

Treble Choir at St. Mary's

JoAnne Blackwelder, our organist/choir director, would like to start a Treble Choir at St. Mary's. The choir would rehearse one hour per week and would sing at the 10 a.m. Mass on 4 or 5 occasions from October until May. Whether or not your family is a member of St. Mary's or any other church, we invite your child to join us for this unique opportunity.

The Anglican choral tradition is rich and unique. Historically (listen up, young men!) young singers were boys only, but at St. Mary's both girls and boys are welcome, ages about 8 to 13. No prior musical experience necessary. At choir rehearsals we learn, we have fun, and we make new friends.

Research has shown that young people who are actively involved with music

- do better in reading and math in school
- are better able to focus
- have higher self esteem and better social skills

At Itzak Perlmann's summer camp for talented young instrumentalists, everyone is required to join the mixed chorus, because Mr. Perlmann, a famous violinist, believes choral singing fosters both musical development and the sense of community that enhances the performances of all.

Younger children will continue to sing in Sunday School and perform in Mass from time to time. This new program would not replace that but would provide an opportunity for the older boys and girls to learn and perform some more challenging musical works. Each chorister will wear a cross on a ribbon, its color showing how many years the singer has been with the choir.

The program is also a way for St. Mary's to evangelize and attract new members. It has been JoAnne's experience that parents who visit and see a young people's choir are encouraged to bring their whole family to worship, because they recognize that this is a church with programs for children.

Please sign and return this survey if you are interested, and let us know what time would be best for rehearsal. Keep in mind, if this is something we want to do, JoAnne will also need a parent assistant for each rehearsal.

Parent/guardian name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Children's names and ages: _____

Best rehearsal time: Tuesday, 6:30-7:30
 Wednesday, 5:00-6:00
 Thursday, 6:30-7:30