

## **“Musical Arrangements”**

Dear Parishioners:

Two weekends ago I spoke briefly at all the Masses informing the parish that there has been a change in personnel and we would be going through a time of transition in our music and liturgy department, which will affect liturgies for the next couple of months.

There is an old Latin saying, “When it comes to taste, there is no disputing.” I like vanilla and you like chocolate. I like blue and you like yellow. My house is furnished and arranged according to my taste and you would not ever want to live in my space. Music and liturgy affect people in different ways; some like this and others like that. To find format that pleases all persons is not possible.

The General Instruction on the Roman Missal call for liturgies that will elicit “full and active participation” of the congregation. I am aware that each of the five English weekend Masses has its own personality. At the 5:30 PM on Saturday and the 7:00 A.M. on Sunday, folks like to have a liturgy that is “quieter.” The 9:00 A.M. Mass is referred to as our family/children’s Mass. The 11:00 A.M. is a more “traditional” Mass with the adult choir leading the congregation in prayer and song. The 5:00 P.M. Mass on Sunday evening has attempted to be attractive to the youth of the parish.

Each of these Masses, while abiding by the essence of the Sunday liturgy, will have a different musical emphasis. We will be testing out various models in the next couple of months. The most notable change will be at the 5:00 P.M. Mass on Sunday evening. I have contracted with *Family Spirit Music Ministry*, under the direction of George Gonzalez, to provide the music for this Mass for the next few months and perhaps on a permanent basis. You can check out the *Family Spirit Music* at its website: [www.familyspiritmusic.com](http://www.familyspiritmusic.com). George and his wife, Mary, and the group have been singing in Phoenix parishes for about twenty years.

*Family Spirit Music* is a style of music referred to as *worship and praise music* for souls of all ages and languages. The instruments are piano, guitar, bass guitar and drums that accompany the lead singers and the congregation. This style of music is a major departure from what has been offered at our parish. I hope that it will be an upbeat style that attracts our youth to greater presence at and participation in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Thank you for your understanding as we move through this transition time with our liturgies. I believe we have a variety of styles of worship available for you to find one that is most to your liking in our parish.

The peace of Christ be with you,  
*Fr. Dan Sullivan, S.J.*  
Pastor