

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."*

Show your 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!!

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 22nd** 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 17th** in Mahon Hall. Enjoy this month with all of your loved ones and show God's love to others whenever you can!

Ms. Gina



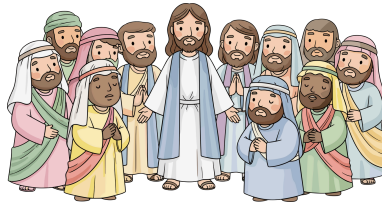
Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministries
childrensministry@stmarksglenellyn.org

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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.



***register
using this
QR code***

We encourage you to register your kids(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@stmarksglenellyn.org with questions.

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.



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@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 8:30am, 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!

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

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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!

Join the journey through Lent 2026

FEBRUARY 17
SHROVE TUESDAY!
Let them eat pancakes!

FEBRUARY 18
Ash Wednesday
From today's gospel, Jesus said, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Use this Lenten season to think about where you are giving your heart. What will you give up this Lent?

FEB. 19
Thursday
Lent is a season for fasting. What will you give up this Lent?

FEBRUARY 20
Friday
Read the gospel for this coming Sunday: Matthew 4:1-11. What phrase strikes you?

FEBRUARY 21
Saturday
Feed someone who is hungry.

FEBRUARY 22
The First Sunday in Lent
From today's gospel: Jesus said 'One does not live by bread alone.'

FEB. 23
Monday
Lent is a season for prayer. Who is on your prayer list this season?

FEBRUARY 24
Tuesday
The feast of St. Matthias
Acts 1:15-26

FEBRUARY 25
Wednesday
Read the gospel for this coming Sunday: John 8:1-17. What phrase strikes you?

FEB. 26
Thursday
Looking for a Lenten practice? Read the Litany of Penitence (p.267 in the Prayer Book) each day. Where do you see yourself?

FEB. 27
Friday
Today is the feast of George Herbert. Read one of his poems.

MARCH 8
The Third Sunday in Lent
From today's gospel: Jesus said 'Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.'

MARCH 7
Saturday
And who do you need to ask for forgiveness? It works both ways.

MARCH 6
Friday
Anne Lamott said: 'Earth is forgiveness school.' Who do you need to forgive this Lent?

MARCH 5
Thursday
Read the gospel for this coming Sunday: John 4:5-42. What phrase strikes you?

MARCH 4
Wednesday
Reach out to someone who is lonely.

MARCH 3
Tuesday
Offer this Lenten prayer daily: Create in me a clean heart. Psalm 51:10

MARCH 2
Monday
Do something today to care for creation.

MARCH 1
The Second Sunday in Lent
From today's gospel: Jesus said 'You must be born from above.'

FEB. 28
Saturday
Lent is a season for repentance. Is there a way in which you need to change direction?

MARCH 9
Monday
Lent is a season to meditate on God's Word. Grab some quiet time today.

MAR. 10
Tuesday
Welcome the stranger. Pray for refugees, immigrants, and those who seek asylum.

MARCH 11
Wednesday
Reach out to someone who is sad, perhaps grieving.

MARCH 12
Thursday
Read the gospel for this coming Sunday: John 9:1-41. What phrase strikes you?

MARCH 13
Friday
Today, pray for peace.

MARCH 14
Saturday
Name ten things for which you are grateful.

MARCH 10
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
From today's gospel: Jesus said 'I am the light of the world.'

MARCH 16
Monday
Lent is a season for self-examination

MARCH 17
Tuesday
In honor of St. Patrick, read the text of Hymn 370.

MARCH 18
Wednesday
Read the gospel for this coming Sunday: John 11:1-45. What phrase strikes you? What do you think will be the preachers focus on, Sunday?

MARCH 27
Friday
In a time of partisan division, listen to someone with whom you disagree.

MARCH 26
Thursday
Take a long walk and talk with God

MARCH 25
Wednesday
The Feast of the Annunciation
Here I am.

MARCH 24
Tuesday
Today we remember Oscar Romero. Read about his work for justice and peace.

MARCH 23
Monday
Pray for your clergy as they prepare for Holy THANKS Week.

MARCH 22
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
From today's gospel: Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

MARCH 21
Saturday
Pray for the leaders of our nation.

MAR. 20
Friday
First day of Spring. Look for new life.

MARCH 19
Thursday
The feast of St. Joseph
Luke 2:41-52

MARCH 29
Palm Sunday
HOSANNA
WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK

MAR. 30
Monday in Holy Week
Read the psalm chosen for today: Psalm 36:5-11.

MAR. 31
Tuesday in Holy Week
Read the psalm chosen for today: Psalm 71:1-14.

APRIL 1
Wednesday in Holy Week
Read the psalm chosen for today: Psalm 70.

APRIL 2
Maundy Thursday

APRIL 3
Good Friday

APRIL 4
Holy Saturday
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Easter Vigil

APRIL 5
Easter Day
ALLELUIA!