email or call so we can all be informed and keep the lines of communication open.

SNACKS/WATER

An after school snack is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** and should be eaten **BEFORE** the rehearsal. **EVERY** singer should have a water bottle labeled with their name. Hydration is very important for a healthy voice. No food or drinks other than water are permitted during the rehearsal.

MASS/UNIFORMS

Singers should arrive at church on Sunday by 8:00am and gather for warm-ups in the lower level Kent Street rehearsal room. Occasionally the choir will sing an anthem before Mass at 8:20am. The choir will sing from the choir loft.

When the choir sings at church the following uniform should be observed:

BOYS

- *black dress shoes (no sneakers)
- * black socks
- *black dress pants
- *white long-sleeved shirt

GIRLS

- *black low heeled dress shoes (under 2")
- *white ankle socks or clear stockings
- *black skirt (knee length or longer) or black slacks
- *white long-sleeved blouse (modest neckline)

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Feast of the Holy Family: Girl singers may wear "Christmassy" dresses; red/green ties for the boys
2. 2nd Sunday after Easter (Divine Mercy): "Easter" dresses for the girls and pastel shirts for the boys, or a white shirt with a pastel tie.