



May 17, 2024

Dear St. Paul the Apostle Parish and School,

On behalf of the entire parish, I wish to thank Mr. John Bryan for his many years of dedicated service to the parish as Music Director. John will be continuing to teach music in our school as he moves to a full-time school teaching position in the fall. This Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, is the last weekend that John will be conducting the St. Paul Choir at the 10:00 AM Mass. He will continue to work in his current role over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

We, as a parish, and I, as a pastor, owe John a tremendous debt of gratitude. I am not sure it is possible for anyone to be more dedicated to a position as he has been in his dual role of Music Director and music teacher in our school. He has given us his life, in service of God, for many years.

John has more than earned a “retirement” from parish ministry as he moves into this full-time role in at St. Paul School. He has faithfully served in music ministry since 1985 beginning at St. Joseph in Freemont, then St. Ann in Freemont, then St. Agnes, Bishop Ready in Columbus, and, since 1996, here at St. Paul.

When John arrived as our Music Director, St. Paul had 10 Masses each weekend, four of which were concurrent. He made the dream his own that someday our parish would have a larger church and we would not need concurrent Masses. As the dream of a larger parish church grew, he also dreamed of a proper choir loft with a proper organ for the very special church that was being planned. His dream and determination helped inspire the beautiful choir loft and impressive pipe organ that is in our church today. As our “part-time” Music Director (also serving as “part-time” music teacher), John directed our adult choir, our teen choir, our cantors, and our youth choir. In the process, he has touched literally thousands of lives through music at Sunday Masses, through choirs he has directed, and the children he has taught.

When John informed me of his desire to step away from his role of parish Music Director we discussed how the parish could honor him and say thanks. John emphatically said he did not desire a parish wide reception but rather a special gathering with his choir. Given his unique role of service to the parish I am happy to honor his request. The parish is honoring John through the gift of a special gathering for him, the adult choir, and their families. For those of you who wish to personally express your gratitude to John, for his years of service to our music ministry, I encourage you to send a note or card addressed to him in the care of the Parish Office. We will make sure he gets all the cards and notes.

Please join me in thanking Mr. John Bryan and asking our Lord’s blessing on him in his continued service at St. Paul!

In Christ,

*Fr. Jonathan Wilson*