



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 16, Issue 11

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.

The Teen Mass Band

Drawing Youth Into the Sacred Liturgy

Having grown up at All Saints, parishioner Caroline Jaimes has experienced firsthand the lasting impact involvement in the parish's 5 p.m. Teen Mass Band can have on a person's life. Not raised in an actively Catholic family, Caroline joined the band at a pivotal time in her faith journey. It drew her into the liturgy and shaped her understanding of prayer in a manner which continues to bless her life today.

"My family is not actively Catholic although I am," Caroline says. "So for me, it was a way to just kind of get my feet wet in terms of prayer and involvement in the Church. I was already heavily involved in music at my school and this was an awesome opportunity for me to learn more about the liturgy and how to use my musical gifts for God."

Now blessed to lead the Teen Mass Band, Caroline witnesses this same process unfolding in other youths' lives as they encounter the Lord more deeply in the context of liturgical music. The group plays each Sunday for the 5 p.m. Mass, setting up and practicing beforehand starting at 3:30 p.m. Their band currently consists of our long-time piano player and a wide variety of young adult and high school age musicians and vocalists,



By coming together in this way, youth are able to uniquely use their musical talents for the Lord while also enhancing the worship experience of parishioners.

including a drummer, guitarists and the occasional string instrument. Music is sent out in advance, usually including songs from popular Christian artists such as Chris Tomlin and Hillsong.

"I send out a weekly email that has what we plan on playing that upcoming Sunday," Caroline says. "The music we play is very easily accessible online because it's more popular Christian music. I send them the sheet music itself, as well as a link where they can listen to it. Then on Sunday, we work all the kinks out of everything."

Caroline says that the Mass Band provides teens with an easily accessible way to live out stewardship — a concrete way to

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Stewardship

Sharing Time and Talents Through Song

There is something mysteriously unifying about music — transcending color, race, and even language. This is especially true when music is used for divine worship. It brings us all together as we lift up our hearts in songs of praise and adoration to our Lord and Creator; engages us more fully in the Sacred Mystery of the Mass.

Music, in general, is communal. And when we put it in the context of the Church and the Body of Christ, it's an even more beautiful way to pray as a community. It elevates our prayer experience, somehow, utilizing our senses, taking us out of the everyday, and leading us to the transcendence of the Mass.

Liturgical musicians contribute in a very special way to the overall prayer experience of our parishioners, as it helps people pray better and experience God's presence more closely.

Not only do liturgical music groups enable musically gifted individuals to live out the stewardship way of life by sharing his or her time and talents with the parish community, but they also deepen the spiritual life of the musicians themselves. For in preparing for the liturgies and learning the songs, one can't help but become more in tune with the liturgical year and can't help but feel more connected with the God they sing about.

As a liturgical musician, or simply as a member of the congregation at Mass, participating in the liturgy through song is a way to communicate with God. In traditional prayer, sometimes it is difficult to know what to say or how to speak with God. But music is like praying twice — it is a part of all our souls. Participating in choirs or playing an instrument for Mass every weekend can connect one more closely with the liturgical life of the Church. Ultimately by doing so, you are connecting with Jesus.

The Teen Mass Band *continued from front cover*

use their gifts for others within the parish. In the process, they gain a far greater sense of community both amongst their fellow musicians as well as the larger parish.

"I always try to tell them this is a really great way for them to give back to the parish," Caroline says. "It's a way for them to use their musical talents

to help elevate the worship experience. It also helps them build relationships with other youth and adult parishioners within the context of the parish and the liturgy. Hopefully, this will help keep them connected, particularly during those early college years when so many youth are at risk to leave the faith."

The Teen Mass Band welcomes any high school-age vocalist or instrumentalist interested in using their gifts for God. To join, contact Caroline Jaimes at 972-778-0368 or caroline.jaimes1@gmail.com.



Cultivating a Love of Music in All Saints' Children

The arts as a whole are invaluable to a school and its students; creative outlets are crucial for children and their development. As children perform on a theater stage or in a choir concert in front of their peers, teachers and parents, they learn how to behave and act in front of a public audience. This is invaluable for public speaking, singing and leading in all aspects in a group setting later in life.

Shelbi McMullen joined the All Saints family in August as the Director of Children's Music at the church. She also started the choir program and became the Theater Director at All Saints Catholic School. The Theater Program will present Disney's *The Lion King* in March.

