

Mary Purkapile Memorial Scholarship

Mary Purkapile entered into eternal life at the age of 58, following a courageous, almost six-year battle with colon cancer. She was a proud mother of three children, all of which graduated from Columbus Catholic High School. Mary began sharing her musical talents through music ministry in the 8th grade, giving 45 years to music leadership. Mary was a talented musician and singer, sharing this talent with her son Dan. Dan would frequently accompany Mary in the choir loft, continuing music ministry himself.

Mary played an intricate role in creating this scholarship at the end of her life. When asked, what about music ministry brought you closer to God? Mary said, "When I am planning music I read the scriptures and become centered on Christ. Through that prayer time it naturally flows to draw closer to God." Mary explained when she played for mass she felt the flow of energy in the church and felt at peace. Mary continued to share her talents through music ministry up until she wasn't physically able to do so. Mary's entire family joined her in the choir loft one last time, substituting her voice when she no longer had the ability to sing herself. Mary hoped this scholarship would allow for her love of praising God through music to live on through future musicians. One of Mary's favorite hymns was Sing of the Lord's Goodness. "Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet, praise God with the lute and harp; praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing, praise God till the end of days."