



st. mark's children's ministry



October 2026 Newsletter

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your
mind. This is the first and the greatest
commandment." Matthew 22:37-38*



Autumn Days Are Special!

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 meets every Sunday.

1 p.m. Worship Service

- First Communion/Faith Formation (in Español)

(2nd-5th Grade; meets in Room 123 at
12 p.m.)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Happy Fall! It has been a wonderful September and return to Sunday School. I am so pleased see so many returning and new friends on Sunday. The kids did a great job with their Gather and Sing song "This Little Light of Mine"—all about sharing their personal faith with others, doing good deeds, and living a kind life so others can see it and feel inspired to do the same.

I want to thank all our parents who have already volunteered to help lead our Sunday School classes. With four classrooms, we have plenty of opportunities for parents (and older junior high/high school siblings) to help in the classroom—you can sign up today.

This month we will have so many fun opportunities for families to participate in activities together! Bring your pet to St. Mark's for our Pet Blessing on October 4. Come help unload the pumpkins for our pumpkin patch on October 3.

Later this month, children will receive a Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF box. There will be a Pumpkin Patch Festival on October 17, with fun activities for the family, and of course, kids will decorate pumpkins!

Children are also welcome to wear their Halloween costumes to church on October 25th. It's going to be a great month, and we can't wait to sing, and pray, and learn and play with you!

Gina Wood, Director of Children's Ministries

The Great Commandments

In the Old Testament, we learn that God delivered the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, through Moses on Mt. Sinai.

These are 10 important principles about how to live spiritually and morally.



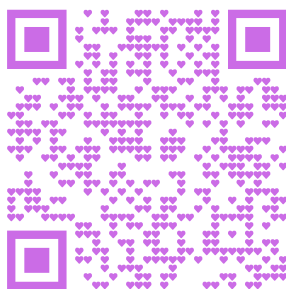
Later, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus was asked which of the commandments was most important. He replied "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It Takes a Village!

With four Sunday School classrooms, 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.
NEW QR CODE!!!



St. Francis: The Patron Saint of Animals



On October 4, we celebrate the feast of St. Francis. St. Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant. He gave up his wealth to live a life of poverty. He founded the Franciscan Order and is known for his love of nature and all living things.

St. Francis viewed all living things as his "brothers and sisters". This is how many of us think about our pets! To celebrate St. Francis, we will hold a blessing of pets on the front lawn of St. Mark's on Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Boxes Coming Soon !

Later this month, we will distribute donation boxes for UNICEF. The long-running Halloween



fundraising campaign supports UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. The organization provides safe water, food, vaccines, and schooling for children in over 150 countries around the world!

You can donate cash or use the QR code on the box to donate as well. Boxes will be collected in November, after Halloween.

What's Happening at Sunday School?

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

October 4: The Ten Best Ways to Live
October 11: The Ark and the Tent
October 18: A House for God
October 25: Pumpkin Decorating & Costume Parade

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

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

Each class rejoins their family half-way through service, in time to participate in Communion.

LITTLE BLESSINGS NURSERY Our nursery in Room 112 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!

October 3, Saturday:	Pumpkin Unloading; 9:30 a.m., all ages welcome!
October 4, Sunday	St. Francis Pet Blessing: 4 p.m. St. Mark's front lawn
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. Special Coffee Hour: 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.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!