

# Sacred Heart Parish and School

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October 13, 2015

Dear Parents of Potential Guitar Students,

Starting Tuesday, October 27th, I will begin offering free basic guitar lessons to students 4th grade and older from Sacred Heart School. Lessons will usually be offered in the church basement after school on Tuesdays beginning at **2:45pm** and continuing until **3:45pm**. If parents are unable to pick up their child at 3:45pm, they should ask someone else to pick them up, or arrange for them to go to the "Aftercare" school program in the school basement. The "Aftercare" school program is full on a normal day, so if you can arrange a pick up, that works better.

In addition to regular attendance at the weekly lessons, it is required that students practice at home for **at least 30 minutes each day between lessons**. Daily practice is important so that the finger tips can become calloused and less painful when playing, and so that we can get through the initial phases of learning and can begin to play music for mass as soon as possible. Since these are group lessons, in fairness to the rest of the group, students who fail to practice daily and keep up with the group will be asked to suspend lessons and try again next year. It is my goal to have the new guitarists ready to play for at least one of the daily masses before Christmas.

I am trying to round up enough guitars for those interested in joining this new group. If you have a guitar your child can use, or know of one he or she could borrow, please have your son or daughter bring that guitar to Mrs. Overman at the Sacred Heart School by Tuesday, October 20th, so I can see if it will work for these lessons. I prefer to have the students use an acoustic guitar rather than a classical guitar. (*A classical guitar has openings at the top of the fingerboard for the shafts around which the nylon strings are wound, and the finger board is wider, making it harder to play for children with shorter fingers*).

I will need \$50 materials fee per student so that I can buy each student his or her own guitar tuner, capo, music, picks, straps, guitar case, ring binder, and other items. These will be theirs to keep and they will be responsible for them. Should they lose them, they would have to buy a replacement.

I will also need your consent and support as a parent. If you consent to having your child take these free guitar lessons, I ask you to assure the following:

- 1) that the student will be at lessons regularly at 2:45pm each Tuesday practice,
- 2) that the student will practice at home a minimum of 30 minutes each day between lessons for at least the first six weeks of lessons
- 3) that the student will be responsible for the guitar (if borrowed from me), and cover the costs of any repair or replacement if it is damaged (caring for the guitar includes NOT exposing the guitar to extreme cold for more than brief periods of time during the winter).
- 4) that the student will be willing to continue practicing and rehearsing in order to play for daily mass once a certain degree of skill has been reached.

If you are willing to have your child begin lessons Tuesday, October 27th, please sign the agreement below and return it along with the materials fee payment of \$50 to Mrs. Overman by Tuesday, October 20th.

Sincerely in Christ,

Steven Mages

**PARENTS:** I give my permission and support to my son/daughter \_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_ take guitar lessons beginning Tuesday, October 27th, 2015,  
from 2:45pm to 3:45pm at Sacred Heart Church as described above.  
A fee of \$50 is enclosed to purchase a tuner, capo, picks, strap, music, binder, and materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will need to borrow a guitar from the Tri-Parish for lessons.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child has his/her own guitar.

Signature of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT:** I agree to take care and responsibility for my guitar and equipment, to attend lessons faithfully and to practice with my guitar for a minimum of 30 minutes a day between lessons for at least the first six weeks.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_