

Parish

News



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A Tribute to Retiring Members of St. Agnes Parish Music Ministry Senior Choir

Information courtesy of Jean Joy

The St. Agnes Music Ministry recently hosted a Celebration to honour three members who are retiring after many years of sharing their musical gifts. Our Parish sincerely thanks these three special people for their years of dedicated service.

Marcia Vaillant

Marcia began playing the organ for St. Agnes at the age of 16. She has served as Choir Director over a span of 38 years, pausing only for two years when she started her own family and again for just one year to tour England.



With Marcia's leadership, the choir performed each Sunday at the 11 a.m. Mass as well as during special occasion liturgies. She led the Senior Choir in music festivals, achieving at least one First Class standing, participated in Choral Thursday several times, and organized our own fundraising concerts and variety shows in support of parish causes. Marcia enjoyed leading her members in dress-up events where choir members had terrific fun performing music as Nuns, chickens, Italian chefs, and farmers, to mention a few.

The Music Ministry also hosted workshops with renowned composers. The outstanding talent of our own members allowed them to step in and play with internationally renowned composers including Tom Kendzia and Rory Cooney, often with only one rehearsal. Marcia ensured that the workshops were open to the entire Diocese, so that many Catholics could share in great music and grow their musical knowledge.

Jo-Anne Borgo

When Jo-Anne was 13 years of age, she began playing as an accompanist at St. Margaret's Parish. In 1995, while a student of Ted Vaillant at St. Ignatius High School, she was invited by Ted to join the St. Agnes Music Ministry. This was the beginning of a 25-year joyous journey with our Parish choir. Jo-Anne was a true team player, often stepping in to play the flute while others played the piano.

Jo-Anne accompanied the choir in concerts, music festivals, and all other performances. This talented musician was diligent in her preparation and played her music flawlessly and most beautifully.

Karl Schulzki

Karl's first introduction to the music of St. Agnes was with the Youth group in the 1980's. He then joined the Senior Choir in 1993, providing excellent guitar accompaniment for many years. Karl has also been singing with the male section of the Choir and has capably filled in as Director when needed. Karl also understands the technical aspects of sound quality, which was a major advantage to the Choir, as he arranged all the sound technology both for Mass as well as special performances. Today, Karl coordinates all elements of sound technology for St. Agnes Parish.

Karl was unable to attend our Celebration of Retirement, but did provide a message expressing his feelings about being part of the Music Ministry,

"I learned some important things early on at St. Agnes. The first was that if you showed an interest, someone would find you a job.

I walked into a youth choir practice in 1981 with my guitar in hand. They gladly invited me in. I played with them until they dwindled to just me. At that same time, the number of masses Sunday morning changed from 3 to 2 and I no longer had a mass to play at.

Before I could think about what to do next, Marcia invited me to play with the Senior Choir. Unsure if I would fit, I decided I had nothing to lose by trying. It wasn't long before I felt right at home.

This leads to another thing I learned. If you want to be a part of the family, pull up a chair. Someone will make room at the table. Thank you for making room at your table. For everything I've given, I received more in return."



In today's world, the kind of dedication shown by these three choir members is unprecedented. St. Agnes has been greatly blessed with the unique gifts that God has given to each one of them. We also acknowledge, with appreciation, the spouses of our three retirees. Thank you to Ted Vaillant, Michelle Schulzki, and David Borgo for their love and support.

The Senior Choir looks forward to singing together again (soon, we hope) now under the direction of Theresa Thibert. New members are welcome.

