

Children at St. Patrick's

Children are always welcome at St. Patrick's, and are an important part of our congregation. Sunday School for ages three to Grade 5 is during the service, and takes place in the Church Library. We have other offerings for youth on Sunday evenings and at monthly events throughout the year, including preparation for Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders. Please ask the Rev. Dr. Kurt Gerhard about these programs or contact the Church Office.

We invite all children to be present in the Nave during the service, but at times family members want to take their children out of the service for a break, a drink of water or some time to run about a bit! Directly across from the Nave is our Great Hall—you will be able to hear the service from in there if you'd like to step out for any reason.

We also have bags of crayons, paper and books available for children, so ask the ushers



The liturgical calendar and sacred time are central to Godly Play

when you arrive. We feel it is important for children to worship with their families—you will be surprised at how much your children get out of being present during the service.

Children's Music at St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's has a full range of music opportunities for children beginning with Music in Motion for children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 followed by Jubilate Deo for children in Grades 3-6 and Classy for Grades 7-8. Ask Adele Lynch about Family Choir too!

adele@stpatrickschurchdc.org



World Communion Story

4700 Whitehaven Pkwy, NW
Washington, DC 20007
202-342-2800
www.stpatrickschurchdc.org

2018-2019 Lessons

The Church Year
The Holy Bible
The Holy Family
The Flood & the Ark
The Great Family
The Exodus
The Ten Best Ways
The Ark and the Tent
The Exile and Return
Advent 1-4
Epiphany
Baptism
Parables:
The Good Shepherd
The Good Samaritan
The Great Pearl
The Sower
The Leaven
The Mustard Seed
The Faces of Easter
The Mystery of Easter
Circle of Holy Eucharist

For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Kurt Gerhard 202-342-2800



Godly Play
at
Saint Patrick's
Episcopal Church

What is Godly Play?



Godly Play is a worship-based approach to Christian formation for children. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children about the art of using religious language to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Think of faith like a second language. Practice keeps the language alive.

The understanding that permeates this method is that children already know God. The adult leader provides them with access to religious language, signs, and symbols from the Christian tradition to use when they speak about their original experience of God.

What is special about Godly Play?

In Godly Play, we tell Bible stories to encourage children to enter the stories and relate them to personal experience. Godly Play is concerned with the spiritual development of each child as an individual, and with modeling worshipful behavior expected of people living in Christian community.

The child learns to trust his or her own insight as a source for genuine learning.

What are the roots of Godly Play?

Godly Play draws on the tradition of the ancient practice of oral storytelling underlying sacred stories.

Godly Play connects with the human need for play, enhancing creativity and agency.

Godly Play develops children's active listening skills necessary to use storytelling and play to create meaning.

Godly Play grew out of the Montessori method of teaching.

What is the pattern of Godly Play?

Godly Play at St. Patrick's is offered as part of Children's Chapel, which follows the pattern of the Liturgy of the Word. Children will develop a deep understanding and enjoy fuller participation when they enter older grades and attend worship together with their families.

Every chapel follows an order of worship. We gather, sing, hear and respond to a story, pray, and return to community worship after a final song.

When we arrive on Sunday, what should we do?

When you arrive on Sunday, find your place together as a family in the Nave and get ready. Worship begins at 10 am. Everyone begins worship together. After the Song of Praise, children ages 3 through Grade 5 are invited to follow the cross to Children's Chapel held in the library for Godly Play. The Godly Play room is "sacred space" in which children are surrounded by sacred stories of the Bible. The crucifer will help each child at the door get ready to enter the room quietly. The children will return to the Nave during the sharing of the peace. After the service has ended, invite your child(ren) to share the story that they heard!

Suggestions for parents

Godly Play is directed at supporting the worship life of children and offering them their own experience of the Sabbath. Children are not expected to "produce" anything that meets the needs of adults or teachers. This is a time for children to make their own discoveries about their faith. Parents naturally want to know how their children spent their time. A question parents might ask: I wonder if anything happened in Godly Play today that you would like to tell me about?