



Welcome to Liturgical Music at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School!

Our class was created to help students have a better understanding of the Catholic Mass and to show them the different ways they can participate in the Liturgy. My hope is that by being involved in the planning and participation of the Liturgy, my students will continue what they've learned after graduating from Saint Rose. I want them to love the celebration of the Mass as much as I do and to be knowledgeable about WHY we do what we do when we gather together in the Liturgy. The students also learn how to lead a congregation in song at Mass and how to read effectively in church. In addition to our weekly classes and Masses, we also create and present a Christmas Concert each December in church.

CLASSROOM GOALS/EXPECTATIONS/HOMEWORK

Because my goal is to help the students understand and participate at Mass, the expectations I have of them are primarily participation-related. In my class, students are expected to open their books, find the numbers of the songs, and sing. I often remind them that they are missing out on prayer if they choose not to and I do understand that not everybody is comfortable with singing. In that case, they are encouraged to at least read-along as we sing. The students are taught about the music we sing and why I choose it. They hear the readings for our Masses in our class and we look at the text of the songs so that they understand how they work together.

In grades K and 1, we rarely have somebody that does not want to sing so we usually have 25 minutes of a lot of noise and fun. Since Middle School classes have a longer music class, we have supplemental activities that introduce the students to Mass planning, music history, and ideas for a career in music/music production. All grades learn about the church's Liturgical year, Sacraments, and music theory. They hear readings from the bible and learn about the life of Jesus.

As far as homework, the kids pretty much decide on that – singing in the shower or practicing words to their songs when they are lying in bed. I constantly hear them practicing their songs while they are walking in the hallway, getting their lunches, etc. They don't seem to mind that sort of homework.

RULES/GUIDELINES

The rules in our class are simple: Participate with the class, listen to the teacher, and most importantly; respect the teacher and the people around you. I have such a short period of time with each class that and we don't want to waste any of that time, so the students know to come in the room and "get to work".

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATIONS

I am lucky enough to be able to see many parents every day because of my Power Play program so I have the opportunity to communicate with them frequently. I encourage all parents to contact me at any time to discuss anything about their child(ren).

Information regarding Masses in which their kids may be involved is communicated by their homeroom teachers via Friday folder or e-mail. Christmas Concert information is communicated through Friday folders, e-mail, Redhawk, and parish bulletin.

OTHER/EXPERIENCES

Our Liturgical Music Class and our All-School Masses are full of prayerful energy and fun. I look forward to seeing each class every week. I know the students look forward to the opportunity to prepare Masses throughout the year. In fact, at the beginning of each school year, they ask me when their Masses for which they are responsible will be. They LOVE getting to present the Christmas Concert and the students and teachers here adjust their schedules to accommodate an extra music class (from the end of October to our concert in early December) so we can fully prepare for it.

I am proud of the students here at Saint Rose because they are willing and able to do the things that so many adults cannot do: Sing alone in front of a group (in class and in church), lead an entire congregation on microphone at Mass, sing and read with confidence in church, prepare and rehearse many times to make sure they are ready, and not be afraid to praise God with their whole hearts and voice.

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