

Chorister Choir 2018-2019

Grades 4-12

Members of the choirs at St. Anthony bring an offering of themselves to the Sacred Table of the Lord each time they come together to help lead our community in song. This is a part of stewardship - the giving of our time, talents, and treasure to help build the kingdom of God. Many people are blessed by the singing of the choirs. Below are the policies for St. Anthony Choristers – looking forward to a great year!

1. **Thursday Choir rehearsals begin promptly at 6:00pm & end at 7:00pm.** Please use the restroom, sign-in, pick up your music, and be in your seats no later than 5:55pm.
2. **For the sake of their safety, all Choir members must be picked up from within the building.**
3. **Regular attendance is necessary for any choral group to thrive – each choir member is expected to strive for an overall attendance of 75% or better for the entire year including practices and dates on which the choir sings. If your child will be absent, late, or require early dismissal, parents must email us 24 hours in advance.** In general, we sing two Sundays per month. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is to plan conflicting schedules on alternate weekends to insure your child's presence and participation with the choir.
4. A **\$55 per student fee** helps us purchase supplies and music. However, we do not want cost to prevent a child from participating in our program. Scholarships & Multiple Child discounts are available, if needed. Email your request to Natalie Giardina at ngiardina@ap.church to receive a promotion code to be used during the online registration checkout process which will automatically discount your fee.
5. **Parental participation is greatly appreciated!** Librarians, rehearsal attendants, equipment helpers, social planners & helpers are just a few of the ways that parents can help our choir to thrive. Whether you volunteer once or every week, please know that the children and music ministry staff are appreciative!
6. **Each choir member is assigned a hymnal and folder of music.** Each Chorister is expected to pick up and return his/her hymnal and folder at all rehearsals and Masses. Replacement costs on these items are \$30 and \$40 respectively. Additionally, Choristers may write in music lightly and in pencil. If music is marked with pen, marker, crayon, etc., the Chorister will be responsible for replacing the hymnal/folder/music.
7. **Discipline** issues will be addressed with a note to the parent and, if needed, a conference with the Director.
8. For Sundays and other days that the choir sings, the **warm-up time is posted on the calendar.** Please be prompt.
9. *New in 2018* Choristers will receive a cross necklace to wear when we serve at mass and members can earn beads for a variety of roles and achievements. More info can be found on the following page.

We seek to foster a love for music, singing, and service in each child. Thank you for encouraging your child to sing and positively reinforcing your child's participation in this ministry, where they will learn more about their faith, music and themselves. The foundation laid here can last a lifetime.

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Chorister Cross Necklace Program & Updates

Each Chorister will begin the year with a new St. Anthony cross necklace. As we move through the year, dedicated singers will have the opportunity to earn beads to add to their necklaces as they participate more fully in our ministry.

- At our first rehearsal, each Chorister will add the beads representing the number of years they've been members of our group to their necklace. For example, if you're beginning your third year as a Chorister, you'll wear the **Commitment** beads for years one, two, and three.
- We've been invited to sing with both the Paduan Family Choir and the Adult Choir on occasion this year in an effort to collaborate with others in the Music Ministry on a more regular basis. Choristers can also choose to go deeper in collaboration with the Paduan Family Choir by serving as a mentor to the younger singers on the 2nd Sunday of the month when the Chorister Choir is not scheduled to sing. Choristers who serve with the Family choir once in 2018 and two times in 2019 at masses which the Chorister Choir is not already scheduled will earn the **Mentor** beads. Requirements: Arrive in time for the pre-mass rehearsal and sing along with the group at mass. Your presence and good example can make a difference in the younger children's experience. See the calendar for dates and details.
- Traditionally we've closed each rehearsal with a prayer, typically lead by a director. Choristers will now have the opportunity to lead our closing prayer on Thursday evenings. It can be an original prayer, spontaneous or composed beforehand, or from a book or collection that you'd like to share with the group. You only have to lead prayer once to earn your **Prayer Leader** beads.
- If you have served as **Cantor** or **Psalmist** with Choristers in the past, you will start this year with either/both respective beads. If/when you serve as Cantor or Psalmist for the first time this year, you'll add the respective beads to your necklace at the following rehearsal.
- Finally, Choristers can earn beads for **Perfect** or **Excellent Attendance**.
 - Perfect attendance is what it sounds like - every rehearsal and every Sunday on our calendar. Illnesses, retreats, and family emergencies will be excused. Family travel, serving in another ministry at another mass, and similar absences will not be excused.
 - Excellent attendance beads can be earned if you have a maximum of two unexcused absences in 2018 and a maximum of three unexcused absences in 2019.
 - You have two chances to earn these beads as attendance will be calculated and beads distributed at the end of each semester. Attendance records will start fresh in January 2019.

We want to wear our crosses each time we sing or serve our community in any way, so we will keep the necklaces at the church. If you or a family member would like to purchase an additional cross to wear at home, please let us know and we can help you place an order.

New Microphones!

You may notice two new choral microphones in the choir area. These awesome tools for capturing our beautiful sound should decrease or eliminate our need for solo mics in the choir area and will allow us to continue our efforts toward blending as one voice.