



**"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" - Ephesians 5:19**

Dear families of St. Gregory the Great Church,

My name is Kristin Lafferty and I have been the cantor for the 9am Mass for about 3 years and have also been a part of the adult choir. I am going into my Senior year at the University of Rhode Island as an undergraduate Music Education Major. It is with great pleasure that I write to you about an exciting opportunity for your children. We are pleased to announce that the St. Gregory the Great Church Youth Choir will be up and running this fall! Myself and Chaylee McAdam, a fellow Music Education Major at the University of Rhode Island have been selected to lead this wonderful group while Anita is out on medical leave. Any child who is interested in joining can sign up by emailing either of us directly. There will also be an email coming from the CCD coordinators with a Google form to fill out. Previous experience is not required to join and this choir is open to anyone under the age of thirteen. Just as the sign outside our church reads, "All are Welcome" and if your child has a song in their heart, they have a place in this choir!

We want to assure families that their child's safety and health is our top priority and we will be abiding by the current guidelines established for choirs and gatherings. We plan to continually check and make sure that what we are doing to stay safe while singing is the best and most accurate. Children will meet either on Sunday's at 9:00am-10:15 (so families will still be able to attend mass) or Wednesdays at 4:30-5:30pm before the adult choir's rehearsal (you could stay after and join the adult choir!). Rehearsals will include "lawn sings" or "church sings" where we will sing either outside the church on the front lawn or in the basement of the church. Now for the safety rules we will enforce... when we have "lawn sings" children will bring their own lawn chair and wear their masks until they are seated. All lawn chairs will be facing the same direction and placed six feet from each other. Children will have the option of removing their mask once they are seated with their music. Children will be expected to bring a black binder or folder to hold any music or materials given to them. These materials will then stay at the church and won't be taken back and forth. When having our "church sings" in the basement of the church, children will be seated fourteen feet from each other, all facing the same direction. The same mask rule will apply where they will have the option of removing their mask once seated. If they need to get up from their chair at any point, the mask must be worn. As some added information, there are "singers" masks that can be purchased if you are interested in purchasing one for your child but it is not required.

All of this information is a lot to process but I can assure you that we will do everything in our power to make this a worthwhile experience for your child. With all of life's uncertainties right now, our goal is to create an environment of comfort, fun and learning all while staying safe. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to either of us! Once we have a clear idea of who is signed up for this choir we will be able to give more information about when our first rehearsal will be. We look forward to hearing from you and meeting new faces! Use the emails listed below to contact us and sign up or use the google survey coming to you soon via email.

Best,

Kristin Lafferty & Chaylee McAdam

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