



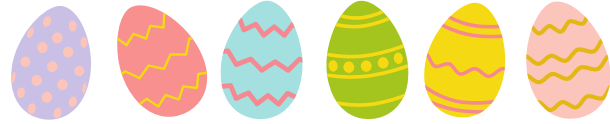
st. mark's children's ministry



April 2026 Newsletter

"He is not here; He is risen!"

Luke 24:6



Happy Easter!

Sunday Class Schedule

Services at:

8:30 am, 10:30 am and 1 pm Services

Little Blessing Nursery

Opens 8:15 am

(Infants to 3 year olds)

8:30 am Sunday Worship Service

Godly Play

(Pre-K to 5th Grade; Room 123)

10:30 am Sunday Worship Service

(All meet in **Mahon Hall** at **10:15am**)

then break into...

- Play and Pray

(Pre-K-Ages 3-5; meets in Room 101)

- Godly Play

(K-1st Grade; meets in Room 123)

- Faith Builders:

(2nd-3rd Grade ; meets in Room 203)

- Friends in Faith:

(4th-5th Grade; meets in Room 201)

Sunday School classes meet every Sunday.

All are welcome!!

I hope you all had a wonderful spring break with your families! Whether you went on an amazing trip or had a local adventure at home, spending time together as a family is such a blessing!

We start April off celebrating Easter, and very often, this means getting together with friends and family. I celebrate with my entire big, extended family, and we eat delicious, traditional foods. One of my very favorites is calzone. This is a delicious "Easter pie" of sorts, made with many ingredients—eggs, cheeses, ham, etc. In my family we all get together, my mother, my sisters, my nieces, my daughter, even some of my nephews who like to cook have joined us, and we make calzoes together. We talk, laugh, listen to music, sing, and enjoy the process of teaching the younger generation how to make them.

After my mother's strokes, she has taken on more of a supervisor role, but she is still very involved in the process. Easter reminds us of the promise of eternal life, which we feel in family traditions which are carried on for many generations, long after previous family members have gone to Heaven. The resurrection of Jesus brings a sense of renewal and hope, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, there is always the possibility of a new beginning, and a future with God. We hope the children's Lenten paper white bulbs grew and bloomed! We look forward to our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after each service (9:00 am, 11:15 am, and 7:00 pm)!

Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministries

Jesus teaches us Communion during the Last Supper.

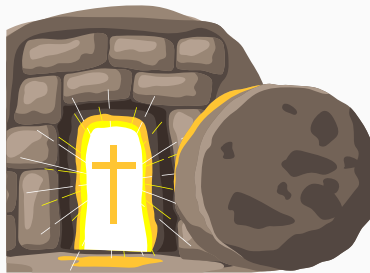


Mundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is a celebration of the Last Supper. This is when Jesus offered his disciples Communion for the first time. We remember this each week when we participate in Holy Communion during our worship service. Please join us on Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 pm for our Agape Feast followed by a worship service.

April Event: Good Friday Walk

On Good Friday, Ms. Gina will host a Walk with Jesus. This will include a child friendly, interactive walk with Jesus through the events around Good Friday. The walk will begin at 10:00am on April 3rd. We will meet in the library.

Alleluia, Christ has risen!



Holy Week culminates with Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb with spices to complete Jesus' burial, she discovered that it was empty. Jesus rose just as scripture predicted. Our Easter services will take place at: 9 a.m, 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Registration



Payment



What's Happening at Sunday School?

Sunday School meets at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

- April 5: Easter (9:00 am, 11:15 am, 1:00 pm)
- April 12: Jesus Meets Mary at the Tomb
- April 19: Road to Emmaus
- April 26: Doubting Thomas/Final Communion Class

For more information, please contact Gina Wood; childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org

st. mark's children's ministry

We offer a range of Sunday School offerings for all St. Mark's children in order to make Sunday School as fun, engaging and age-appropriate as possible. Our belief is that a combination of classroom time and time spent with families in worship is the best way to help build a strong spiritual foundation. Each class will join their family in time to participate in Communion.

