



st. mark's children's ministry



September 2026 Newsletter

*"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them, for the
kingdom of Heaven belongs to such
as these!" Matthew 19:14*



School Days Are Here!

Sunday Class Schedule

Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1 p.m.

Little Blessings Nursery, Rm. 112

Open from 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Infants to 3 year olds)

8:30 a.m. Worship Service: Little Blessings Nursery Plus Rm. 112

(Older siblings welcome for crafts and play)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (All meet in **Mahon Hall** at **10:15 a.m.**)

We 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.

1 p.m. Worship Service

- **First Communion/Faith Formation (in Español)**

(2nd-5th Grade; meets in Room 123)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We are so excited to close out August, and start September with our Kick Off Sunday, August 30! This is such a fun way to start our "back to Sunday School classes" for the year!

We will celebrate with a bounce house and slide, face painting, hot dogs, and treats right after our 10:30 a.m. service! If it rains, we'll still celebrate in Mahon Hall. We also encourage children to bring their school backpacks for Kick Off Sunday to be blessed by Father George!

As we start Sunday School classes this September, the children will be learning about the Lord's Prayer, and what those words truly mean to all of us. We will also be learning about Noah and Moses this month—many wonderful stories of God's love.

Speaking of love, we would really LOVE all our St. Mark's parents to take a turn volunteering in our classrooms this fall! If you would be able to volunteer even once every other month, to be a Sunday School classroom leader or helper, we would so appreciate your time--no experience is necessary! (We will provide you with everything you need!) It's less than one hour, and gives you a wonderful connection to your child, and others in our St. Mark's community! (QR code to sign up on page 2.)

I hope you all have a beautiful September and a great "Back to School" experience!

Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministries

First Communion Information

We invite all our students in 2nd grade and older to participate in our First Communion Celebration on May 2, 2027



At 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, students will attend three preparatory classes in spring of 2027 (April 4, 11, 25), leading up to our First Communion Celebration at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 2. Stay tuned for registration information!

At the 1:00 p.m. service, our students will participate in First Communion preparatory classes at 12 p.m. throughout the school year, taught in Spanish. Students will then attend our First Communion Celebration at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 2.

It Takes a Village!

With four Sunday School classrooms plus our Little Blessings Nursery, we have so many great opportunities for parent leaders and helpers. Volunteer with your spouse, a friend, or on your own. Or invite a St. Mark's member who may have older children or grandchildren, and would love to help out!

All information and curriculum materials will be provided before the Sunday that you volunteer. When kids and parents get to know one another, it creates a stronger sense of community. We can also tap into a wide range of talents and interests which keeps the class time fresh.

Sign up to lead or help with a Sunday School Class this fall.



What's Happening at Sunday School?

Sunday School meets at 10:15 a.m. and 12 p.m.

August Activity: Kick Off Sunday



When: August 30, 11:30 a.m.

Where: St. Mark's front lawn, off Main Street. (In Mahon Hall if raining.)

The Lord's Prayer



This month we will be starting to learn about the Our Father, and helping children understand why we say this prayer. Jesus shared this with us so that we would know

what to say and how to approach God. Children learn to praise God, ask for daily needs, ask for forgiveness, and ask for help to stay away from wrong choices. It teaches children that God is a loving Heavenly Father who listens, cares for them, and gives them what they need every day.

Helpful Phrases For Worship Service



As we kick off the new program year at St. Mark's, now's a great time to review what it means to participate in service. Here are some of the phrases we use with your children during Sunday worship:

- When we worship God, we pay attention.
- We respect God's house and His table (the altar). We are listening and still between ringing the bells.
- Our whole church family is praying. So we are kind and respectful while we all pray.

August 30: Kick Off Sunday.

September 6: Creation

September 13: The Lord's Prayer

September 20: Noah and the Ark

September 27: Moses and Exodus

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

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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 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. services.

LITTLE BLESSINGS NURSERY PLUS During the 8:30 a.m. service, older siblings are welcome for crafts and play in Room 112.

PLAY & PRAY PRESCHOOL (Meet in Mahon Hall at 10:15 a.m.) During the 10:30 a.m. 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 10:15 a.m.) During the 10:30 a.m. 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 10:15 a.m.) During the 10:30 a.m. 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 10:15 a.m.) During the 10:30 a.m. 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 p.m. service) Students in **2nd-5th grades** will meet in Room 123 for First Communion class at 12 p.m. They will then rejoin their family for the 1 p.m. service. Classes are led in Spanish.

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Save these dates!

August 30, Sunday:	Kick Off Sunday, Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.; hot dogs, bounce house and more at 11:30 a.m.!
October 1, Wednesday:	St. Francis Pet Blessing: 4 p.m., front lawn
October 3, Saturday:	Pumpkin Unloading; 9:30 a.m., all ages welcome!
October 11, Sunday:	Trick or Treat for UNICEF boxes distributed
October 25, Sunday:	Pumpkin decorating during Sunday School; display at Coffee Hour
November 1, Sunday:	All Saints' Sunday; Children process at 10:30 a.m.
November 15, Sunday:	Stock the Glen House Food Pantry; bring donations to Sunday School
November 29, Sunday:	First Sunday of Advent; make Advent Wreaths during Coffee Hour
December 6, Sunday:	St. Nicholas visits St. Mark's with a special Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m.
December 20, Sunday:	Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m.
December 24, Thursday:	Christmas Eve; Family Services, with Nursery, at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
January 3, Sunday:	Epiphany and Three Kings at all services
January 10 Sunday:	Wear pajamas to Sunday School and church!
January 18, Monday:	Martin Luther King Day; service project for all ages; 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
February 7, Sunday:	Sunday School Activity; Valentines for Veterans
February 9, Tuesday:	Shrove Tuesday! Celebrate with pancakes and bingo; 6 p.m.
February 10, Wednesday:	Ash Wednesday; Ashes to Go 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
February 21, Sunday:	Plant bulbs during Sunday School; UTO boxes distributed
March 21, Sunday:	Palm Sunday with donkey procession (all services); palm crafts
March 26, Friday:	Good Friday "Walk with Jesus"; 10 a.m.
March 28, Sunday:	Easter Sunday; Egg Hunt following all services
May 2, Sunday:	First Communion Celebration; 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. services
May 16, Sunday:	Pentecost and Teacher Appreciation; Wear red!
June 6, Sunday:	Summer Sundays begin; 10:30 a.m. service
July 11, Sunday:	Worship and Potluck Picnic at Lake Ellyn Park; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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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's for seniors, and even a car wash!