

Worship Aids are Coming!

Now that some of the excitement of being able to officially sing and use our hymnals again is beginning to wear off, some of the inevitable issues of a three-parish merger are cropping up - but never fear, the music ministry has been working over the course of the past year on solutions in anticipation of this moment.

Among the biggest issue is that of musical repertoire. At St. Thecla, Breaking Bread was used along with a large amount of supplementation from public domain sources and some third-party publishers. St. Cornelius used the Gather 3 hymnals and supplemented it with a good amount of material from Breaking Bread and third-party publishers. At St. Tarcissus, the majority of music was from Gather 3, with some supplementation from various sources. In order to take advantage of the entire musical "vocabulary" of all our parishioners, and in order to have the musical material to continue with the varied worship styles at each Mass, it would be necessary to purchase several additional print resources, in addition to having printouts of music that is not included in those hymnals.

Having 4 or 5 different hardbound hymnals in the pews is not a very good idea from pretty much any way you look at it, so instead we are going to try a worship aid. After investigating multiple hard bound hymnals and what other parishes are doing, having a worship aid seems to be the right solution for us. It will allow us to access all the music used prior to the merger (and then some), provide a place for hymn numbers and other information to be available to everyone in a legible format (an issue many of us are currently having with the hymn boards), and most of our parishioners are already familiar with worship aids in one form or another. In order to be good stewards of our parish resources (and our environment), we will keep using the Gather hymnals for readings and any hymns that are already printed in there.

Later this month, we will launch a test run worship aid that will have the music and hymn lists for 4-6 Sundays. As with anything else new, there will be a period of adjustment. We ask that you give this change a few weeks to "try on". At that time, you will have an opportunity to provide your feedback.