

## RESOURCES

**Directory for Masses with Children,**  
Congregation of Divine Worship –  
*Pueros Baptizatos* – November 1, 1973.

Treehaus Communications  
[www.treehaus1.com/  
Sunday\\_samples.htm](http://www.treehaus1.com/Sunday_samples.htm)



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### Children's Liturgy of the Word Mass Schedule 2011 - 2012

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**September**  
11, 18, 25

**October**  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30\*

**November**  
6, 13, 20\*

**December**  
4, 11

**January**  
8, 15, 22, 29\*

**February**  
5, 12, 19\*, 26

**March**  
4, 11, 18, 25\*

**April**  
15

**May**  
13\*, 20

Children's  
Liturgy of the  
Word takes  
place during  
the **10:00 AM  
and noon**  
**Masses only** on  
the dates listed  
on the  
calendar to  
the left.

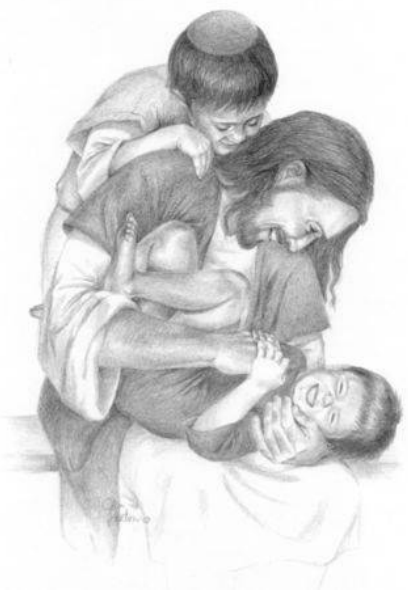
\* = No CLW at 10:00 AM due to Children's  
Mass; CLW will take place at noon

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
is offered during the school  
year from September - May.

Questions? Contact CLW Coordinator  
Cathy Buchele at [clw@abecket.org](mailto:clw@abecket.org) or  
leave a note in the Parish Office.

Saint Thomas á Becket  
555 South Lilley Road  
(734) 981-1333

## Children's Liturgy of the Word



Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After he placed his hands on them, he went away.—Matthew 19: 13-15

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**Our Mission:** To help  
children develop a love  
and appreciation for the  
Word of God

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<http://www.abecket.org/clw.htm>

## **What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?**

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is a program that invites school-aged children (kindergarten through grade 5) to leave the larger parish assembly to celebrate a concurrent Liturgy of the Word in the courtyard rooms and then to return to the main parish assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The children experience the same readings and rituals as the larger parish assembly, but use a special children's lectionary with a homily experience geared specifically for their age group.

## **When do children leave the main assembly in church to participate in CLW?**

Children enter the church with their families. They participate in the Opening Song, the Introductory Rite, the Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer. When it is time to begin the Liturgy of the Word, the celebrant or deacon invites the children to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word. The choir sings a song of sending. A Children's Liturgy of the Word volunteer holds up the Children's Lectionary near the baptismal font. The children gather near the volunteer, who leads them to the courtyard rooms, where they experience the Liturgy of the Word.

## **At what Masses will CLW be held?**

CLW is held every week from September to May during the 10:00 AM and noon Masses, barring some holidays and special occasions for which children should remain with the main assembly (e.g., the Passion, First Communions). The schedule of CLW Masses is listed on the back of this brochure.

## **How is CLW different from Sunday School?**

The tradition of Sunday School in the Catholic Church typically refers to a program in which children (most often younger than First Communion age) enroll in an age-appropriate religious education program that takes the place of Mass. Children are instructed in topics of faith, but do not celebrate the Eucharist, nor participate in Mass. Children's Liturgy of the Word aims to reproduce the liturgical, prayerful, and ritual based environment of the Mass, with developmentally appropriate readings and homily experiences. Children's Liturgy of the Word includes the prayers and blessings that the larger Mass community is using.

## **Who runs the CLW program?**

The Children's Liturgy program is coordinated by Cathy Buchele, assisted by many volunteers. Each volunteer has completed the required background checks and training.

## **Does CLW take the place of Religious Education programs?**

Children's Liturgy of the Word DOES NOT take the place of any Religious Education programs, nor is it coordinated by the Religious Education office. You do not need to register for CLW, nor is there any cost for the program.

## **What materials are being used to prepare for CLW?**

We are using the following resource books, published by Treehaus Communications:

- the Sunday Liturgy Planning Guide,
- the Sunday Weekly Leader Guide, and
- the Sunday Book of Readings.
- You can see a sample of the materials at [www.treehaus1.com/Sunday\\_samples.htm](http://www.treehaus1.com/Sunday_samples.htm)

## **Is CLW an approved practice?**

As outlined in the Directory for Masses with Children (*Pueros Baptizatos*, November 1, 1973),

the Sacred Congregation for the Divine Worship pronounced that

Depending on the capacity of the children, the word of God should have a greater place in [celebrations with children]. In fact, as the children's spiritual capacity develops, celebrations of the word of God in the strict sense should be held frequently... These will help greatly to develop in the children an appreciation of the word of God. (Chapter I, paragraph 14)

and went on to say that

Sometimes, moreover, if the place itself and the nature of the community permit, it will be appropriate to celebrate the liturgy of the word, including a homily, with the children in a separate, but not too distant, room. Then, before the eucharistic liturgy begins, the children are led to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own liturgy of the word. (Chapter II, paragraph 17)

## **Under whose direction is the CLW?**

CLW is a part of the Worship Commission, which provides the budget for CLW materials. The CLW coordinator, Cathy Buchele, works with Pastoral Associate Debbie Miller and the Worship Commission to ensure the highest quality program.

## **How can I get involved?**

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us each Sunday in directing the children to and from church, maintaining the liturgical environment, and setting up and cleaning up the liturgical space. If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of the CLW program, visit [www.abecket.org/clwfag8.htm](http://www.abecket.org/clwfag8.htm) to find out more about what is involved.