

# St. Mark's Children's Ministry

February 2026 Newsletter

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

## Sunday Class Schedule

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

**Opens 8:15 am**

**Little Blessing Nursery**

(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**)

**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!!**

**Show your love!**

February is here, and of course that makes us all think of love and Valentine's Day. So, what better time to express love and compassion for others? Last month many children joined us for our MLK Day of Service, as we showed love and compassion for others by creating birthday cards and filling birthday treat bags, and personal supply bags for The Glen House Food Pantry. In addition, the children wrote notes and cards for people on our St. Mark's prayer list! Valentine's Day parties and decorations are a very fun way to show love and affection for our classmates, friends, and families. What other ways can we show love and compassion this month--to love one another as God loves us? This month the students will create Valentines for Veterans at Sunday School. I encourage you to think of others who might not have a "special someone" this month, to show them some of God's love through your actions. This might be an act of service, a card, or maybe even a flower or chocolate to make them smile. We also begin our 40-day Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, **February 18th**! Children will receive their own Lenten journey "maps", and on Sunday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>** will plant bulbs to take home and follow their growth all the way to Easter. I invite everyone to our Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner and Bible Bingo on Tuesday, **February 17<sup>th</sup>** in Mahon Hall. Enjoy this month with all of your loved ones and show God's love to others whenever you can!

Ms. Gina



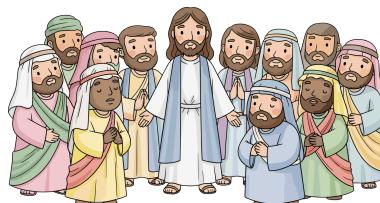
Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministries  
[childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org)

# st. mark's children's ministry

## ***Jesus Chooses Everyday People as Disciples***

This month begins with the story about when Jesus called the 12 Apostles. We've come to know so much about the 12 disciples of Jesus--also known as the apostles--that they can seem bigger than life. But in fact, they were ordinary people, some not even very well liked. Some were fishermen, one

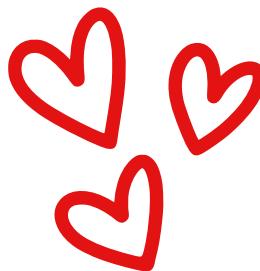
was even a tax collector! We don't need to be extraordinary to be called on to spread the word of God. It is our faith and commitment that is most important--with these we can all help spread the Good News.



## ***February Service Project***

On February 8th we will be creating valentines to be delivered to veterans as a thank you for their service to our country, and a celebration of God's love for them. Children are welcome to bring in any additional items for

decorations or donations they would like to include with their valentines.



**register  
using this  
QR code**

We encourage you to register your kid(s) for Sunday School as it helps us prepare our classes in a personal way. Whether registered or not, all are always welcome! Please email [childrensministry@stmarks.glenellyn.org](mailto:childrensministry@stmarks.glenellyn.org) with questions.



## ***Our ministry has room to grow.***

Participating in Sunday School has so many important benefits for kids. Our weekly classes provide an opportunity to learn and discuss lessons from the Bible. Our service projects offer an opportunity to model the teachings of Jesus. This is a community which we hope will contribute significantly to creating



a foundation of faith in our youngest church members.

We are always looking to include new families. Please consider inviting friends and neighbors to one of our services. It can be as simple as forwarding this newsletter!

## ***What's Happening at Sunday School?***

- Feb. 1--The Twelve Disciples
- Feb. 8--Valentine's For Veterans
- Feb. 15--Jesus Blesses the Children
- Feb. 22--Lent & Bulb Planting

Sunday School meets at 8:30 am and 10:15 am

For more information, please contact Gina Wood at [childrensministry@stmarks.glenellyn.org](mailto:childrensministry@stmarks.glenellyn.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 8<sup>th</sup> , March 15<sup>th</sup> , and April 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

# st. mark's children's ministry

## Save these dates!

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>February 8, Sunday:</b>        | Sunday School Activity; Create Valentines for Veterans  |
| <b>February 17, Tuesday:</b>      | Mardi Gras! Celebrate with pancakes and bingo; 6pm  |
| <b>February 18, Wednesday:</b>    | Ash Wednesday; Ashes to Go in the library 7 am - 7 pm   |
| <b>February 22, Sunday:</b>       | Plant bulbs during Sunday School; UTO boxes distributed   |
| <b>March 8, Sunday:</b>           | Learn about church, community, and communion  |
| <b>March 15, Sunday:</b>          | Learn about church, community, and communion  |
| <b>March 29, Sunday:</b>          | Palm Sunday with donkey procession (8:30 am and 10:30 am and 7:00 pm); make palm crosses at coffee hour |
| <b>April 3, Friday:</b>           | Good Friday "Walk through Holy Week"; 10 am   |
| <b>April 5, Sunday</b>            | Easter Sunday; Egg Hunt following 9 am and 11:15 am services  |
| <b>April 26, Sunday</b>           | Learn about church, community, and communion  |
| <b>May 3, Sunday:</b>             | First Communion Celebration; 10:30 am service   |
| <b>May 24, Sunday</b>             | Pentecost and Teacher Appreciation; Wear red!   |
| <b>June 7, Sunday</b>             | Summer Sunday School begins;  |
| <b>July 12, Sunday</b>            | 10:30 am service Worship and Potluck Picnic at Lake Ellyn Park;   |
| <b>July 13-17, Monday -Friday</b> | 10 am - 2 pm Vacation Bible School (VBS);   |
| <b>August 23, Sunday</b>          | 9 am-12 pm daily Back to school blessing of the backpacks at all services.                              |

# st. mark's children's ministry

## 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!

# Join the journey through Lent 2026

