

HANDBOOK FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD OUR LADY OF LIGHT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

REVISED SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

Prayer for Children's Liturgy of the Word

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our children.
They are the youngest of our seeds planted in the soil of our church.
Open their eyes so they may see the love of their community.
Open their ears to hear the good news of your Word.
Open their hearts so they may feel your loving embrace.

We pray that our children may find nourishment and refreshment in the Liturgy of the Word provided by our Catechists. May our words, prayers, songs, and actions quench their thirst for you so that their roots may take deep hold in the soil of your church.

In your name we offer this prayer,
Amen.

"Sometimes, moreover, if the place itself and the nature of the community permit, it will be appropriate to celebrate the liturgy of the word, including a homily, with the children in a separate, but not too distant room. Then, before the Eucharistic liturgy begins, the children are led to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own liturgy of the word."

-Directory for Masses with Children, #17

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

- Expectations of Catechists
 - In the week prior to your Sunday, prayerfully prepare for that liturgy for at least 30 minutes. Use the Leader book and your date from the black binder as your primary references. Other resources may be used to supplement your liturgy, but are not necessary. (black binder is in the children's liturgy cabinet)
 - Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to mass to set up space.
 - Follow Children's Liturgy outline as presented here. Teach primarily from what is found in the Leader guide, using outside resources (see page 3) for additional suggestions.
 - Attend the entire mass, beginning to end.
 - Put away materials after mass.
 - Read all updates and notices from the Office of Faith Formation
 - Attend Office of Faith Formation workshops as requested.
 - Find a replacement if you are unable to make your date.
 - For last-minute concerns, call Lori's cell 464-6735.

- Expectations for Assistants
 - Sign in in the Usher's Room at least 15 minutes prior to mass and help the Catechist set up the space. (sign in binder is white in the Children's Liturgy cabinet)
 - Sit on the floor or in chairs or stand to monitor children. Only Catechist should be at the front.
 - Be attentive to children and liturgy. Monitor children discreetly and do your best to not distract children from the Catechist.
 - Attend the entire mass, beginning to end.
 - Help the Catechist put away materials after mass.
 - Read all updates and notices from the Office of Faith Formation
 - Attend Office of Faith Formation workshops as requested.
 - Find a replacement if you are unable to make your date.
 - For last-minute concerns, call Lori's cell 464-6735.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OUTLINE

- Sunday morning preparation
 - Arrive by 10:15 a.m. and sign in in the white binder in the children's liturgy cabinet
 - Get supplies
 - Door signs, scotch tape, binder, Leader book, matches, nametag, music disc, stereo.
 - Put signs on chapel doors facing outside (not the big wood sliders)
 - Put hard-sided leader book on Priest's chair.
 - Set up prayer table if desired.
 - Light candles on either side of altar.

- Calling and Sending Forth
 - Join children at the altar for a blessing and the sending forth.
 - When in the room, invite children to sit in chairs close to the front. They may also sit on the floor if you prefer.

- Opening Prayer
 - Lead the Sign of the Cross.
 - Use prayer in Leader book (left margin).

- Reading
 - Read from Leader book (left page).
 - If you invite a helper to proclaim the reading, they:
 - Must have read it through prior to mass
 - Must be able to speak loud and clearly so all present can hear
 - End with "this is the Word of the Lord" and "Thanks be to God". Repeat the words if all children did not participate.
 - Interactive reflection* with children (5 mins).
 - If in your interactive reflection (homily) you find the children did not hear the reading, re-read it (or parts of it) to them.

- Gospel Acclamation
 - Invite all to stand.
 - Use CD for music to lead acclamation. You may start the CD at the beginning (of #1) or start it from right after the verse is sung. It is a long song, so you can stop it after about 3 rounds of "Halle Halle Halle".

- Gospel Reading
 - Begin with, "this is a reading from the gospel of ..." and make three small crosses on head, lips, and heart.
 - Teach/say together: "May God's Word be in my mind, and on my lips, and in my heart." Repeat if necessary.
 - Read from Leader book. (right page)
 - If you invite a helper to proclaim the reading, they:
 - Must have read it through prior to mass
 - Must be able to speak loud and clearly so all present can hear
 - End with "this is the Gospel of the Lord" and "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ". Repeat the words if all children did not participate.
 - All sit.

- Interactive reflection* with children. (5 mins) Be sure to repeat children's answers loudly so all can hear.
- If in your interactive reflection (homily) you find the children did not hear the reading, re-read it (or parts of it) to them.

* Interactive reflection may include question and answer with the children, a short lesson or demonstration to elaborate on the reading, a song with or without hand motions, or a non-scriptural reading like from a children's book. It is important to engage the children during this process with relevant and age-appropriate interaction. You will want to try to link the reading with the gospel, and give the children one or two (not too many) clear points to remember rather than a long discussion on many points. If you give out items, ask the children to keep them quietly to themselves until after Mass (especially food).

- Prayers of the Faithful (also known as petitions or intercessions)
 - Read from green card or use your own. Keep them simple with easy words. Include at least four petitions.
 - If you invite a helper to read the intercessions:
 - The intercessions should be written simply so they can be easily read.
 - The reader(s) must speak loud and clearly so all present can hear.
- Read through Apostles Creed together with the children. It is on page 10 in the pew book. You will need to help them find the page, and they should read along with you. If you are running low on time, you can have them repeat after you line-by-line.
- IF you have extra time stay liturgically relevant as best as possible in any discussions (Stay on-topic to the readings, the liturgy, or the church season).
 - Do not pass out handout papers early – children are easily distracted.
- Dismissal
 - Watch for the congregation to sit down after the creed and to begin passing baskets. This is your cue to wrap up and begin lining up.
 - When collection begins, gather the children into lines and pass out handouts to children as they are lined up.
 - Once they are together and quiet, lead them to the back of the center aisle to process down at the same time as the gifts. They will come forward to the altar and then find their parents' seats.
 - Stand at the back of the aisle to watch for children who might not have found their parents. (Feel free to walk to the child if he is wandering around.) Help them find their parents.
- Additional Notes
 - Use Leader book margins for interactive reflection details. Remember this is primarily a Liturgy where we listen and worship with small amounts of teaching/catechetical time. Our goal is to make the worship and readings engaging and relevant for the children.
 - Do not be afraid to correct an answer with “that’s not quite right,” “close but not exactly,” or “no, I don’t think so,” if a child gives the wrong answer to your question.
 - See “Resources” (page 3) for supplemental ideas for interactive reflection.
 - Call Lori on her cell for any last-minute concerns: 464-6735.

Catechetical Resources:

Church

United States Council of Catholic Bishops www.usccb.org

Catechism online <http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/index.htm>

Bible online <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/>

Catholic Bible Translation – New American Bible (look for a study version)

Documents online

<http://www.usccb.org/statements.shtml>

Follow the Way of Love <http://www.usccb.org/laity/follow.shtml>

To Teach as Jesus Did

Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry

<http://www.usccb.org/laity/youth/rtvintro.shtml>

Children's Liturgy Planning Resources

Lectionary based <http://faithfirst.com/html/catechist/lectionary/lectionary.html>

This Week's Liturgy http://www.webelieveweb.com/home_proclaiming_faith.cfm

The Liturgical Year http://www.webelieveweb.com/liturgical_year.cfm

Lectionary based http://your.harcourtreligion.com/lifelong_catechesis/child.jsp