

# St Mary Choir

## Guidelines and Policies

Singing in the St Mary Choir is a wonderful way of getting involved in a parish ministry, meeting great people, and participating in the liturgy. We welcome everyone who wishes to join us! No formal music training is required to join the St Mary Choir. Singers will be expected to:

1. Love music and love contributing to the ensemble
2. Sing in tune (be able to match pitch)
3. Be able to repeat a melody back the way it was played to you
4. Have a good ear and be able to blend with those around you

There are no auditions to join the St Mary Choir, just a quick vocal placement prior to your first rehearsal, so you can be assigned to the correct vocal group (high/low voice). Due to the difficulty of some of the music that we sing, members are generally only accepted into the choir twice a year (August and January), so they have time to learn the larger pieces we sing at Christmas and Easter. Open enrollment usually lasts 2 or 3 weeks, and is posted on the bulletin and website in advance.

### Other expectations and policies

Being part of the St Mary Choir requires a commitment of both time and talent.

Rehearsals: You'll be expected to attend weekly rehearsals regularly. One of the goals of singing in a choir is that you learn the music as a group, and learn to blend with your neighbors, and phrase the music together. If you miss too many rehearsals, there is a good possibility you will not be able to contribute positively to the overall sound of the group. Members who miss more than 3 rehearsals – even if they can read music – will need to meet with the music director to show that they know the music well enough to sing with the group. In such instances, participation in special Masses will be at the discretion of the music director. Dress rehearsals and rehearsals with the St Mary Orchestra are mandatory and cannot be missed. Finally, during busy times such as Easter and Christmas, members may need to attend additional rehearsals.

Masses: Choir members are expected to be available to sing with the group during major church feasts and holidays. These include, but are not limited to, Christmas, Easter, Christ the King/Thanksgiving, Memorial Day. Occasionally, we have the opportunity to serve by singing in other locations, such as the Denver Cathedral.

Dedication: Each member is expected to know the music. Practice tracks are generally available, either online or recorded by the music director. You are expected to practice the music at home, and to sing your part with confidence.

Dress code: The choir dresses in black on Sundays, and fancy black on special Masses. Men should wear black suits for special Masses. Women may wear pants or long skirts. No shorts or above the knee skirts will be allowed in the loft. Members will receive scarves for special Masses such as Easter and Christmas upon joining.