

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

SARAH MANKA



Sarah Manka and family joined OLV in 1995. Last summer, her husband died from cancer, leaving her a widow with three sons: Ian, Andrew and Dylan. She has a BA in Comparative Literature, and is now a full-time student at Kent State working towards a Master's degree in Language Arts and an Ohio teaching license. As demanding as her schedule is, she's made time to be active in several positions with the Boy Scouts, and currently volunteers a lot of time as a Leader for Cub Scout Pack #3412. Sarah also shares her God given talents in music. She said, "I've played flute and piccolo for almost four decades, and I've played in many community music groups," including: the Akron Pops Orchestra, Goodyear Concert Band, Cuyahoga Falls Community Band, the Trinity Band, and is currently a member of the Western Reserve Community Band of Hudson. All these bands perform in nursing homes, churches and

parks for free. We're blessed that Sarah brings her time and talents to OLV. She said, "I have always tried to contribute to any parish I've been a member in. I feel it's important to share the gifts God's given me to help other people wherever possible. My first choice for OLV ministry has been with the contemporary choir, and I feel good about contributing to the mass." Sarah has been with the group for 14 years, playing her flute or piccolo, or adding her lovely voice to the music. "When Dylan was a toddler, I started a ministry called "Little Lambs" with the assistance of many other parishioners. It was a baby sitting service for those wanting a peaceful worship experience while at mass, and was in place about three or four years. Later on, I felt called to do some teaching, so I taught seventh grade PSR for two years". Sarah has ministered in a variety of other ways: one summer assisting with the music portion of Vacation Bible School; bringing her service to the elderly by becoming a Communion Minister to the Sick at Heather Knoll Nursing Home; and she's continued to sign-up almost every time we've asked for cookie volunteers. Sarah said "All of my experiences have been interesting and rewarding" One Music Ministry event stands out for her: "A memory I cherish is when the power went out during mass. Though usually dependent on modern technology for our instruments, we had no choice on this stormy morning. We just kept playing, and the simplicity of our melodies drifted out across the congregation. To this day, that mass has been my favorite one." Sarah has a faith-filled way of life. "There are many ways to get satisfaction from life. Some choose to focus on their job, their family, or outside hobbies. I feel blessed because I do have many activities I enjoy and do fairly well, and by sharing these gifts from God, I fulfill myself at the same time. The scriptures say 'faith without works is dead' and I take that statement seriously. Once I read something from Mother Teresa. She said as long as what we do is done in love, it is of significance. I try to adhere to her philosophy."