

From Jan Huseby, St. Mary's Director of Music and Liturgy



## Youth Choir 2024

### Grades 1 - 8

Hello Parents!

It's that time when you are faced with many options for activities for your children! We hope you will consider St. Mary's Youth Choir. Music is not only fun—singing and playing rhythm instruments—but it fosters their skills in subjects like math and science. Most importantly, singing develops their faith in a very special way, with their friends! Older students can fill leadership roles in the choir, cantor, and mentor younger singers. The time commitment is minimal and the benefits are great!

Youth Choir (grades 1-8), will begin on September 11 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Students from TES can ride the bus to the church for snacks and religious education class. St. Mary's School students are offered after-school care until choir time. Under the direction of Jan Huseby and Mary Ramsey, the singers will have the benefit of MANY years of musical education and experience.

Why the choir? Statistics are very clear about the academic, social, and developmental benefits of choral training. But very simply, it's because children who sing together form a special bond—each one is welcomed and affirmed; when they sing together in church, they learn to know God in a special way. Our worship is enriched when the young people lead the music—the joy of singing becomes "ministry" when the kids give back to others—they reflect God's light and joy! Our children are a blessing through their music, and they bring such delight to the adults.

Please note: The choir schedule conveniently matches the Wednesday religious education classes. The Youth Choir sings once per month at the "Family Mass" at 9:30 a.m. Our new pastor, Fr. Aloysius Anthony, is energetic, engaging, and very excited to celebrate Mass with our families!

The children are also a beloved highlight of our annual community Advent Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The concert wouldn't be complete without the kids, who delight our audience as only kids can do. Performing for an audience is priceless in the growth of their self-confidence and poise. Concert music is included in their "regular" Wednesday practices.

Registration forms are attached, but also available through the parish website ([stmaryschurchtomahawk.com](http://stmaryschurchtomahawk.com)), St. Mary's School, or the parish offices.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jhuseby@smctomahawk.com](mailto:jhuseby@smctomahawk.com) or at 715-453-2878, ext. 211

Jan Huseby