

Children & Family

Faith Formation at

All Saints' Church



Foundations

Children are part of our Church family and community.

They are loved and welcomed by God and they need to know it.

Children learn best by observing, responding to what they have seen and heard, and trying it out on their own level.

Children learn through play. When it comes to faith, spirituality, and connection to God they learn from you, their parents, as well as from the examples of other important adults in their lives and in Church.

When children are in Church, they absorb what is going on around them and have experiences of God, even if you don't always see it. Parents and other adults can nurture this experience - or they can squash it.

Worshipping together can be part of quality family time.

Sunday School Workshop

This fall we are offering a new program: Sunday School Workshop. This is a gathering for children ages 5-11 (more or less). We'll be using a story-telling approach to God, Church, and the Bible that invites imagination and wondering. The children will have time to respond to the story through creative art, crafts, building, etc. Our approach is based on the Godly Play curriculum. This year the class will follow the seasons of the Church year.

Sunday School Workshop meets once a month on the 3rd Sunday after the 10am service in the large classroom downstairs in the Church (Undercroft) 11:10am -12noon. The first Workshop will be on Sept. 17th.

Please let us know if your child will be participating, so we can have enough materials for everyone. Send an email to allsaints_rector@hotmail.com.

Children's Corner & Worship Boxes

Children's Corner - has been expanded. It offers a soft space for young children and their parents, Bible storybooks, some quiet toys, a basket of Kids' Service Cards to help follow the worship, and a low table with child-friendly seasonal figures and objects.

Worship Boxes - are available for kids PreK- Grade 5. Each box has a clipboard with weekly coloring sheet, crayons or colored pencils, a children's Bible or storybook, and several quiet activities according to the age of the child. Each box has the child's name on it. They are stored on the shelves next to the coat rack in the Narthex. Kids can pick up their own box to take into the service with them and return it when they are finished.

Nursery/Quiet Space

All children and babies are welcome in worship. Sometimes a child needs a short break. This is not a failure or cause for embarrassment. If a parent needs to take a child to a quiet space for a short time, they can use the Nursery in the Undercroft (downstairs). It has toys, a changing table, and a rocking chair. There is a speaker in the Nursery that projects the sound from the service. After a short break, parents and children are always invited to return to worship and try again.

Serving in Worship

All Saints' children of any age are invited and encouraged to serve in Sunday worship:

- **Carry the Cross in the opening procession.** We now have a light-weight wooden Cross that can be carried by a 5-year-old. After the procession, the child returns to their seat with their family. This is called being the Crucifer.
- **Carry the Gospel Book in the opening procession.** This is something a child 5 years and older can do. After the procession, the child returns to their seat with their family. This is called being the Book Bearer.
- **Read one of the Scripture lessons** - depending on a child's reading ability.
- **Serve as an acolyte/altar server** (light the candles, carry the Cross, receive the offering plates, assist the priest in preparing the bread and wine for Communion).
- **Serve on an ushering team** with an adult handing out bulletins, passing the offering plates for the collection, ushering people to the altar for Communion.
- **Play in the Handbell Choir** (rehearses from 6-7pm on Thursdays) - Grade 2 and older. We'll teach you everything you need to know!
- **Play your instrument for a prelude or postlude.** Speak to Alison Siener Brown for more information.

Parent Resources

Helping children to grow in faith and in the knowledge and love of God is an adventure - and you are not alone! You are always welcome to speak with Mother Vicki or Alison Siener Brown, our Director of Music and a teacher of young children. We also plan to build a small library of resources for parents - both print and digital - to assist you in your ministry of faithful parenting. Look for more to come!

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We are rebuilding All Saints' Church after several years that have been challenging for all of us. God has brought us through, and we are looking to the future with faith in God's love and care.

Please speak with Mother Vicki about serving or participating in any of these activities. We will show you what you need to do before you have to do it.

We are so glad that you and your family are part of All Saints'. Please let me know if your child will participate in Sunday School Workshop, if they are interested in serving in any way, or where you feel you need support or you can help. I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, Vicki+

allsaints_rector@hotmail.com

973-886-4119 - Cell (text as well as phone)