



### **Reason #1: Learn the Mass**

The Holy Mass is not an invention of human creativity. “At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the centuries until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.”

Choristers do not sing *at* Mass. They *sing the Mass*. Over the course of the year, they learn the order of the Mass, the structure of the liturgical seasons, and the Biblical sources of the words we pray. As their understanding deepens, they see that it is through the Mass that Christ continually redeems his beloved, and renews the face of the earth – and they become more and more aware of their mission to bear Christ to the world.

### **Reason #2: Faith Formation**

Part of the prayer that The Choristers recite at every Mass and rehearsal includes the petition, “Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts; and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives.” Being a Chorister is not merely about singing pretty music at Mass; it’s about learning the precepts of the Faith, and living them out in everyday life. It is an apostolate, bringing the world closer to Christ through art, beauty, and prayer.

Choristers not only prepare the notes and rhythms for Sunday Mass, but they also rehearse justice,

peace, devotion, and service. Every rehearsal features discussions of Bible stories, theological concepts, and the liturgy of the Catholic Church. How many after school activities can claim that? Our Choristers make strong Catholic friendships that will last a lifetime.

### **Reason #3: Free Music Lessons**

Chorister rehearsals take place in the meeting room of the St. Adelaide Parish Center, which is equipped with a piano, audio/visual equipment, and a whiteboard engraved with music staff lines. While the young people think they are just having fun, they are simultaneously receiving expert training in proper diction, vocal technique, and music theory. Rehearsals are led by our parish choirmaster, Michael Olbash, who holds degrees and certifications in church music and who enjoys a growing reputation for his commitment to sacred choral music programs for children.

Annual tuition in a community children's choir of this caliber, such as the Treble Chorus of New England, is close to \$1,000. Private voice lessons can easily cost well over \$2,000 per year. While these experiences are certainly valuable, be sure not to miss out on the exceptional musical training offered right here in your own parish, at virtually no cost!

### **Reason #4: Foreign Languages**

Since Latin is the official language of the Roman Catholic Church, the Choristers at St. Adelaide's learn how to sing all of the basic parts of the Mass in both English and Latin. At a time when people from different parts of the world interact and come together more frequently, it is important that all Catholics have a basic understanding of Latin. The study of Latin has also been shown to be successful in increasing test scores, expanding vocabulary, and helping young people understand grammatical structures in other languages.

The Choristers of St. Adelaide's are exposed to some of the greatest music of Western Civilization. Since much of this music was written in languages other than English, students learn to sing in many tongues. In addition to Latin and English, our students will learn music in Greek, French, Spanish, German – and even a little Swahili!

## **Reason #5: Christmas**

There is nothing more beautiful than the purity of children's voices singing the traditional carols of our heritage. The Choristers of St. Adelaide's learn the same harmonizations and descants you would hear on the radio if you tune in to the broadcasts from King's College on Christmas Eve. In addition to singing at Christmas Mass, they sing at the Service of Lessons & Carols, and participate in teaching carols to other children at the "Kids, Carols, and Pizza" night on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Our Choristers begin working on Christmas music in September so that every note sounds perfectly glorious by December 25. Their faces beam with joy as they put on their choir robes, process through the candlelit church singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and kneel before the image of our Newborn King. Singing in a choir for Christmas is an unforgettable experience, and a memory which will be treasured for a lifetime.

## **Reason #6: Pueri Cantores**

The Choristers of St. Adelaide's is a member choir of Pueri Cantores, the official international organization of Roman Catholic youth choirs, under the Vatican Dicastery of the Laity, Family, and Life. Our choirmaster, Michael Olbash, serves on the Board of Directors of the American Federation Pueri Cantores, and organizes Pueri Cantores events around the country.

In April 2017, our Choristers will attend the New England Pueri Cantores Festival at St. Paul's Choir School in Harvard Square, Cambridge, the only Roman Catholic boys' choir school in the United States. The festival will conclude with Mass at St. Paul's Church, where our Choristers will join the St. Paul's choir boys, as well as several other Catholic choirs from all over New England, singing under the direction of Lee Gwozdz, the cathedral music director of Corpus Christi, Texas, and president of the American Federation Pueri Cantores.

## **Reason #7: Choir & Arts Festival**

In November, the Choristers will attend an ecumenical Choir & Arts Festival at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Canton, sponsored by the Southeastern New England Chapter of the Choristers Guild. Over the course of the day-long festival, the Choristers will join choirs from all over New England in singing some fun and exciting Christian music under the direction of Dr. Christine Noel, the conductor and co-founder of the Rhode Island Children's Chorus, artistic director of the Providence Singers, and Director of Choral Activities at Clark University.

In addition to the singing, participants in the festival will also have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions in other artistic disciplines, including crafts, dancing, acting, handbell ringing, and African drumming.

### **HOW TO JOIN**

Chorister rehearsals are open to boys and girls, Grades 3 to 8, as well as young women in high school and beyond. The Choristers rehearse on Wednesday afternoons and sing regularly at the 10:00 Mass on Sunday mornings. New members are welcome to attend an open rehearsal and pizza supper on Wednesday, September 28, 5:30-6:45 pm. For more information, please contact the choirmaster, Michael Olbash, at 781-248-6098 or at [olbash@post.harvard.edu](mailto:olbash@post.harvard.edu)