



# Choirs in Quarantine

*Keeping the children singing during the pandemic*



April 20, 2021

Vol. 3, Issue 2



"The Saint Agatha Parish Youth Choir last sang together in person nearly a year ago, in March 2020. In an effort to keep connected, we held virtual rehearsals last Spring, but found that there was less enthusiasm for yet another virtual activity as time went on. During the summer months, we engaged some of our choir singers as junior cantors for special Masses, like first communions. When the parish's "Family" Mass was reintroduced late last fall, those junior cantors took on the responsibility of singing hymns and chanting the psalms for that Mass each week on a rotating schedule. These same dedicated junior

cantors sang in a masked quartet for a Christmas Eve Mass bringing much joy to our congregation during this time when congregational singing is paused.

Finally, this winter, some of the Youth Choir singers participated in our first-ever virtual choir video. "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" is an upbeat favorite of the choir, and we chose to sing verses 1 and 4, to emphasize that we can still sing the praises of the Lord, even if we have to find new and creative ways to do it. The audio portion of the recording is available for our parish's livestream Masses, as well. While virtual choir isn't the same as singing together in person, hearing these young singers again has been a lift for our congregation. We're currently working on our next video, and hoping we may again sing together in person soon."

-Julie Fay, Music Director and Organist / St. Agatha Parish, Milton, MA



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"My school did something a little different with our Christmas virtual choirs this year. We combined original arrangements from our previous 8th grade classes in 2019 with this year's 3rd grade for our creation of "Carol of the Bells." It was special for my students to not just have written the harmonies and background music for this piece but bring it back and continue the tradition with a fresh new quarantine edition of our young students. Enjoy!"

-Lauren Casserly, Music Teacher  
St. Mary of the Mills School, Laurel, MD