

OLD SAINT MARY



MUSIC MINISTRY AT OLD ST. MARY

Dear Friends:

I have been with you for just over two months as Director of Music and Liturgy and have been warmly welcomed by so many of you. Thank you for that! Now it is my turn to return that same generous hospitality by welcoming you to join Music Ministry here at your church. There are many opportunities for you to share your own talents, and for you to also invite others from around the Milwaukee area to join us.

I was grateful to learn that there has been a strong musical tradition at St. Mary. It is my hope to build on that tradition and to develop a Music Ministry program for this parish that will further enhance the beauty of this sacred place. Together we can once again make this church a destination for those seeking a holy and beautiful place to worship the God as his people.

To build a ministry that serves others we need you to step forward and answer this call to serve. This is your invitation! In Psalm #150 we hear "... everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!" We will begin first with a CHOIR that will sing at the 11:30 am. Mass and occasionally at the 9:00 am. Mass. Do not be the judge of your own voice; the best voice to praise God is the voice that he gave you. It is my hope that those with a leadership voice would also come forward to be CANTORS to lead the Responsorial Psalm after the First Reading, and also to lead the assembly's song at Mass. Some cantors may be a part of the choir, others may not.

Psalm #150 also reminds us that instruments have been used to praise God since before the scriptures were written. We also need you to come forward as INSTRUMENTALIST. If you play an instrument, we need you to add beauty to our music and enhance our worship. If there is enough interest and people, perhaps we can even form a String Choir or a Brass Ensemble. Also, I would like to form a Handbell Choir. For this choir I am looking to start with eight persons that have had some minimal background in music. Perhaps high school band or a few piano lessons, and the ability to count to 4. The parish owns the set of handbells that are not used – let's use them!

I am here to serve. Whatever your response as a parish is will determine our direction. I will work with the gifts that God gives us to work with. Please consider joining our St. Mary Music Ministry. It may be the most rewarding thing you do all year

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Wittmann, MTS

Your Director of Music & Liturgy