Here we are approaching Year Two of a five year process to a fully singing congregation and I am here to tell you, your voice matters.

Your voice when it joins the other voices achieves a heavenly sound! Your voice when it joins the other voices is the essence of church, the essence of community, the mystery of the Trinity. Your voice when it joins the other voices joins in the creation of a Divine piece of art. Your voice when it joins the other voices brings God’s presence to earth. The United States Bishops agree that “God dwells within each human person, in the place where music takes its source. Indeed, God, the giver of song, is present whenever his people sing his praises,” (Sing to the Lord, 1).

The most common complaints are: “I don’t know that song,” and “Most church songs are too high,” and my favorite yet, “If the choir and the cantor and the priest are singing, I don’t have to sing.”

“I don’t know that song” For this entire liturgical year (from December 2017 to November 2018), we promise to not ask you to sing anything new. Those involved in music ministry love to learn new songs, but we know that there are many, many “oldies but goodies” out there to belt out from the fullness of our hearts. Music Ministry Team commits to drawing from the wealth of good liturgical music that has become part of the past living liturgies of St. Michael Parish.

“Most songs are too high/low” or “I don’t have a singing voice” or “That song is too fast/slow.” Music ministry commits to making a concerted effort to make every song “sing-able.” That means that we will raise or lower the song, speed up or slow down the song, and make the instruments softer or louder to make it easiest for most people. We know not everyone sings. Some of you may have memories of being told to “quiet down” or “not sing so loud” or “maybe you could sit this one out.” I believe in terms of praising and petitioning our God, your voice is needed and loved no matter the quality. The American Bishops have admitted that “our participation in the Liturgy is challenging. Sometimes, our voices do not correspond to the convictions of our hearts. At other times, we are distracted or preoccupied by the cares of the world. Christ always invites us, however, to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice for the honor and glory of the Most Blessed Trinity,” (Sing to the Lord, 13).

“So, this year, Music Ministry is trying to break down barriers to your participation in sung prayer. Please, give singing praise to our God (a joyful noise) a chance.