LITTLE BLESSINGS NURSERY Our nursery is available every Sunday for our youngest children (Ages 0-3) during the 8:30am, 10:30am and 1pm services.

Morning First Communion All students in 2nd grade and older are invited to join us on Sunday March 8th, March 15th, and April 26th during the 10:30am Sunday School classes for our three First Communion Classes. Children must attend all three classes as part of our preparation for their First Communion Celebration on Sunday, May 3rd at 10:30am

PLAY & PRAY PRESCHOOL (Meet in Mahon Hall at 10:15am)

During the 10:30 am service, we welcome children ages 3-5 to gather together to play and enjoy an age-appropriate lesson and craft.

GODLY PLAY (Meet in Mahon Hall at 10:15am)

During the 10:30 am service, we welcome our children in grades K-1, to join us in Godly Play which includes a lesson and a lesson-inspired activity and artwork.

FAITH BUILDERS (Meeting in Mahon Hall at 10:15am)

During the 10:30 am service, we welcome children in 2nd-3rd grades, to join together to discuss Gospel stories and to interpret their learning through Legos and other activities.

FRIENDS IN FAITH (Meet in Mahon Hall at 10:15am)

During the 10:30 am service, we welcome children in 4th-5th grades, to join together to read from the Bible, discuss and interpret stories and participate in activities.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS (for the 1 pm service)

Students will meet in Room 123 for First Communion class at 12pm; they will then rejoin their family for the 1pm service.

Please note: Sunday School meets every Sunday, September 7-May 24; we will be off for Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks. We will not meet November 30, December 21, December 28 or March 22.

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Save these dates!

April 3, Friday:	Good Friday "Walk through Holy Week"; 10 am
April 5, Sunday:	Easter Sunday; Egg Hunt following 9 am and 11:15 am services
April 23, Thursday	6 pm Community Dinner and Bible Bingo
April 26, Sunday:	First Communion Class - Learn about church, community, and communion
May 3, Sunday:	First Communion Celebration; 10:30 am service
May 24, Sunday:	Pentecost and Teacher Appreciation; Wear red!
June 7, Sunday:	Summer Sunday School begins;
July 12, Sunday:	10:00 am service Worship and Potluck Picnic at Lake Ellyn Park;
July 13-17, Monday -Friday:	9 am - 12 pm Vacation Bible School (VBS);
August 23, Sunday:	Back to school blessing of the backpacks at all services.

UTO Collection

Remember to bring your UTO Box, filled with coins, to St. Mark's.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) boxes give the opportunity to you and your family members to place a coin (or a dollar :) in the UTO box whenever you notice something you are thankful for. At Vacation Bible School, we refer to these as "God Sightings". Something as simple as a sunny day, or a great meal, or act of kindness from a friend, or a smile from a stranger. Think of the box as a way to collect memories of all of God's goodness! 100% of these contributions support mission and ministry projects. Boxes will be collected on Easter.

If you still need a box, there are more in the Narthex.



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About Godly Play

St. Mark's Sunday School is built on a foundation of an approach called "Godly Play." This approach presents stories of our faith through figures, structures, and objects as a way to engage children in the lessons. We present the stories in an interactive way, ask children questions about the story and spark a discussion about how they feel when they hear the story. This open-ended format allows kids to engage with the story in their own way which in turn helps reinforce their spiritual foundation.

At St. Mark's we take that engagement further by encouraging kids to interpret the lessons through artwork and other activities such as Legos. We have special events and activities throughout the year which help to keep our curriculum fresh and relevant. We are very inclusive and strive to find a wide range of activities which pique a variety of interests.

We also believe that service is important even for our youngest kids. Through service we actually walk in the footsteps of Jesus and model our faith. We monthly service projects with a variety of ways to involve our kids. These include things like a book drive, valentine' for seniors and even a car wash!