

THE PASTOR'S POST

GLORY AND PRAISE

Dear Parish Family:

I am privileged in these weeks to be working with some of the fifth and sixth graders in the school for their religion class. It is good for me to teach a little more regularly and of course they love it! (Well...love might be a strong word!)

In fifth grade, in the midst of the Season of Creation, we are talking about the story of Creation and how God has created, ordered, and adorned it all. We are beginning to speak about praise and worship and how all of this will connect to liturgy and sacraments. As a reflection and application, I played the Glory to God from the Mass of Glory. We use it at the Six and we have used other parts of the setting at other Masses in the Church. One of the kids screamed out, "We sing this at Church on Sunday nights!" His excitement showed he was obviously impacted by attending Mass and now was beginning to make some of the deeper connections in class. Somehow it all comes together.

This reflection connects to something else I want to share with you regarding the music ministry in our parish. As some of you may have heard, Susan Porteus, our Director of Music Ministry, will retire on October 12, 2025. As a parish, recognizing our financial and our pastoral realities, we are going to eliminate this position.

Needless to say, this is a big change in the life of our parish on many levels.

First, and most significant, in this transition is Susan. Susan has served at St. Brigid's for 34 years. In that time, she has served as organist, music director – with all that entails, choir director, bulletin editor, and a member of the Pastoral Team (and probably many other things I do not know about). She has worked with various music directors, musicians, pastors, priests, staff members and in her collaboration has been part of a dynamic, life giving parish. Like the

student in my 5th grade class, Susan's work has impacted many. In her work and ministry she has helped many of us come together to give glory and praise to God!

Over the past three years, I have had the opportunity to work with Susan in the day in and day out of liturgy and music. I am grateful to her for her openness and her patience with me. (I can be A LOT, particularly in this area as you might guess.)

There is some good news for our parish! Susan will still be part of our mission and ministry. She will remain as an organist assisting at liturgies, especially weddings and funerals and perhaps some Sunday Masses too.

The diversity and giftedness of our music ministries calls for and allows for a different structure, recognizing the many hands, hearts, voices (in various styles, languages and cultures), sounds, and gifts that make up this incredible part of our parish life. This includes eight choirs, composing nearly 200 people, cantors, and instrumentalists. Wow! And there's always room for more!

Like most changes, we will hit some "bumps" on the road and learn a great deal in the weeks and months ahead. This change will most immediately and directly impact our Adult Choir and the members of the Italian Choir, at least temporarily. We will need to make some adjustments as various existing staff members take on additional responsibilities that Susan handled and we add a new, very part-time position to the staff that will focus more on liturgy, with some coordination of music ministry matters as well. More on this in the weeks to come!

For now, let us give thanks to God for the gift of Susan in these days of change for her and for our parish, trusting that somehow it will all come together in the weeks and months to come.

Please pray for me. I promi:

