

2009-2010 SAINT AGNES CHILDREN'S CHOIR
GENERAL INFORMATION
Welcome to the FIRST Saint Agnes Parish Children's Choir!

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Although I know some of you, let me introduce myself to everyone. My name is Mrs. Donna May. I have degrees in Elementary Education and in Music Education. I have taught music at St. Agnes for eighteen years, both in the grade school and in the high school. Currently, I oversee the Music Curriculum for grades K-12, teach 6th grade general music and three classes in the high school: Vocal Techniques, Art and Music Appreciation and Concert Chorale. I also direct the high school chorus for the Spring Musical and conduct the parish Chamber Choir, an adult group of singers that specializes in Renaissance sacred literature. I live in Northfield where I conduct a wonderful group of senior women called the Seasoned Singers. I am also active as a soloist and this fall will sing the role of Michaela in a concert production of Bizet's opera, *Carmen*, with the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The children must be between the ages of 9 and 14, with unchanged voices and have a desire to praise God through sacred song.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire of the Children's Choir will include various settings of the Ordinary of the Mass in both Latin and English, psalm settings, hymns, and sacred anthems appropriate to the season. Repertoire will be chosen from the rich tradition of sacred music of the Catholic Church spanning the eras of Plainchant, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern liturgical music.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are scheduled for **Thursday afternoons from 3:15pm to 5:00pm**, with occasional exceptions. Most rehearsals will be held in Schuler Hall or the rehearsal room located in the lower level of the Church. Occasionally rehearsals will be held in the choir loft of the church. The 2009-2010 rehearsal and performance schedule is listed on a separate handout and can also be found on the Saint Agnes School website.

READ THE BACK SIDE

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since rehearsal time is limited to once a week, it is important that the children arrive by 3:15pm so that there is sufficient time to check in, gather music, find their seats and be ready to sing! 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 child misses a significant amount of rehearsals or performances this probably isn't the group for your child at this time. Just 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** entering Schuler Hall and **BEFORE** the rehearsal. **EVERY** student 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 downstairs rehearsal room. Occasionally the choir will sing an anthem before Mass at 8:20am. The choir will sing from the choir loft.

When the children sing 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)
- *white long-sleeved blouse (modest neckline)