

## **BENEFITS OF HAVING CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

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- Helps to celebrate the presence of God in his Word
- Facilitates sharing the message of the gospel with children at their level
- Helps children experience the Church as community
- Encourages children to form a loving and generous response to the Word of God
- Encourages parents to bring the children to Mass and to come as a family
- Encourages parents to attend Mass regularly
- Helps children to learn about their faith in a positive and enjoyable manner
- Helps the community to embrace and acknowledge the children in the parish family

## **WHAT IS CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD?**

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Children's liturgy of the Word is a liturgical celebration. The Gospel is proclaimed in terms appropriate for young children. The Gospel is discussed and broken open so that the children have a better understanding of the message. A profession of faith is proclaimed and prayer intentions offered before the children re-join their parents. While it is not catechesis (religious instruction), Sunday School,

or child-minding, it is a place where questions are welcomed and children have the opportunity to contribute

It is Liturgy of the **Word**, so it is ritual, centered on the proclamation and breaking open of the scriptures. The children do what the rest of the community is doing at this point of the Mass. They listen to the scriptures proclaimed and applied to contemporary life and respond in various ways. It is to be an experience of prayer, of dialogue with God.

## **MORE THAN ONLY WORDS**

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A Liturgy of the Word is never simply a verbal experience. The use of symbols, gesture, movement and singing heightens the experience. A lectionary which is handled with respect, a special place for enthroning the word, gathering the children around to hear the scriptures proclaimed well, all speak to the children of the sacredness of God's word and influence how they accept and live by it.

## **QUESTIONS**

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Your ministry is greatly appreciated by the parish. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the parish coordinator for Children's Liturgy:

Shelley Carbonetto at 613-831-0411 or [shelley@magma.ca](mailto:shelley@magma.ca)

Some of the information in this publication has been adapted from the Office of Religious Education, Nelson Diocese.

## **INFORMATION ON THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**



### **Holy Spirit Catholic Parish**

1489 Shea Road

Stittsville, ON K2S 0G8

Phone: 613-836-8881

Fax: 613-836-8806

[www.holyspiritparish.ca](http://www.holyspiritparish.ca)

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## **ALL OF US BELONG TO THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Children's liturgy leaders help children find the Good News of Christ through scripture and prayer. The celebration of the Word with children follows the same structure as the Liturgy of the Word with the main assembly. Children's liturgy of the Word is adapted to be made relevant to the lives and experiences of young children preparing them for full participation in the liturgy. It gives them an opportunity to receive and respond to the Sunday readings.

## **HOW CAN ONE HELP IN THIS MINISTRY?**

All members of the parish, who are fully initiated (baptized, confirmed and received their first communion) are eligible to serve in this ministry. Leaders must be able to relate well to children, communicate effectively to them and have a spirit of generosity and creativity. They should possess a love of scripture and a profound faith in the presence of God in the proclaimed Word.

## **RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY**

The parish has a responsibility to train and support those called to this ministry. Leaders have a responsibility to attend parish workshops when offered. New leaders are welcome to sit in on Children's Liturgy prior to their week and may request to have an experienced leader assist until they are comfortable leading on their own. A police check is required for all leaders of children's liturgy. The Parish will provide the necessary forms. The coordinator will provide ministers with information regarding diocesan workshops and other opportunities for developing relevant skills. Suggestions may be given to the coordinator or the pastor.

## **SCHEDULING**

Ideally, one Leader and one helper will be scheduled for each 10:30 Sunday eucharistic celebration beginning in September and ending in mid June. A commitment of three to six dates is requested of each leader.

## **PREPARATION**

The parish has several wonderful resources available to assist you in preparing to lead Children's Liturgy for each assigned week. This will allow you as much time as you need to prepare. This preparation should include reading and prayerfully reflecting on the Scriptures you will share with children.

## **ON THE DAY THAT YOU LEAD CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the liturgy. In the room where the Children's Liturgy takes place, set the appropriate liturgical colour altar cloth on the table. The leader of children's liturgy should make their presence known to the presider and to an usher who will notify you of timing to return to assembly. Ensure that the children's lectionary, the cross and the candle are on the table beside the presider's chair before Mass begins. At the end of Mass ensure that the candle, the lectionary and alter clothes are returned to their proper places.

Join the presider and other liturgical ministers for prayer in the atrium before Mass begins.