

## **St. Cecilia Music Ministry**

The St. Cecilia Music Ministry, an outreach ministry of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Chiefland, was inspired by St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, who is said to have heard heavenly music in her heart. Volunteer and singer, Ashley Seoane travels 146 miles each weekend, from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Chiefland to St. Andrew Chapel in Cedar Key and Holy Cross Mission in Cross City, to provide liturgical music for the people who attend Mass in these rural areas. Without her ministry, music, a form of prayer to raise our hearts to God, would be absent. Ashley invites parishioners to join her, and although they are enthusiastic about having music available, the remoteness of the area makes it difficult to find parishioners able to make a commitment. She is often the only source of music at services but continues to offer this spiritual connection for the congregation to the liturgy and to each other.

In 2019, the Catholic Foundation awarded a grant to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in order to launch the St. Cecilia Music Ministry. These funds help with travel expenses to ensure that this beautiful and

essential ministry would be able to continue to provide the gift of liturgical music in praise of our creator.

