

## **New Tri-Community Director of Music**

As our three parishes continue drawing closer together—with new Mass schedules, combined ministries, and a fresh vision for our shared future—it has become necessary to reshape our music program across all three communities in order to create a deeper sense of cohesion and unity. I am very pleased to announce that, after an extensive search and an open listing, we have hired a full-time Tri-Community Music Director for our Michigan City Catholic community. On January 1, 2026, David Herr will begin his ministry among us at Queen of All Saints, St. Mary, and Notre Dame.

David currently serves as the Diocesan Director of Music. I have known him since his high school days at Andean, where I taught him when he was a freshman. He is an exceptionally gifted musician, skilled in keyboard accompaniment, choral direction, and in helping people pray deeply through sacred music.

This is an exciting moment for our three communities. With the new Mass schedule, many parishioners will naturally find themselves worshipping at different campuses, and our choirs, too, will begin to blend and grow in new ways. Welcoming a new Director of Music at this time allows us to shape our future together with fresh energy and unified purpose. I am confident that David's pastoral spirit and musical leadership will help our communities lift their voices as one.

Music is not simply an ornament at Mass—it draws us into the mystery of the Eucharist and strengthens the unity we seek to build. We are blessed with many devoted musicians, and with David's guidance, I believe our shared music ministry will continue to flourish and become a true sign of hope and joy in our city.

I want to take a moment to thank all who have served so generously in our music ministry. In a special way, I am grateful to Barb Brandon, who has faithfully led Sunday worship at Notre Dame for over 40 years. She has graciously agreed to set aside her responsibilities for the weekend liturgies in order to help the goal of unity. She will undoubtedly have a greater opportunity to enjoy more time with family and friends. I am happy to report that Barb will continue to teach in the school and play for the Monday and Wednesday morning Masses for the school children. After both Masses next Sunday, we will have a nice reception for her so that we can offer her an expression of our gratitude for all that she has so generously done for our parish over the last many years. Barb is an extraordinary woman and a gifted musician, and she deserves to be celebrated.

Thank you to all our musicians for your generous service. You enrich our liturgies and strengthen our communities. And thank you to everyone for your continued support and gifts.

Finally, I warmly invite anyone who loves to sing or play an instrument to consider joining one of our choirs. As we begin this new chapter, your gifts are needed and welcome. I know David will help us weave many voices and talents into one beautiful hymn of praise to God.

Peace,  
Fr. David Kime