

# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

## Ministry Spotlight: Music

For many parishioners, a highlight of each Mass is the beautiful music – the cantors, the choir and the instrumentalists who so enrich the liturgical experience.

There are several opportunities to get involved with the Music Ministry at St. Sebastian, including a brand new handbell choir, said Lynn Frey, director of music and organist. The Music Ministry needs:

**Cantors** – Cantors sing at the various Masses on a rotating schedule. They commit to seasonal rehearsals with Frey and personal practice.

**Choir** – The choir rehearses from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays and performs at various Masses. A spin-off group is the Men's Quartet.

**Contemporary Music** - All instruments are welcome. The group rehearses from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and performs at one Mass per weekend. When the new Mass schedule begins, the group will probably perform at the 11 a.m. Mass.

**Children's Choir** – All parish children in grades 1 through 8, including day school, PSR and home schoolers, are welcome. Rehearsal begins on Saturdays at 3 p.m. about nine weeks prior to Christmas and the choir performs at the Children's Christmas Mass. Rehearsal resumes during Lent and continues until a few weeks after Easter. To accommodate more children, Frey will also begin a second rehearsal group on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Handbell Choir** – New to St. Sebastian, the handbell choir requires 12 committed individuals who will each have their own

bell. "Each brass bell is like one key on a piano," said Frey. "You don't have to read music, just count." Rehearsal begins in late September from 6 to 7:15 p.m. on Thursdays. Handbell choirs for both adults and children are planned.

If you have thought about joining Music Ministry but worried about the level of talent required or the time commitment, Frey suggests you make a three-month commitment.

"We never put anyone on the spot," she said. "We ask for volunteer soloists." As for the time commitment, she said, "We all have families and other responsibilities. If you can make it to 85 percent or more of the rehearsals and Masses, you've done great."

Frey developed her love of music from her grandparents, who were a pianist and violinist.

Growing up in Minerva, Ohio, she was, at age 10, already a "paid" church organist with a career in music ministry mapped out. She went on to get a master's degree in music from the University of Akron.

A career highlight came in 2002 when Frey took her choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Canton to perform before Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. They performed at a High Mass at St. Peter's, at a city concert in Rome and before 2,000 people in a papal audition.

"Music is the unspoken word," she said. "It brings out emotion and takes you to the next level in your relationship with God."

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" (James 2:5)