

Children's Liturgy of the Word

What is it?

Children's Liturgy of the Word is held during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Right after the opening prayer we take the grade-school children to the parish center, and celebrate the Liturgy of the Word (readings through the offertory) with them. We have a Children's Lectionary that brings the two main readings (usually the first reading, and always the gospel) down to their level. Not making it a story-time type of reading, but substituting simple words within the actual verse by verse readings. After the readings we have a discussion, a simple question and answer Creed, and a chance for the children to bring their personal concerns to prayer.

Adult participation can come in two ways:

Leader: the leader's task is to prepare discussion questions, and lead our "homily" discussion with the children; and we have great resources for the questions! It takes about an hour preparation, and we are in the parish center for about 25 minutes.

Shepherd: we like for one other adult or high-school age person to accompany the leader. This person help maintain a decorum in the room, break-up talkers (if any), and in general just be there for support. This person also "mans" our walkie-talkie, which is our low-tech way for the ushers to call us back to the church.

We look for a commitment of one weekend a month, and our schedule is very flexible—people just sign up when they can help!

Children can participate in ways beyond just coming over for the discussion:

Readers: we like to have the children be responsible for the first reading, signing up before-hand, and taking a copy home to practice with.

Offertory: children have an opportunity each week to sign up to collect our offertory, and bring it up with the ushers when we go back to the church building.

Bulletins: we need three children each week to hand out bulletins after mass. Again, they can sign up for this when they come to church that week.

Come join us on Sunday, and see if you'd like to be involved...

For information, call Vicki Giampietro at 503-639-8745.