# 2025-2026 **JUNIOR CHOIR** (grades 1-3)
## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

Paul French, Director

*Rehearsals begin on **Wednesday, September 10** from **3:05-3:30pm** in Casey Hall.

**Junior Choir Liturgical Calendar 2025-2026:**
(In addition to participation in OLMCA School Masses)

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| **Saturday, October 4** | 3:45 pm Rehearsal – **Casey**/4:30 pm Mass *(28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)*<br>*with the TREBLE Choir<br>A ***MANDATORY* PARENT MEETING (5:30-6:00pm)** follows in Church. |
| **Sunday, October 26** | 8:55 am Rehearsal/9:30 am Mass (*30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)* |
| **Sunday, December 7** | 8:55 am Rehearsal/9:30 am Mass (*Second Sunday of Advent)*<br>**Following Mass there is a St. Nicholas event in Casey Hall!* |
| **Friday, January 2** | **2:00-3:30pm Rehearsal in CHURCH for Epiphany Concert |
| **Saturday, January 3** | *7:00 pm Epiphany Concert (All Parish Choirs) – **5:30pm arrival**<br>*Reception follows in Casey Hall |
| **Sunday, January 25** | 8:45 am Rehearsal – **Casey** /9:30 am Mass (3rd *Sunday of Ordinary Time)*<br>*with the TREBLE Choir – Catholic Schools Week |
| **Sunday, March 1** | 8:55 am Rehearsal/9:30 am Mass *(2nd Sunday of Lent)* |
| **Sunday, April 19** | 8:55 am Rehearsal/9:30 am Mass *(3rd Sunday of Easter)* |
| **Sunday, May 10** | 8:45 am Rehearsal – **Casey Hall** /9:30 am Mass<br>*with the TREBLE Choir *(6th Sunday of Easter)* |

There will be **no Wednesday choir rehearsal** on the following dates:
November 26 (*Thanksgiving break*)
December 31(*Christmas break*)
April 8 (*Spring break*)

***Final rehearsal of the season:* May 6

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Music has always played an important role in the liturgical life of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church*. The development of our Treble Junior Choir (grades 4-8) and Junior Choir (grades 1-3) are a part of the history of the commitment of this parish to fine sacred music. We are an affiliate of the *American Federation Pueri Cantores*, the official student choral organization in the Roman Catholic Church which seeks to build up the Church by promoting for high standards in sacred music. The Junior Choir experience promotes growth in vocal technique, an introduction to music theory and sight reading, provides a continuing catechetical foundation and fosters an appreciation for the Church's rituals and traditions. The choir will focus on learning a repertoire of music from the immense treasury of sacred music which belongs to the Catholic Church.

**Chorister Fee**: (**$100 - annual fee)**. Please make your check payable to ***Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,*** or via this link: https://ppay.co/Z9mRBLj9YUY or scan the QR Code below:

The fee helps support the parish music program, covers the costs of choral music binders, new choral music, some treats, and the end of season party. Financial challenges should *never* impact your child's participation. If the Chorister Fee needs to be modified or waived, please be in touch with Mr. French at **pfrench@ourlmc.org.**

**Parent Permission form:** A signed parental permission form **(signed by both parent and chorister)** must be received by Mr. French for your child to participate in the choir's activities.

## EXPECTATIONS

**Attendance:** Attendance at all rehearsals and liturgies is *expected*. If any choir member will be absent or tardy, a parent should inform Mr. French via via email (**pfrench@ourlmc.org)** or telephone call **(773-249-7080 x127)** prior to the expected absence. As the Junior Choir only sings at Mass a very few times during the year – focusing on learning how to sing, read music, and be a member of a choir, rather than being pressed to learn repertoire, it is expected that families will make attendance at our choral Masses a priority. It is understood that young people have very full schedules, and it is nearly impossible to expect a 100% attendance policy. A choir, however, functions just like a sports team and rehearsal time is critical to realize the full potential of the ensemble.

**Junior Choir (grades 1-3) rehearsals:** All rehearsals are held in Casey Hall each Wednesday of the school year (note exceptions in the Calendar) from **3:05-3:30 pm, beginning September 10th**.

All choristers in the Junior Choir will receive a "Free Vocal Assessment" in the days leading up to that initial rehearsal, so that I may better know these choristers' individual voices and hear how their ranges may have changed over the summer.

At the end of the rehearsal, choristers who will be picked up by their parents should be met by them at the door to Casey Hall. No chorister will be allowed to exit the building without adult supervision. Those staying on for the Extended Day Program will be led there by an adult. In the case of inclement weather, we will cancel rehearsal if OLMCA has cancelled school for the day.

**Dress Policy for Mass:**

Students in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy: Formal School uniforms (with sweaters and ties).
All other students:
(Boys) button down collared shirts, tie, and dress paints with dark dress shoes.
(Girls) Appropriate dress or blouse with an appropriate neckline and skirt (at the knee or below) combination with dress shoes. No sneakers, sandals, high heels or flip-flops, please.