

Good morning...My name is Leon...Leon Rippel.

I grew up in Mystic. I am the oldest of eight children. My dad was a Protestant convert and my mom was a French Canadian Catholic. We went to Sunday Mass at Saint Patrick Church and my family filled an entire church pew.

My childhood best friend still calls me Mr. FixIt. I have worked at many jobs but have ended up being a technology Mr. FixIt.

Jesus fixed people's health. He fixed their happiness. But most of all, He fixed everyone's ways to love God. He is the Master Mr. FixIt. He made people happier by fixing the health of their body and soul so that they could grow spiritually and feel the call to love God.

I need my Faith to help me fix my life.

My family became part of Saint Mary parish in the summer of 1978. With Lorraine, my wife, and two sons Christopher and Dominic,our family did what we could to help our parish.

We started by working on decorating the church for major feast days and reading at Mass as lectors. Then, for 25 years, we managed our spring carnival food booths. Now I sing in the choir and Lorraine and I also work with social action and evangelization.

About 15 years ago I was attending Mass over there (north by the windows halfway down)...and was invited through an announcement to volunteer to sing in the choir. I like to sing but I cannot read music, but I thought, "Well maybe I could fix that." So I gave singing in the choir a try.

For a number of years I sat between Justin and Mary in the choir and struggled. They have both passed on...but my guess is that Justin and Mary are now singing in Heaven.

Mary would smile at me and say, "Leon, you sound okay...but why don't you try singing the tenor notes."

I have been trying to fix my singing for years. I think I am doing better. Practice...well let's say trying harder makes us closer to perfect.

Like our music groups, Saint Mary has many small groups. If you feel the urge, please share your talents. Try helping to fill one of the many responsibilities Saint Mary parish has to help grow in God's love with others.

Ask, call, or go online to find out how your talents might help make people healthier and happier and you will feel God's love grow in you.

So I will end now with an invitation. You have an open invite to become a members of the Saint Mary choirs. If you have a voice and the urge to sing your praise to God, your participation would be loved.

I never talk in front of groups as big as this... but I'm trying to fix that.

Thank you for listening.