

August 15, 2007

Dear Youth Choir Member and Parents,

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again soon. We will resume our rehearsals Saturday, September 15, at 4:00 pm in Community Hall. Rehearsals will be from 4:00-5:15. We have several exciting special events planned that you'll see below.

Here is your Mass schedule through the First Penance celebrations in early February:

Friday, October 5, 7:00 pm **Confirmation** Mass
Monday, October 8, 7:30 pm NPM Mass for Musicians*
Saturday, October 20, 5:30 Mass
Saturday, November 3, 5:30 Mass
Saturday, November 17, 5:30 Mass
Saturday, December 1, Choir Exchange at St. Francis Cathedral**
Saturday, December 15, 5:30 Mass (Choir Exchange Mass)
Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), 10:30 pm Mass (Preludes begin at 10:00; arrival 9:30 pm.)
Saturday, January 12, 5:30 Mass
Saturday, January 26, 5:30 Mass
Saturday, February 2, 11:00 First Penance Service – (arrival time: 10:30) – Rehearsal to follow (12:00-1:00)
Saturday, February 9, 11:00 & 1:00 First Penance Service – (arrival time: 10:30, lunch provided, no afternoon rehearsal)

*The Diocese of Metuchen chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians holds an annual Mass for Musicians. This year, Our Lady of Lourdes has been asked to host this special event. It speaks to the high quality of music ministry into which you put so much of yourselves. The chapter director specifically mentioned our “vibrant choirs” among the reasons we were chosen.

**We will have a choir exchange in December with the Youth Choir of St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen. This will give you an opportunity to join forces with other music ministers like yourselves to create a powerful musical and ministerial experience. You will join them at the Cathedral on Saturday, December 1, meeting at 3:30 in the choir loft and sing with them at their 5:00 mass. Then on Saturday, December 15, the St. Francis youth choir will join us here and we will sing together at our 5:30 mass. There will be receptions following each mass for further fellowship. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the Cathedral. I'm sure this will be a great experience for all involved.

No rehearsal: October 6, November 24, December 1 (see Choir Exchange above), December 29, February 9; January 14 rehearsal to follow First Penance service, ending at 1:00

Special Rehearsal:

Thursday, December 20, 7:30-9:30, combined Adult Choir/Youth Choir/Advanced Bells rehearsal for Christmas in the church.

The Music Ministry Concert will be Sunday, January 27, 2008 at 3:30 (snow date: Sunday, February 3, 3:30).

Cancellations due to weather: This year, if there is the possibility of cancellation due to weather, you need to call my number (534-2319 x19) and listen for an outgoing message about such cancellation. If my voicemail does not state that there is a cancellation, then there is no cancellation. Also, I would like you to provide me with a parental email address where I can send changes to the schedule, other notifications, etc. should the need arise. Please send me this at OLLMusic@earthlink.net. Thank you.

Being a member of Youth Choir is a ministry and privilege, requiring a commitment to rehearsal, and when we sing at Mass. If you have an occasional need to miss a rehearsal or liturgy, you must call me at 534-2319 x19 with your excuse, and leave a message, as soon as you are aware of the conflict. If choir members or their parents repeatedly fail to inform me of their absences and reasons ahead of time, your involvement with Youth Choir will have to be reevaluated. This should be our greatest year yet if we can rely on each other's participation.

Dress is white (not beige or cream) shirt/blouse, black pants/skirt, black shoes. All clothing should be conservative and appropriate for church. (Ex., No low neck lines, no tight fitting clothes, or bare shoulders; skirts need to be below the knee **when seated**, etc.) You must wear this attire during the rehearsal on days we sing at Mass, so I have adequate time to evaluate it. If I feel your dress is inappropriate, you may be asked not to sing for that Mass. This is to ensure that we always look our best as we sing our best.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone on September 15!

Sincerely,

Mr. Cole