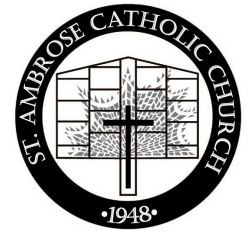


**J.E. Cosgriff Catholic Elementary School**  
*Disclosure Statement for Liturgy and Music (Liturgical Choir)*  
Mr. Huntzinger



## Welcome to the Liturgical Choir Grades 4, 5 and 6

The institution of the choir has served as an integral part of Catholic Worship for over a thousand years!

*A well trained choir adds beauty and solemnity to the liturgy and also assists and encourages the singing of the congregation.*

*"Of all the sounds of which human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, are capable, voice is the most privileged and fundamental. Musical instruments in the Liturgy are best understood as an extension of and support to the primary liturgical instrument, which is the human voice."*

As we reflect on what it means to be Catholic today and how our faith applies to this ever-changing world around us; we turn to the celebration of the Liturgy (Mass). Our Catholic identity flows freely from this ancient form of worship where we encounter the Living Christ in His Body and Blood and His holy Word and then go out as His followers to spread the Good News to our world and to be Christ's hands and feet to those in need. Worship is not a spectator sport! Worship is the way we live our lives in *response* to God's love for us.

### **CLASS HOSTED MASSES      \* A schedule will be sent home early September \***

On every first Sunday of the month beginning in October each grade from Cosgriff and Religious Ed will have the opportunity to host the 11am mass where students serve as Altar Servers, Lectors, Cantors, Gift Bearers and Greeters and the Choir. The Liturgical Choir (Grades 4, 5 and 6) is the intended musical leadership for all of these masses (7 total). The success of the choir's effectiveness (musically) depends greatly on the number of children singing (more is much better) —please consider making a commitment to attend and help serve at all of these masses hosted by the school.

Saint Ambrose Parish generously supports the mission and life of the School through the use of its facilities, constant financial support and spiritually through prayer and other acts of service. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to recognize the Parish that supports them and personally give to them an inestimable gift of hope and faith expressed well through the music they bring to the community's spiritual life.

**Sunday best is required for the Children's Choir attire (no jeans or shorts).**

**The students need to be in the choir loft 45 minutes before a scheduled mass.**

### **CLASSROOM MATERIALS**

All students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are to purchase 1 ream of white 8.5 x 14 paper and bring to the main office by August 27. This paper will be used for classroom handouts, school liturgies and weekend liturgies throughout the school year.

All music and liturgical documents, will be handed out in class. The music that is handed out belongs to J.E. Cosgriff and Saint Ambrose—it is to be taken care of and returned in the condition it was given -music is expensive.

All students will be given a numbered choral folder and will have to purchase a new folder (\$15) if theirs is damaged or unusable at the end of the year.

### **GRADING**

The Liturgy / Choir course will be a portion of the students Religion grade. The students are expected to participate in every rehearsal and demonstrate a good working ethic grounded in respectful Christian behavior and attitude. They will receive points for participation at every rehearsal. At school masses the students effort and attitude and attentiveness will be evaluated and counted as part of their grade. Participation in masses scheduled for the weekends are not counted as a part of their grade.

## CLASSROOM RULES

I expect all students to follow the Classroom Rules (Choir Loft Rules):

1. Follow the directions the first time they are given.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak or leave your seat (no restroom breaks).
3. Do not touch anyone else with your hands, your feet, or any object.
4. Respect one another and all classroom materials.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING RULES

Students will receive one verbal warning when breaking a classroom rule.

If the behavior continues the student is notified (verbally) that all participation points are lost.

If the behavior escalates the student will receive a behavioral referral and/or a call home depending on the severity of the offense.

Consistent disregard of the classroom rules and the other students will result in a conference with the student, the parent(s), the teacher and the principal.

We are very fortunate to have the privilege of using the church (choir loft) as our learning center.

Students are expected to respect the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament (by genuflecting or bowing for non-Catholics) when passing in front of the Tabernacle and recognize that the church is primarily a house of prayer by being respectful (silent) when walking through the church.

It is a physiological fact that *almost* **all** children **can** sing (not true with all adults). All students are expected to give their best vocal performance at every class. We will all respect the individual vocal abilities of every student and will never insult or make fun of anyone's "singing voice" as all students are expected to sing.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

My office is located in the Vaughan Center. Please feel free to call me at any time (801-209-3387).

My email address is [chuntzinger@cosgriff.org](mailto:chuntzinger@cosgriff.org) and the number listed above is my direct telephone number.

## CONCLUSION

The Institution of the Choir has always been a part of the Catholic School Curriculum and the Choir has served an integral part of Christian worship for over a thousand years. Until recently, children have always been involved in the choir. The opportunity to use these gifts and talents in this unique way happens only in a small window of time in the life of these children.

The musical foundation they receive through learning **how** to sing will have a great impact on their ability to make sense of musical phrases and nuances that accompany the instruments many of them play and may continue to play throughout their lives. It helps them become musicians.

(And) If they simply have the ability to understand and appreciate a great musical experience in their life—  
our work was successful.

-Mr. Huntzinger