

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sometimes..., if the place itself and the nature of the community permit, it will be appropriate to celebrate the liturgy of the word, including a homily, with the children in a separate, but not too distant, room. Then, before the eucharistic liturgy begins, the children are led to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own liturgy of the word (DMC #17).

Objectives:

The Church's ministry of evangelization is aimed at personal transformation through the development of a personal relationship with God. All Christians, young and old alike, are called to advance and strengthen this relationship through study, prayer and worship. To this end, nothing is more foundational or instrumental than regular participation in the Liturgical Celebration of the Eucharist because it is here that Christ meets us in the most powerful way in both word and sacrament.

However, our community recognizes the difficulties children in particular face as they attempt to participate in our adult oriented liturgical celebrations. Namely, there is a lack of understanding concerning the words, symbols and adult experiences being conveyed. In response to this, St. Lawrence parish offers a Children's Liturgy of the Word which enables our children to take a more conscious and active part in liturgical celebrations. In essence, this adaptation to the Liturgy of the Word speaks more appropriately and effectively to their level of understanding yielding a more enriching and meaningful experience for them. In this way, we will make our liturgical celebrations more accessible to our children while, at the same time continue to lead them toward full, conscious and active participation in the Sunday liturgical assembly.

Guidelines (in accordance with the document on the *Directory for Masses with Children*):

1. At the conclusion of the Gospel reading, prior to the homily, the presiding priest will formally send the children and their ministers to the place where they will celebrate their own liturgy of the word. Children will rejoin the community for the Preparation of the Gifts and the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
2. Children in grades 1-5
3. Sunday 8:00 A.M. Mass only
4. Summer break June, July and August