

# Liturgy of the Word with Children

---

## Weekend Mass Procedure

### Before Mass

- Notify the head usher or Mass coordinator that you are present.
- One of the adult leaders will place the Lectionary on the ambo (the stand where the readings are proclaimed) *\*Please arrive early enough to allow yourself time to go up to place the book on the ambo before the opening procession.*
- The leader who will take the book from the ambo or from the deacon, may sit in the pew reserved for the Lectors and altar servers (beside the ambo) or any pew that is near the front.

### Gathering Rite

- The children will gather with the entire assembly in the main church and participate in the Gathering Rites up to and including the Opening Prayer. This is done so that they realize they are part of the whole community and belong to the larger parish family.

### Invitation

- **After the Opening Prayer, the priest will say:** *Will the children please come forward for their own Liturgy of the Word?*
- At this announcement, the adult leader will **immediately** walk up the side steps to the ambo and will pick up the Lectionary (or take it from the deacon)
- Then the leader will walk down the steps on the same side and walk to the center front where the children are gathering. *(It is helpful to stand behind the children facing the altar so you will be in the front of the group to lead the procession to the chapel.)*

### Sending the Children Forth

- Next, the priest will pray a prayer of blessing over you and the children.
- Immediately, the adult leader, holding the Lectionary high for all to see, will begin to lead the children to the chapel. You may let a child carry the Lectionary to the chapel. Ask them to hold it high.
- The Lectionary should be carried reverently in **front** of the procession. Try to have the children follow behind the person with the Lectionary.
- As the children enter the chapel, the person carrying the Lectionary continues to hold it high, waiting for all to arrive. When all have gathered, in reverent silence, the Lectionary should be carefully placed on the ambo.

## Welcoming

- The leaders will help the children feel welcome and help them ready their minds and hearts to hear the Word of God.
- Explain to the children that when God is speaking to us, we need to listen not only with our ears but also with our hearts to hear what God wants to tell us.

## First Reading *Light the candle before the readings are proclaimed.*

- The reader needs to be aware that he/she is proclaiming God's Living Word! To prepare to do this well, read the Scripture everyday of the previous week until it is internalized. A child may proclaim a reading (not Gospel) if they have practiced.
- The readings are emailed to you the week before you lead. These are copied from the Book so they will look the same when they are read at Mass. *You may choose to read only one of the First and Second readings if both are printed. Choose the one that goes with the reflection.*
- After the reading help the children to respond enthusiastically; **"Thanks be to God!"** *We have laminated cards with the response for visual help with the words if you would like someone to hold them for all to see. (child or adult)*

## Psalm and Response

- Remind the children that just as the people in the main church sing the Psalm, we will sing a Psalm. The children should always have a part in this singing.
- There is a listing of Psalms for children in your packet. Leaders may choose a response that closely matches the Psalm from the readings. Seasonal responses are encouraged during the seasons of Lent, Advent, Christmas, and Easter.
- We do have recorded music available if you do not have a song leader on your team. The CD number and song number are on a list in your packet.
- The Psalm response should be written on the dry erase board. Have two children hold the board during the verses so all can see it and then higher for the refrain.

## Gospel Acclamation

- Explain to the children that before we hear the Gospel, we stand to sing **Alleluia** because the Good News that God gives us is so important and special. Explain that the alleluia is a joyful greeting and acknowledgement

of Christ's own presence in the Word. We do have CDs with alleluias or you can ask the children to lead one.

## Gospel Reading

- Again, the reader needs to be aware that he/she is proclaiming God's Living Word! The Gospel needs to be read by one of the adult or teen leaders, NOT a child.
- The children remain standing for the Gospel, unless there is a dramatization during the reading and sitting would enable them to see better.
- Help the children with the responses before and after the Gospel reading.
  - Before the Gospel, the reader says, **"The Lord be with you." We respond, "And with your spirit."**
  - The reader says, **"A reading from..." We respond, "Glory to you, Lord."** Explain to the children that during this response, we sign ourselves with little crosses on our forehead, lips, and heart as we say to ourselves:  
***"May God's Word be on my mind, and on my lips, and in my heart."***
  - After the Gospel, the reader says, **"The Gospel of the Lord." We respond, "Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ."** *These responses are on laminated cards.*

## Reflection on the Readings

- Ask the children to have a seat to talk about the readings.
- This is an opportunity to reflect and worship with the children; therefore leaders should remember to focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and invite the children to share what God is "saying" to them. The reflection can be done using drama, an object lesson, puppets, a felt storyboard, or any number of creative methods to involve the children in the process. The discussion should be centered around asking the children questions, such as:  
***What do you think Jesus meant?***  
***I wonder what Jesus wants us to remember today.*** (*I wonder statements are great.*)      ***What can we do this week to be more like Jesus?*** (*This makes a good summary point.*)
- If you are short on time, ask yes and no questions and then give an explanation.

## Timing:

9/15/2016

- An usher will notify your team when the priest has finished his homily. You can also have someone on your team do this.
- **Immediately** end your talk when you receive the notification if you have not already finished. Move on to the last two parts.

### **Profession of Faith**

- The Nicene Creed is recited at Mass; however for Liturgies with Children it is permissible to pray the Apostles Creed OR to pray a brief Profession of Faith. We have the Creed on a large poster and the Profession of Faith on laminated cards.

### **General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)**

- The prayers should focus on the readings. For example when we read about Jesus healing the sick, we invite the children to pray especially for those who are sick.
- The leader begins the prayer and then guides the children to pray in their own words about what God has placed in their hearts.
- After each intention, the leader says, "We pray to the Lord." and leads the children to respond, "*Lord, hear our prayer.*" This response is on laminated cards. The leader then concludes the prayer. The leader material has an opening and closing prayer for the intercessions or you can use your own words.

### **Procession Back to the Assembly**

- The children need to return to their families in time to walk to the front to place their donation in the children's collection basket
- Encourage the children to return quietly to their seats with their families.
- As they leave, give the children the activity sheet to remind them of the Scripture readings. There are two different age levels of sheets to hand out.
- "Step by Step" for ages 4-7 and "Footprints in Faith" for ages 7-12
- Watch to make sure all children have gotten back to their families.

### **SUPPLIES**

**Work Sacristy** (down the hall across from the bathrooms)

- **Cabinet**
  - Lectionary
  - Laminated response cards

Hand outs  
Music CDs  
Boom box  
Dry erase markers and eraser  
Props as needed

- **Altar Server Closet**

Rugs to provide more seating for 10:30 Mass  
Dry Erase Board  
Creed Poster

**\*After Mass, please put supplies and materials back in the work sacristy for the next Mass team.**

## **LEADER MATERIALS**

Beverly will email the leaders each week with copies of the leader materials. The email will contain all the email addresses for your team so you may communicate with each other.

## **SCHEDULE**

LWWC leaders will be added to the *ministry scheduler* software that is used for all Mass ministers (altar servers, lectors, communion ministers, etc...)

You can access your schedule through this program.

The software sends reminder emails to you prior to your scheduled Mass.

Sub requests can be submitted through this software.