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CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD FAQs

1. How do I know if my child is old enough or mature enough to participate?

The grade range for CLW is K to 5. As children reach the "tween" years, they sometimes assist with a parent leader. Consider the following factors for your child:

- a. The child should be toilet trained and able to last through 30 minutes of the session.
- b. The child should be able to sit with a group, follow simple directions and demonstrate some focus and quiet for the 30 minutes. The children will move, sing, clap and engage in child-oriented activities.
- c. Usually the child will be able to separate from their parent without too much coaxing. Parents are welcome to stay with a child if needed.
- d. Older children usually serve as models for the younger and participate by more fully answering questions regarding the readings.

2. How does my child participate?

After the opening prayer at the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church, the priest calls the children forward, gives the blessing and dismisses the children. The congregation and children sing a song as they depart. The children return to their families and the church body before the Preparation of the Gifts.

3. How can I help my child benefit from CLW?

- a. Explain that they will hear the same Bible stories as you and that they will participate in prayer and worship.
- b. Ask them about the discussion as you drive home. Share the Good News of Jesus together. Our children offer prayers each Sunday and they are most touching. Ask what we prayed for at CLW.

- c. Remind the children to walk as they leave and enter the church. Remind the children to follow directions and sing with joy.
- d. Have the children use the bathroom before Mass begins.
- e. Point out where you are sitting in church so they can find their way back to you.

4. Is there any program fee or cost for my child to participate in CLW?

There are no fees or costs for children to participate in CLW.

5. Sometimes my children have friends to stay over or friends visit from out of town. May they participate in CLW?

Yes, they are most welcome to join us. If possible, let the leader know that they are guests. Visitors sometimes get to do special things at CLW. Children can share their faith with friends by having friends come to CLW with them.

6. Can parents attend Children's Liturgy of the Word with their child?

Yes, of course. We love to have parents come and join us. We hope that your child will eventually be able to separate, so that you may fully participate in the Mass. We welcome your visit with your child and wish that you would find it in your hearts to help us in this ministry.

7. How can I volunteer?

CLW Presiders are needed to share the Word with our young parishioners at the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. Presiders do not need to be a parent of a child who attends CLW – any parishioner with a love for the Word and a love for school-aged children is invited to train to be a Presider. Volunteers are needed to lead the Children's Liturgy and discussion and supervise the children and read the readings. Musicians and vocalists are also needed. The children enjoy having different people share their faith with them. Each adult volunteer bring their own personality to the task. Materials and step by step directions are provided and easily followed for the leader. High school students and Confirmation candidates are welcome to volunteer as presiders; in this case, parents will need to act as monitors to satisfy the legal requirement of an adult presence. All volunteers need to fulfill the STAND requirements of the Archdiocese before being allowed to volunteer. Please step up and become part of this invaluable ministry here at St. Mark. If you are interested or need further information, please approach one of the CLW Presiders on any given Sunday, or contact the Office of Religious Education at 410-744-6560, ext. 224.