As a performer herself, Shelbi understands how to nurture and cultivate a love of music, worship and

performance in children, and knows the importance of instilling a confidence within them so they love to participate and are active in worship as well the performance arts.

The goal of raising children in the Church and in church music is to engage kids in Mass. When students see their friends singing in the mass choir or cantoring at All Saints School, they, too, want to participate more fully in worship. Singing and having a role in Mass also allows students and children to take on more responsibility and leadership roles in the church and at the school. Shelbi trains student cantors as young as fourth and fifth grade up through eighth grade at the school; watching a child's confidence and love for the church grow as they lead in worship, serve as lectors



"It gives me joy to see people of all ages making a joyful noise and worshipping with their whole heart and whole self. Children's music does just that and inspires us all to worship with joy, wonder, and childlike innocence and devotion."

- Shelbi McMullen

and cantors, and altar serve is such a blessing.

When adults and parents see children singing in Mass and participating fully, it helps adults to worship more fully as well. Children's choir is a beautiful way to train children to be lifelong worshippers and have a desire to participate in Mass. It's an excellent way to remind ourselves and children of their value and importance in the church as it is our responsibility to raise up and teach the next generation.



For more info on the children's choir, contact Shelbi McMullen at 903-738-5705 or sherndon@allsaintsk8.org.

PARISH CHOIRS AND TEEN BAND UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Children's Choir

Nov. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mass

Dec. 1 – 11:30 a.m. Mass

Dec. 3 – Light Up for Christ

Dec. 24 – 4:15 p.m. Children's Liturgy

School Choir

All School Masses

Dec. 3 – Light Up for Christ

Dec. 15 – 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Christmas Concert

St. Raphael Choir

All Sunday 8:30 a.m. Masses

Dec. 24 – 6:00 p.m. Mass

St. Gregory Choir

All Sunday 11:30 a.m. Masses

Dec. 24 – 11:00 p.m. Mass

Teen Mass Band

All Sunday 5:00 p.m. Teen Masses



St. Raphael Choir's Diversity Makes It Extraordinary

When our St. Raphael Choir supports us in song during Mass, we are in the company of a diverse group of volunteers who are willingly giving of their time and talents because they truly love what they do.

Marty Koss leads the choir that is celebrating its 35 years of ministry to us at All Saints. Some of the group have been members for all 35 years and many have served for at least 20. The choir currently serves the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Masses.

"We have choir members who joined as students, came back after college, married and started their own family with the choir, and now their children are singing or playing an instrument in the choir," Marty says. "Together, we have shared in each other's joys and sorrows and special life experiences, such as weddings, Baptisms, First Communions, graduations, and even funerals."

In a formal sense, the St. Raphael Choir is defined as a "contemporary liturgical ensemble." Its primary ministry is to enable and support the full, active participation of the assembly through their sung prayer.

"But we are much more than that," Marty says. "Our choir is extraordinary. We are extraordinary because, as individuals, we come from very diverse backgrounds. We are intergenerational. Our members include students, singles, young marrieds, parents and grandparents. We

are singers and instrumentalists, including piano, guitar, bass, percussion, brass, woodwinds and strings."

The music is chosen with great care to make sure that not only is it "singable," but that it also can become part of the congregation's repertoire. The music chosen is good music, and brought in from a variety of cultures. The texts are based on Scriptures, as well as theology, or they might be accompanying a particular part of the Mass. Much of the music is by contemporary composers whose works reflect the reforms coming from Vatican II.

"I know we have been successful when I start a song at one tempo and the assembly takes it over at their own tempo," Marty says. "It is because they have ownership of the music."

The choir is extraordinary, as well, in that everyone contributes in some way, through the sharing of their talents. Some members who are knowledgeable about Scripture and music select the pieces to sing. Some serve as cantors, while others maintain the music library and the music binders. Others set up the chairs and music stands each Sunday.

With the diversity among the choir members, many have found that their faith and the choir ministry are what brings them together.

"Nevertheless, the union of those two is so strong,

that it transcends our differences and, we experience a very loving and supportive community," Marty says. "We are family. When Msgr. Kamel, our founding pastor, spoke of our choir, he said that '*We are Church.*'"



The St. Raphael Choir is always looking for new members. The ability to read music is not a requirement for the singers. Rehearsals are held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the music room of the Kamel Life Center. Anyone interested in joining the choir family as a vocalist or instrumentalist, may call Marty Koss at 972-517-7033.

"We look forward to getting to know you," she says.



INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The St. Gregory Choir*

Perhaps you've heard the phrase, inviting those at Mass to "full, active and conscious" participation in the liturgy. And yet, so often, as regular Mass-goers, it can be easy to find ourselves slipping into routine and going through the motions in prayer.

Here at All Saints, our Music Ministry serves to invite people to worship in a way that involves their minds, the bodies and their hearts in song.

"The Church teaches us that music's purpose is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful," says Jordan Peek, our Director of Music and organist. "We are asked to participate in the Mass and one of the easiest ways to externally participate is to sing."

At the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, as well as other solemnities and feasts throughout the year, a special group of people serves to lead our community in song. The St. Gregory Choir sings traditional music, both a cappella and accompanied by organ, with pieces ranging from Gregorian chant to present-day music. Each week, the dedicated members of the choir meet to rehearse music for two hours, as well as arriving early for Mass to participate in a warm-up.

The intent of the music chosen is to reinforce the message of the readings and to draw focus to other significant moments during the Mass.

"Singing the Mass helps reveal the beauty and holiness of the rite," Jordan says. "I hope that the choir brings beauty and helps the congregation better express the words and actions of the Mass."

According to Jordan, one of the things that distinguishes music at Mass from other types of musical performances is the focus and goal of the music.

"Instead of glorifying the performer, we sing for the glory of God," Jordan says. "We also sing to encourage the assembly to participate."



Although participating in the choir requires significant investment from its members, those who are part of the St. Gregory Choir also find that it is an opportunity to build relationships and get to know their parish family. In addition to rehearsals, the choir members spend time together in other settings, enjoying each other's company at retreats and parties, even attending concerts together.

"While we put in lots of work in rehearsals, we also have lots of fun," Jordan says. "We are more than just a choir, but a group of friends who lift up and support one another."

Jordan encourages those with musical talents to consider using their gifts to glorify God and to serve the parish community at All Saints. The St. Gregory Choir is in particular need of men who enjoy worshiping God in song. Although a commitment to participate in the choir is not necessarily the easiest way to serve the Church, Jordan believes that it can certainly be one of the most fulfilling.

"Being in the choir is one of the biggest commitments you can make," Jordan says, "If you want to commit to serving God at the parish, music will keep you involved!"

If you would like more information, or to become part of the choir, please contact Director of Music and organist Jordan Peek at 972-778-0351 or music@allsaintsdallas.org.



Growing in Faith and Knowledge, Formed

Over the course of the past few years, I have had the fortune to meet many parishioners and parents to discuss our school. During these conversations, I ask about perceptions, how their student/alumnus is doing now, and perceptions of how our school prepares students to act honorably, live virtuously and seek truth.

Through these conversations, I have been treated to many stories of our students' successes, growth and accolades. I have heard about students not liking school until they came to All Saints and experienced a small classroom where they could really shine. I have heard about alumni skipping entry-level courses at high school so they can further their academic studies. And, I have heard of the National Merit Scholar Finalists and Valedictorians and Salutatorians that our little school has produced. These are only a few of the many success stories that are in our school building each day. When I tell these stories to people outside of our community, the one question I am always asked is, "How does All Saints do it?" My answer is simple, "An unwavering commitment to excellence in faith, academics, character and service, and an intentional philosophy of education that provides for all of our students.

Attending a Catholic school should be much more than attending Mass on a weekly basis, and All Saints is committed to doing much more. A strong Catholic atmosphere permeates our school. It is seen and felt in the hallways in the way students treat each other and the faculty and staff. It is seen in Mr. Malone's religion class when he challenges the students to know and defend the faith. And it is seen when the students are honored for being an example of the Virtue of the Month.

Just like the Catholic atmosphere in our school, the academic program is strong as well. Mrs. Druffner, our Principal, is committed to hiring and retaining the best teachers available — she has created a culture in which teachers and students are always looking for ways to bring the material to life for our students. One such example is the addition of our science gardens that our first-grade teacher, Mrs. Ramirez, spearheaded. The gardens provide a place for students to experience life science instead of just reading it in a book or seeing it on a screen. The students know and feel



how much each and every teacher in our building loves them. This leads to a great amount of trust between the student, teacher and parent, which only leads to increased student achievement.

