



Dear Resurrection Families,

I am so pleased to be able to announce the details for our 'Shamrock Schola' – thank you so much for your patience in allowing me time to get my bearings with teaching music in the school. I'm very excited to continue working with the young singers of Resurrection school and to meeting new choristers from our parish community.

It has been immensely gratifying to meet so many beautiful families and observe their commitment to the education of their children in the life of the Church, especially in the beauty afforded to us by our treasured heritage of sacred music. I am looking forward to kicking off a season of beautiful music-making, all in the service of the Most Holy Trinity whom we worship at the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Your child (and by extension your family) are performing an important role in the mission of the Church by glorifying God through song, as well as helping to sanctify all who participate in the Mass by means of beautiful music.

In what follows, I'd just like to let you know a little bit about the obligations that participation in the Shamrock Schola carries. If you have any questions about these things, please let me know:

- **Commitment:** The Shamrock Schola will be comprised of children who are dedicated to learning chant and providing music for Masses. As a privileged group of leaders, schola choristers will be expected to demonstrate the utmost maturity, respect, industriousness, and prayerfulness, both in rehearsal and during liturgies. Children who repeatedly come to rehearsal unprepared or are disruptive may be asked to step down.
- **Who is Eligible:** Any child who has been through sacramental preparation for First Communion can audition for the schola (so most will be in Grade 3 & above). Younger children who are not enrolled at Resurrection School are eligible for the homeschool Chant Class (details in a separate document).
- **Auditions:** Because schola is fulfilling a liturgical role at Holy Mass by leading others in singing, they must be able to model the music excellently for our congregation. For that reason, each chorister must have the ability to sing alone and demonstrate matching pitch. It is not necessary that a child be able to read chant notation before joining schola.
 - **Auditions will take place on Monday, September 27th and Tuesday the 28th from 3:15-4:15 in the music room;** each audition will last about 10 minutes (siblings may share a time slot). Parents are very welcome to 'sit in' to auditions if your child(ren) feel more comfortable having you there. Please sign up for a rehearsal time here: <https://calendly.com/gchristianmusic/shamrock-schola-audition>
 - Children who are not yet able to match pitch will be given an opportunity to receive some free private vocal coaching from me, and will have a second chance to join schola in January.
- **Rehearsals:** Beautiful music is the result of hard work and diligent practice. The Shamrock Schola will be rehearsing weekly on Mondays, beginning on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, **Monday, October 4th, from 3:10-4:25 pm in the music room.** A more detailed calendar will be sent home on the first day of rehearsal.
 - **Homeschool Drop-off:** Choristers who are not enrolled at Resurrection School may be dropped off at or before 3 pm, at the main Preschool Entrance.
 - **Resurrection Students:** All teachers will have a list of which students are attending schola; students will follow the same procedure for 'checking out', but by reminding their teacher they are going to schola.

- Pick-up: In addition to teaching children's music at our school, I also have a private studio of piano students, some of whom are scheduled on Monday evenings. It will be vital that your child(ren) are picked up promptly.
- Food and Beverages: Absolutely *no* food, gum, or drinks (other than a water bottle, which is highly encouraged!) will be permitted in the music room. Please encourage kids to consume any snacks before coming into rehearsal.
- Materials: At our first rehearsal, children will be provided a choir folder to hold all the sheet music they'll accumulate throughout the year. They will be expected to bring the folder to every rehearsal, along with a pencil (which I recommend they just keep tucked in their folders).
- Liturgies – Schola will begin leading music for Wednesday School Masses in Advent (our first Mass being December 1st). Outside of Wednesday School liturgies, we will sing for 1 special occasion this year at the end of the season: the May Crowning liturgy in the spring (date TBA later).
 - On School Mass days, the children will need to report to the choir loft in church by 7:50 am. Further logistical details for Resurrection students (re: morning assemblies) will be announced before Thanksgiving break.
- Attendance: Because our rehearsal time so limited, your child will only be allowed to miss **2 rehearsals** with an unexcused absence during our season (October-May). After the 3rd unexcused absence, your child will be asked to step down from his or her spot in the group. I am happy to grant an excused absence out of real necessity, which would *not* count towards the 2 missed rehearsals limit. Examples of excused absences would be things like a family emergency or illness that takes the student out of the regular school day as well as the rehearsal. As far as possible, please avoid scheduling doctors or other appointments that conflict with rehearsal; except in the case of emergency, these will not be counted as excused absences. That said, if your child is ill/contagious with an undesirable malady, please have him or her stay home! I will do my best to encourage generosity all year, except when it comes to germs ☺. In the case of an illness, you must email me or call me before 2:00 p.m. on the day of rehearsal to receive an unexcused absence.
- Camaraderie and Esprit de corps – It is my hope that by Christmas, we can outfit our choristers with special Shamrock Schola hoodies (if you're a design person, I'd love ideas!). God willing, we will be able to have a celebration at the end of our season.

I look forward to getting to know you, your family, and your little member of the children's choir better this year! Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: gchristian@corlansing.org.

I look forward to seeing you soon for auditions!

Pax Christi,
 Mrs. Guinevere Christian
 Director, Shamrock Schola

P.S. I'd like to thank Mr. Allstott and Fr. Steve Mattson for their commitment to and support for this endeavor.