

SJB MUSIC MINISTRY: CHILDRENS CHOIRS

GLORIA Choir (Grades 3 & 4) starts August 21

LAUDATE Choir (Grades 5 - 8) starts August 22

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Choir (Grades 3 - 8) starts September 6

POLISH LANGUAGE CHOIR (All Grades) in (Church MRR - Music Rehearsal Room)

Reflections on our SJB Children's Choirs

By Ewa Fair (6/1/18)

As the Children's Choir Director at our parish for the past 4 seasons, I'd like to share with you some of my experiences while working with these wonderful children.

When I began we had 23 students from the school only. Now we have 3 choir groups: from the SJB School GLORIA (Grades 3-4) Tuesdays at 2:00 PM; also from SJB School LAUDATE 3:00 PM Wednesdays; from Religious Education Classes Thursdays 5:30 PM. A fourth group has formed for special events like the Pueri Cantores Festival or Polish First Communion Mass. We have currently over 40 children in all our groups. You can see us together serving at Family Masses each month and at school Masses every Thursday morning at 8:30.

The highlight of our season is always Christmas Mass, where no choir member is absent! They love it and the parents always show their love and appreciation enthusiastically. We make the most joyful noise to the Lord! For the past couple of years we participated at the Festival of Cultures. Just before our performance the children were so ready to sing! One of the students was so excited that she said, "Mrs. Fair, this is the most advanced we have ever sung!" We recently attended the Pueri Cantores Festival at Holy Name Cathedral, which involved children's choirs from around the Midwest region. We saw and heard how good we are! It was a great outing and a fine musical experience for children.

As the season goes on, we know more and more music by heart, we are more confident and often we sing in 2 and 3 part harmony. We sing in different languages, and when we are asked what language we prefer to sing, they will always pick Latin over English! We sing in Zulu, Spanish, Nigerian, Yiddish and in Polish, and especially during Lent we sing simple chants in Latin.

What made me write this article about our Children's Choirs is that we are very "visible." More parishioners have heard us singing at the Masses or school open houses, Dialogue of Cultures, Holy Name Men's Club Christmas Party and they want to know about us. Random people stop me at the church, gym, stores and on the street and ask me about our SJB Children's Choirs.

Some tell me that they attend every Thursday School Mass because it makes them happy to hear children sing. Some tell me that the children's voices encourage them to sing. They all ask me how I do it. My answer is that I like to share what I know and love about music and serving God with a very young generation.

At First Communion Mass, someone from out of town said to us: "I have never heard a children's choir sound so good!"

My mission is to plant joy in their hearts for singing to God. It is important for them to remember how it feels when they sing a beautiful hymn at Mass. I teach them to make use of the hymnal and to know what to do with it. My reward for working with them is seeing and hearing their joy and receiving inspiration for planning their next new musical challenge!

We have had children from grades 2-8, and I am happy to see how the older children are helping the younger to find their page or place on the page where we are currently singing. We have a number of siblings within our choirs, and I hear from their parents that this is the only activity they are doing together. This is certainly an experience they will always cherish. We have very talented boys voices in our group, and down the road we hope to form a Boys Choir!

Our plans for 2018/19 season:

GLORIA Choir (Grades 3 & 4) starts August 21

LAUDATE Choir (Grades 5 - 8) starts August 22

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Choir (Grades 3 - 8) starts September 6

Family Masses

Grandparents Day

Dialogue of Cultures February Evening

Pueri Cantores Festival February 23

We will visit and sing a Mass at a special church in Chicago.

We will sing at St. Cecilia Mass in Wisconsin Dells and have family fun.

Children in grades 6, 7, and 8 need to step up and out and join our group because we have other extraordinary plans for them.

Dear Parishioners,

There has been quite a bit of interest generated regarding a Polish language Children's Choir here at SJB. We have decided to begin one! Ms. Ewa Fair, our SJB Children's Choir Director, who was born near Krakow, will direct this group. Presently she leads one combined children's choir at SJB with over 40 members which you can hear at every Family Mass, on special occasions during the year and at Thursday 8:30 AM Mass.

Rehearsals will be every Wednesday 4:30 – 5:30 PM in the Church's Music Rehearsal Room – please access this room from the east door of the church and main parking lot.

Our first meeting will be on September 5. We cordially invite every parent to bring your child or children who love to sing. If you have a Polish neighbor with children, kindly share this information with them, and with all who might be interested in joining. Incidentally, our English-speaking choir is comprised of an equal number of boys and girls, so please understand that all boys are invited.

If you have questions about our efforts to begin this choir, please speak with our Director of Music, Marek Rachelski or contact Ms. Fair at 773 551-0284.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SJB CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Tuesday	2:00 - 3:15 PM	SJB GLORIA Choir (Grades 3-4) in School
Wednesday	3:00 - 4:15 PM	SJB LAUDATE Choir (Grades 5-8) in School
Wednesday	4:30 - 5:30 PM	SJB POLISH CHOIR (All Grades) in (Church MRR - Music Rehearsal Room)
Thursday	5:30 - 6:30 PM	SJB RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Choir (All Grades) in School

Drodzy Parafianie,

W związku z dużym zainteresowaniem rodziców polskim Chórem Dziecięcym wychodzimy rodzicom na przeciw i organizujemy taki właśnie chór w naszej parafii.

Pani Ewa Fair urodziła się blisko Krakowa. Prowadzi już u nas jeden chór dziecięcy do którego należy obecnie ponad 40 dzieci z różnych grup. Chór ten można usłyszeć podczas każdej Mszy rodzinnej (Family Mass) w każdy czwartek o 8:30 rano, a także w czasie różnych okoliczności z działalności parafii.

Próby odbywać się będą w każdą środę w salce chóralnej przy wejściu od strony parkingu w godzinach 4:30-5:30

Pierwsze spotkanie odbędzie się we środę 5 września. Serdecznie zapraszamy rodziców z dziećmi które kochają śpiew. (w anglojęzycznym chórze prawie połowa chóru to chłopcy!). Prosimy podzielić się tą informacją ze swoimi znajomymi.

Prosimy kierować wszelkie pytania do Ewy Fair Children's Choir Director, tel. 773-551-0284 lub Marka Rachelskiego.

Ewa Fair ukończyła z wyróżnieniem Akademię Muzyczną w Krakowie, urodziła się na Śląsku i jest silnie z tym regionem związana. Jest solistką w zespole Lira Ensemble i można jej głos usłyszeć na przeróżnych koncertach w okolicach Chicago w przeciągu ostatnich kilkunastu lat.

Ewa Fair zaczyna od września swój 5 sezon w kościele Sw. Brebeuf, jako kantor podczas Mszy niedzielnej, pogrzebowej bądź ślubnej i również jako dyrektor chóru dziecięcego.

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