

## **Children's Choir Philosophy**

Joining a choir helps young singers to develop the qualities of self-discipline, self-confidence, and pride in individual and group accomplishment. These qualities while vital for successful choirs, also help children in dealing with life's challenges outside of choir.

Singing in a children's choir is a ministry. In much the same way that readers, acolytes, and communion ministers perform special tasks in service to the worshiping community, so too, the children's choir and all musicians perform a sacred ministry for the Church. This ministry expects much of us; it calls all choir members to be living witnesses of the Gospel and inspire the assembly to pray through word, song, and active listening. Children's Choir ministry asks that we cooperate in the Christian spirit and grow in faith as well as in our musical abilities.

St. James Children's Choir is a volunteer organization, joining the group indicates a willingness to cooperate and to sacrifice a certain amount of time for choir rehearsals and Masses. Like membership on any sports team, attendance at rehearsals and Masses is crucial to the success of the group. When a child is absent, our "team" is diminished and thus cannot perform to its fullest potential. Parents and children alike should make every effort to attend scheduled rehearsals and Masses.

Membership in St. James Children's Choir teaches children the value of participation in parish life. Through sacred music we learn the teachings of Jesus Christ and how to enact them with love and service to our faith community.