And it is not only the academic program that shapes a young person into a mature and confident adult. All Saints provides various activities so our students can learn the values of teamwork and collaboration. The small school size also allows our students to try new activities in a safe place and take on leadership roles within the school. We are also able to expose students to new and fun activities in which they may not otherwise be able to participate. Activities in the new Innovation Lab expose our students to the world of coding, robotics and how we can use them to solve social problems. This develops our students' empathy, curiosity and problem-solving skills. Students are also exposed to Mandarin and Spanish language instruction. This helps them explore different cultures and develop an appreciation for cultural differences while understanding our faith is a global faith. Students can participate in Orchestra, Band, Choir and/or Art so they can learn to appreciate the beautiful world God has made. And the addition of fencing will help our students develop their athletic ability in a new way.

As a Catholic school, All Saints takes seriously its charge to prepare young Catholic men and women who will not only learn the faith, but live it as well. Our students learn that we make Christ



in Leadership at All Saints Catholic School

By Gabe Moreno, ASCS Director of Advancement and Mission

known and present through the service that we do for others. Service trips are taken by our students to places such as Feed My Starving Children. Students also complete service around the school and know that they can be a force for good when they put others first and serve those who are less fortunate.

All Saints has much to be proud of. Our graduates have gone on to achieve and succeed in various areas. But more importantly, our graduates are well-rounded leaders in the community that are highly sought after by the local Catholic high school. As the Director of Admissions at Ursuline Academy told me, “All Saints students are respectful and respected.”

We are very proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved at All Saints, and our students are the living embodiment

of what we do as a school. I invite you to visit our school and have a tour by one of our ambassadors. I promise you will not be disappointed. And if you are considering a Catholic education for your child or grandchild, visit us for a personal tour or at any of our Open House events.

All Saints Open House Dates

November 13, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

December 11, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

January 22, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Bullying Has No Place in Sports

Coaches and schools can take steps to prevent bullying in sports and elsewhere:

1. **Promote a team atmosphere.** A cohesive team is like a caring, protective, close-knit family, and being part of it can help reduce the chance of bullying.
2. **Praise inclusion and team work.** This sends a clear message to any player that this is what the team is working towards.
3. **Be clear on roles, responsibilities and expectations.** School culture expands to the field, court or track, as well, so kids need to be aware of and understand rules and boundaries.
4. **Call out bullying and hazing.** Coaches, parents and other officials should know when this is happening, because most leagues and groups have rules and values against it — and if they don't notice, kids should make them aware.
5. **Have coaches set the tone and promote inclusion and sportsmanship.** Coaches need to create a safe, respectful environment that models kind behavior for all kids.

Participating in sports can be a great way to develop strength and skill, learn teamwork and build strong friendships. **Bullying has no place in sports.** It is much cooler to be kind, and that's something we should make happen in every school and for every team.

If you aren't sure where to start, StopBullying.gov is a great resource for coaches, teachers, parents, and anyone else interested in promoting healthy connections between kids. There's even a resource guide for recreation leaders so coaches, instructors, recreations staff, and volunteers can learn how to work through challenges so we can keep that space healthy for kids to play, relax and be healthy.



ALL SAINTS

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

A Month Filled With *Gratitude*

Dear Saints,

The month of November of course brings to mind thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day — although I look forward to it with happy anticipation — but thoughts regarding the many reasons we should be thankful.

We begin the month with a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of All Saints, on November 1, which is also our patronal feast day. It is a stewardship feast in so many ways, instituted to honor all saints, known and unknown. The communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read about the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and their prayers aid us.

We follow All Saints' Day with All Souls Day on November 2 so we can honor and commemorate all those others who may have been "saints" in our lives. It may have been a mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter, next-door neighbor, good friend, grandparent, uncle or aunt, cousin, teacher, or student — the list is endless. We have been blessed in our lives with people who have shown us what it means to be a good Christian, what it means to be a good steward. During this month of November, we need to thank God for those people in our lives. In fact, we need to thank God period, which is another important element of this month.

Toward the end of the month we celebrate what is mainly a secular holiday, Thanksgiving, but this national holiday is so grounded in our Christian stewardship tradition. This year is the 156th anniversary of the first official Thanksgiving in the U.S., as proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the horrors of the Civil War. In the beginning of that proclamation,



President Lincoln stated, *"To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God."* Lincoln takes great care to recognize God's presence in all of the "thanks."

From the beginning of the month, when we thank God for the example of the saints and for the example of the "saints" in our lives, to the end of the month, when we thank God for basically everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to remember and to approach the Lord with a grateful heart.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator



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Weekend Liturgy: *Saturday, 5:00 p.m. | Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. | Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.*

Weekday Liturgy: *Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. | Saturday, 9:00 a.m.*