

Order of Worship for Children's Liturgy

Procession from Church:

When it is time for Liturgy of the Word, the Leader for the Week should meet Father at the Center Aisle in front of the Altar. When all the children come forward, Father will say a short blessing, the organist will start the dismissal music. Remain with the children in front of the altar through the first verse. As the congregation begins singing the refrain the second time, one of the adults leads the children slowly and quietly in a procession toward the side door of the church. Leader for the Week follows all the children out of the church and makes sure the processions remains quiet to the Children's Chapel in the rectory. Children should stay on the sidewalk and walk down the steps not on the grass.

Gathering:

The Liturgy of the Word with the Children begins as soon as everyone is settled in the Children's Liturgy Chapel. Ask the children to come in quietly and stand facing the front (toward the leader's chair). Have the Helper for the week or one of the children light the candle on the altar and then invite everyone to recite the opening prayer together.

Opening Prayer:

Begin with the sign of the cross: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Lord, quiet our minds and open our hearts so that we can receive your Word and listen to your teachings. Amen, (Leader) Blessed Mother (All) Pray for Us

End with the Sign of the Cross: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Ask the children to sit quietly on the rug. Children should not sit on the benches or other chairs in the room. Remind the children why they are present. Explain that this gathering is a continuation of the liturgy that began in the main church. Invite calm, attentive, and reverent behavior from the children.

Order of Worship:

Begin the Order of Worship from the Leader's Guide including the overview of today's liturgy, the Gathering, and the Opening Prayer.

First Reading:

The leader, helper or one of the children reads the First Reading. Children's readings should be downloaded from www.pflaum.com/readings. The Reading ends with, "The Word of the Lord," with the children responding, "Thanks be to God."

Responsorial Psalm

Tell the children what the response is to be and ask them to repeat it once to become familiar with it.

Second Reading

On the Sundays when there is a second reading, it is read in the same manner as the first.

Gospel Acclamation

The leader and children should stand for the Gospel. The Gospel is introduced with “The Lord be with you,” and the children respond, “And also with you.” The leader announces, “A reading from the Gospel according to _____,” and the children respond, “Glory to You, Lord,” while signing his or her forehead, lips, and heart with a small sign of the cross made with the thumb of the right hand.

At the conclusion of the Gospel reading, the Leader says, “The Gospel of the Lord,” and the children respond, “Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.”

Homily

The leader shares a reflection on the readings using whatever props or aids will help communicate the message. The ideal reflection will be brief and to the point, delivering a simple message the children can remember. Watch the time. We should be ready to return to church by 11:00am.

Activity Leaflet

Hand out the weekly take home leaflet following the homily. Emphasis this leaflet should be taken home and shared with their family doing the activity together. Once the leaflets are handed out, the 3 chosen to take up the gifts should gather their things and prepare to return to the church with the helper. The rest of the children are asked to place their leaflet on the floor and stand for the Profession of Faith.

Profession of Faith

The leader recites the simple renewal of baptismal vows, to which the children respond, “I do believe,”

Prayer of the Faithful

Lead the children in the prayers of the faithful. Light the candle in the window and explain the candle will remain lit throughout the week and Father will pray for the children’s intentions. Class beads are in a container in the crate. Each child that has a special intention for the week should take a bead, hold it close to their heart and share their intention either silently or to the group. Children respond with “Lord, hear our prayer” to all intentions shared with the group.

The bead is placed in the glass bowl. If you have extra time, the helper can write the children’s intention on a slip of paper that is placed in the prayer bowl instead of using the glass beads.

Music

You may choose an appropriate song to sing with the children. Music CD’s are in the Children’s Liturgy Crate. Helper should make sure the cd player is ready at the appropriate time.

Return to the Assembly

When it is time to return, remind the children to pick up their copy of the *Children’s Leaflet*, and gather their things. Children follow the leader back to the church quietly and reverently. Enter the church through the center doors and remind them to quietly return to their parents in the congregation.