

## **CHOIR FAQs**

### **Do I have to be an experienced singer or be able to read music to sing with the choir?**

Absolutely not! We work on these skills in the group, and as long as you can sing in tune and enjoy singing, you have what you need musically to participate.

### **When does the choir sing?**

The choir sings twice a month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends. The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend is always at 10:30 AM Mass and the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend is usually at 5:00 PM Saturday Mass. The full schedule is provided in advance so you can plan.

### **What time commitment is involved?**

The choir meets every Thursday from 7-9PM to prepare for the upcoming liturgy. Participation can be on a Mass by Mass basis – this involves two 2 hour Thursday night rehearsals from 7-9PM (attendance for at least one is required), and the Mass itself with a 1 hour rehearsal preceding it. This is 6 hours total in a two week period including the liturgy. Materials are also provided for practicing at home.

### **What is the age group of the choir?**

The choir is open to anyone from high school on up. We have a very diverse group currently, from those in their 20s to 70s, and both men and women. We have parents, grandparents, married, single, and members from many professions, as well as retired.

### **Who directs the choir?**

Joanne Mead, a retired music educator and voice teacher, volunteers as the director for the Choir. Pat Campbell, the Director of Liturgy and Music at St. Michaels, plans the music for each liturgy and accompanies on piano along with other volunteer instrumentalists.

### **How many people are in the choir?**

There are currently 12 singers actively involved, plus Joanne, Pat, and 5 instrumentalists. However, they are not all always available due to travel or other commitments, so the group is sometimes as small as 3 or 4. This is why we are looking for new members! Our plan is to add enough voices to have a larger group with 20 or more voices.

### **Is the Choir at Christmas different than the regular Choir?**

No, it is the same group. However, we have a number of people who join us only for Christmas due to other commitments. Some sing with other ensembles and add this to their schedule, while others join just for Christmas. The Christmas Choir is usually 18-20 voices.

### **Is there a need for instrumentalists?**

Yes, the entire music ministry can especially use string and woodwind players, but there are also opportunities for guitar, bass, percussion, and keyboard. Brass instruments such trumpet are needed at Christmas and Easter.