

More About our Sunday School for Children

Sunday Mornings

Children attend the first part of Sunday worship with their families, where they experience music, prayer and group time with the Pastor. Then, the Sunday School teachers and ushers escort the children to the Parish House for their Sunday School. At the end of the worship service, parents pick up their children at the Parish House. All are welcome back to the church building for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall (or outside weather permitting).

Communion Sundays

The first Sunday of the month the children will return to the sanctuary in time to share in Holy Communion with the congregation. The Ushers and Sunday School teachers will be responsible for shepherding the kids back to the church building to sit with their families. We believe it is important for the Body of Christ to be complete when sharing the Body of Christ!

Classroom Structure

Our program is designed for children in PreK*/K through 8th grade. Children attend classes with others in their age group in the following rooms in the Parish House:

PreK*/K/1/2 grade	Upstairs "pink room"
Grade 3/4	Upstairs "blue room"
Grade 5/6	Upstairs "green room" at the end of the long hall
Grade 7/8	Upstairs "small green room" at top of stairs on the left

*Age 3 by Sept. 1

7th / 8th Grade Class

As our kids grow up, Sunday School grows up as well! These kids enjoy upgraded snacks, and lessons that touch on topics which are relevant to their lives at this age. We do not follow a particular curriculum, allowing the teachers and students to explore issues which are particularly important to them at the time. And when something is happening in worship that may be of interest to them, we'll skip Sunday School and stay in church. (For example, when the men from *Teen Challenge*, an addiction recovery ministry, or our homeless friends from *Common Cathedral* are leading worship.)

Open Door Policy

Parents are welcome to stay with their child in Sunday School or to "drop in" at any time. This allows you and your child the opportunity to feel comfortable with the classroom setting, activities and teachers.

CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information)

We require a CORI check for all who work with our children.

Get Involved in Your Child's Experience

The most important thing you can do to support your child is very simple: when you are driving home from church, **ask your child what they learned in Sunday School today**. Your interest and involvement in your child's experience will make it all the more rich for him or her. They/you receive a pamphlet each week that helps you continue the conversation at home throughout the week. When you pick up your child in the Parish House each week, please feel free to chat with the teacher for a few minutes about the curriculum and activities for that day. Perhaps you may want to read the same Bible story at bedtime or discuss that lesson's theme at home. Together, we can help your child grow in the Christian faith.

Children's Offerings

There is a time during the pastor's children's sermon in worship when children are invited to put their offerings in a special collection "Ark." This is entirely optional. We do request that children do not bring money to Sunday School, as we have no means for collecting it there.

3rd Graders Receive Bibles

Every year in September we give our third graders their own Bibles (personally inscribed to them). The Bible (a gift from the church) is designed for 3rd - 8th graders and features explanations/questions/ graphics for children at this stage in life. Older children who do not have their own age appropriate Bible are welcome to receive them as well.

