

Please consider sharing your gifts and talents with the Choir Family. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Jules or any choir member. We will do our best to encourage and support your ministry.

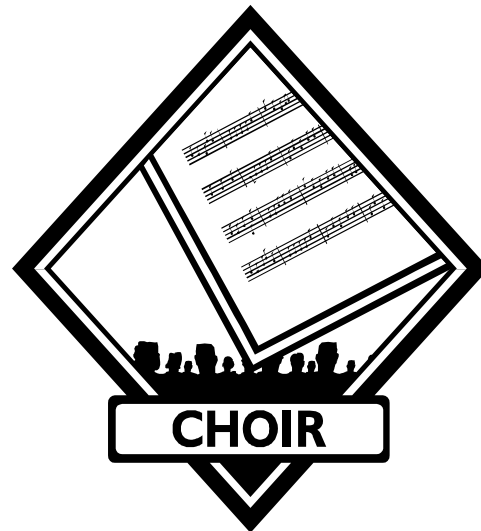
With the demands of a multi-choir Music Ministry also comes the need for VOLUNTEERS to help with office and administrative work. If music and singing are not your "forte", we are always in need of volunteers to help with the music library, the creation of Worship Guides and with the organization and supervision of the Junior Choirs.



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Saint Matthew Choir Program



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Music Ministry

*"He who sings, prays twice."
– St. Augustine*

The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song closely bound to the text, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 112)

A well-trained choir adds beauty and solemnity to the liturgy and also assists and encourages the singing of the congregation. The Second Vatican Council, speaking of the choir, stated emphatically: "Choirs must be diligently promoted, "provided that "the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs." (Music in Catholic Worship, 36)

MUSIC AT ST. MATTHEW'S

The ministry of music at St. Matthew the Apostle church is dedicated to fostering both musical and spiritual gifts through the singing and playing of quality liturgical music in a variety of styles and settings.

Participation is open to people of all ages and ability levels.

All choirs rehearse weekly.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Grades 3 and 4

MIDDLE CHOIR
Grades 5, 6 and 7

YOUTH CHOIR
Grades 8 through 12

YOUTH BELLS
Grades 7 through 12

ADULT CHOIR
Ages 18 and up

ADULT BELLS
Ages 18 and up

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir generally sings at the 10:30 AM Sunday liturgy from September to June. The Adult Choir sings 4-part (SATB) sacred choral literature in addition to leading the congregation on hymns and service music. **Rehearsals are held on Thursday nights from 8:00 – 9:30 PM in church.** Experience in singing and music reading is helpful but not required.

In 2003, The Adult Choir went on a pilgrimage to Rome where they were blessed to sing at various services, including a beatification ceremony with Pope John Paul II. In 2007 we traveled to Munich, Salzburg and Vienna where we sang in many beautiful churches, including a performance with a local choir.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Children's Choir is open to all children of the parish (both St. Matthew's School and surrounding public and private schools) in grades 3 and 4. They sing twice monthly at the 5:00 PM Saturday vigil liturgy from September to May. **Rehearsals are held every Monday from 4:00 – 4:45 in Room 10.**

MIDDLE CHOIR

The Middle Choir is open to all children of the parish (both St. Matthew's School and surrounding public and private schools) in grades 5, 6 and 7. They sing twice monthly at the 5:00 PM Saturday vigil liturgy from September to May. **Rehearsals are held every Monday from 4:45 – 5:30 in Room 10.**

In the past, the choirs have performed religious musicals at our Spring Concert and have gone on trips to Lincoln Center. We hope to be able to do these kinds of special events more often.

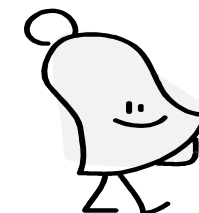
YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir is open to all teenagers of the parish in grades 8 through 12. They sing twice monthly alternating between the 5:00 PM Saturday vigil liturgy and the 9:00 AM Sunday liturgy from September to May. They also minister at various parish events such as Confirmation and Living Stations. **Rehearsals are held on Thursdays from 5:45 – 6:30 in Room 10.**

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

The Youth Choir is working towards the goal of creating a contemporary ensemble that will provide multi-cultural and traditional music utilizing a contemporary sound. Experienced pianists, guitarists, wind players, percussionists and string players of ANY AGE are needed.

HANDBELLS



ADULT HANDBELLS

The adult handbell choir is an instrumental choir that rings the church's 4-octave set of Malmark Handbells. They play at various liturgies and celebrations throughout the year. The choir is open to any adult parishioners who are able to follow simple musical notation. **Rehearsals are held on Monday nights from 8:00 – 9:30 PM in Room 10.** Twelve ringers are needed for a full choir and some positions are still available.

YOUTH HANDBELLS

The youth handbell choir currently plays three octaves of bells, but is hoping to expand to four. This group is open to students in grades 7 – 12 and **rehearses on Thursday night from 6:45 – 7:30 in Room 10.** Positions are filling quickly.