

St. Stephen Choir News

“cantare amantis est” (singing belongs to one who loves)
- St. Augustine

December 1, 2009

Volume 3

Dear St. Stephen Choir Family,

December has arrived! I probably don't need to remind you that it's a busy month. ☺

On December 6, all choirs will combine for the 9:30 mass, as we celebrate the opening of our new Parish Center. We combine again for the December 13 Family Mass at 9:30. Christmas Eve and Day masses are as in previous years; as always, I understand that the holiday schedule may not allow you to attend *every* Advent/Christmas mass – but the St. Stephen community is very grateful for the time you can devote to singing with us.

As I write this on the day before Thanksgiving, I am still wanting to cling to autumn – cooler weather, changing colors and nostalgic scents, stopping for a few minutes each day just to enjoy the present and be truly thankful. Yet we are being pushed (earlier and earlier each year, it seems), into the Christmas frenzy – by media of all kinds, storefront windows, and the accumulation of event, after event, after event, on our calendars.

As Music Ministers, we are a form of media delivering a different message: one of peace, introspection, and quiet joy. As members of our congregation arrive at mass each week, they will have been bombarded by messages that greatly contradict this one. Let us remember our distinct role, and above all – be patient with ourselves if it is sometimes difficult to find that calm center for ourselves. As each Advent mass begins, let the opening words of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” be a centering prayer, as we invite others to come into that space.

Yours in Christ,

Angela Zullinger

coming up this month

Sunday, December 6 *Advent II*

- 9:30 Mass – all choirs combine
 - ***new Parish Center opens***

Sunday, December 13 *Advent III*

- 9:30 Mass – all choirs combine (Family Mass, led by 6th Graders of our Parish)

Sunday, December 20 *Advent IV*

- 9:30 Mass - Juniors & HSP
- 11:30 Mass – Adults

Thursday, Dec 24 *Christmas Eve*

- 4:30 Mass – Juniors & HSP
- 12:00am (Midnight) Mass – Adults (caroling begins at 11:30pm)

Friday, Dec 25 *Christmas Day*

- 9:30 Mass – Juniors & HSP
- 11:30 Mass – Adults

Sunday, Dec 27 *Christmas (Holy Family)*

- 9:30 Mass - Juniors & HSP
- 11:30 Mass – Adults