

GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

1. Dismissal of younger children from the assembly during a weekend liturgy is intended to offer an experience of sharing the Sunday Readings on the child's own level, in a prayer environment.
2. The celebrant calls the children and their leaders of prayer forward to the sanctuary before the First Reading. He offers a simple sending blessing. The children and their adult leaders proceed to a separate room. A designated child or adult leads the procession carrying a lectionary.
3. More than one adult accompany the children. In addition, Middle School or High School age youth may serve as assistants and lectors, on a rotating basis, to allow them to participate with the greater assembly on most weekends.
4. Catechists for Children's Liturgy of the Word will participate in formation on the basics of liturgical year, proclamation of scripture, and basic homiletics for children.
5. Catechists will select an appropriate resource for their preparation and should proclaim Readings and Psalm from the Children's Lectionary.
6. Catechists will use the same order of worship and movements, and follow the same cycle of readings, as the adult assembly.
7. Following the Gospel proclamation, the catechist reviews the scripture story with an appropriate dialogue homily, and may employ other techniques such as short scripture skits or personal stories. Lecture-type homilies are not appropriate. Comments should help relate the scripture story to the children's own lived experience.
8. Music enhances the celebration of the word, and is selected to connect with the readings and/or mirror the music used in the general assembly.
9. During the Prayer of the Faithful, written petitions or the children's own spoken petitions can be used.
10. Children return to the assembly after the Prayers of the Faithful.