

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Grades K – 3

Sunday 9:15 Mass

What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Liturgy of the Word with children is first and foremost a worship experience. The structure of Liturgy of the Word with children is to take the same form as the general assembly, except that one of the first two readings is omitted.

Catechetical Leaders who lead Liturgy of the Word with Children need to be sure to include the following elements when they are with the children. The following elements will be in the Binder you use each week called Celebrating the Good News:

- First Reading
- Psalm Response
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Gospel Reflection ("Homily")
- Profession of Faith
- General Intercessions

Logistics

1. Always take a quick walk downstairs to make sure that chairs and 'altar table' are appropriately set up and the **curtain is open. Safe Environment would demand that you are visible to anyone entering the Hall.** Sometimes a weekend event does not get the area reset properly. If for any reason there is not enough time to reset simply have the children sit on the floor. Supplies are in the Rubbermaid closet behind the stage curtains to your right as you face the stage.
2. Catechists **should take the binder with the Readings upstairs and place it on the priest's chair on the altar as a reminder for him to call the children forward.** (Note: the binder is in the CLOW closet and should be returned there after the session so that it is ready for the next Mass.) Catechists should also stop by the sacristy behind the Mary Chapel and introduce themselves to the priest presiding at Mass to let him know that they are the ones who will be leading the children downstairs.
3. After the "Opening Prayer" the priest will ask the children to come to the front of the church. The catechist should come forward to the front steps of the sanctuary. The priest will read blessing slipped inside the cover of the Readings Binder, give the binder to the catechist who will lead the children down to Friendship Hall. It is important that 'helping' shepherds remind the children to stay quiet as they are still in 'Church'.
4. An adult assistant (Shepherd) monitors the Mass and cues the catechist with the **YELLOW** card (found in the CLOW closet) when **the priest is done his homily** to allow time for the creed, intercession and procession to back of the church. A **RED** card means the intercessions have begun upstairs and it is time to wrap things up.
5. The children should be returning to the main Church during the collection!

Roles

1. The Catechist is the one who prepares the Gospel reflection ‘homily’ for their assigned Mass. This year several resources will be sent your way to help you prepare the ‘homily’.
2. The shepherd is an adult who is present to help guide the children and the catechist. The shepherds help with any tasks and keep children quiet and attentive. They also keep track of where the Mass is upstairs so that the Catechist knows when to wrap it up and gather the children to process back to the general assembly.
3. Confirmation candidates may come at any time to help model good behavior and participation. They can also be used to distribute papers or sit by children who need some encouraging.

Liturgy of the Word Prayer Space

1. The stage is the area reserved for CLOW. A table to hold the Word and liturgical symbols is set up on a somewhat permanent basis.
2. Chairs are also set up in somewhat permanent semi-circle for better viewing and do not need to be ‘taken down’.
3. Please leave the Prayer space in a neat condition.

Notes for the Catechist

1. You will be supplied with several suggested lessons for the day so that you can choose what best speaks to you.
2. Please be sensitive to what is often left behind in the pews. Crafts, handouts and leaflets often become a part of the ‘trash’ that is collected Monday morning. While I don’t want to ‘ban’ hands on projects to illustrate the Gospels, I do want to suggest that you think about the many other ways to be creative. We can certainly display ‘objects, crafts, etc. on a bulletin board for all to see. There is a new policy regarding what goes on display in the Narthex so let me know if you have something you’d like to display-leave it on the stage, **email me that it is there** and I will handle placement on Monday or Tuesday. Creative Gospel discussions could be animated, using props or other visual aids, mime or role-playing.
3. There are some basic supplies in the CLOW closet. Just let me know if there is anything that might be helpful that isn’t there.

Remember: If something arises that will prevent you from being present at your scheduled Mass, you are asked to find a sub-sometimes an email sent to all is the quickest method. You can call Angela at 215-646-6150 x2 or alawlor@saintanthonyparish.org if needed. If it is a last minute emergency, we simply will not have CLOW which is a reminder to folks what a blessing you are to their family worship time. God’s blessings and thank you!!