

# Growing in Faith Together

## St. Columba's Children's Ministry

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Love and Connection - I want kids to know that they are loved by God just as they are and to feel that love expressed through relationship within our community. As Michele Prince says, we want everyone to be named and known.

# Children's Ministry Vision

- Children know they are loved by God and this community and feel they are integral members of our parish
- St. Columba's is a place of intergenerational relationships (not just multi-generational)
- Parents, Godparents, and other adults feel comfortable talking about their faith

# March 2020 Parent Survey Feedback

## What did parents love?

- **Wee Worship;**
- **Music ministries;**
- **playground;**
- **welcoming, open, flexible nature;**
- **focus on children;**
- **Sunday School.**

## Parents expressed these goals for their children's development:

- Connected to community
- Aware that God loves them
- Connection between bible stories and Christian values and beliefs
- Have commitment to service

## What improvements did parents recommend?

- Sunday School:
  - Engage 4th and 5th graders better
  - More support for classroom management
  - Easier to implement lessons
  - More structure in classes
- Improve and assist in transitions
  - From Wee Worship to Nave services
  - From children's program to youth program

## What would parents like more of:

- community building
- resources to work with kids at home
- Integrating kids into worship ministries to have responsibilities
- Outreach and service projects

# Quest: Formation class designed for tweens



## Renovation team recommendations:

- More youth interaction with Children
- Ministry apprenticeship opportunities for tweens
- Engaging discussion in Sunday School
- Teach Quest leaders not to judge or be authoritarian
- Institute journaling practice
- Explore youth to children mentoring opportunities

## Quest:

- In its second year
- 4th and 5th graders
- Next year 5th and 6th gr. then staying
- 4 leaders all year
- One year - Bible
- One year - BCP/Sacraments - May 21 9am Nave service
- Lots of opportunity for questions and discussion
- Service projects about once a month
- Planning ministry mentorship program

# Columba Crew

## Formation classes for ages 3 - 3rd Grades



### Renovation Team recommendations:

- Celebrate and recognize Sunday School teachers
- Anchor each classroom with at least one consistent lead teacher for the year
- Expand training so teachers better understand developmental stage of children and engagement and management strategies
- Ensure that activities are more varied and active, within a consistent structure
- Greatly increase service experiences and interactions with larger congregation
- Be open to different curricula for different age groups. Lectionary-based curricula are a nice-to-have.

### Columba Crew

- Enhanced training for leaders
  - Management strategies
  - Diverse learning styles
- Focus is on connection and developing a rhythm in class
- Love First curriculum
  - Simple
  - Read same Bible story multiple weeks
  - Focus on rhythm of class
  - Lots of time for sharing, praying and reflecting on the story.

# What's happening in the Children's Program?

- Baptisms
- Worship - Wee Worship (homily, contact for WW usher and LEMs), Storytime in Nave services, special services for children - St. Nick, Children's Christmas Pageants, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
- Special Events - 4th graders receiving Bibles; Halloween Monster Mash Party; Advent Workshop; Preparation Sunday, Legos for Lent
- Sunday School - planning lessons, preparing materials, recruiting and training leaders.

# What is on the horizon?

Joshua, Mitchell, Katie - exciting chance to work together as a new family ministries team!

Intergenerational faith formation activities.

Support parents in their own faith formation and in being able to speak with their kids about their faith.

Godparent ministry - matchmaking for folks who want to be a Godparent to a young family and for young families needing a local Godparent for their child?

Increasing kids' participation in worship ministries.

Dream with me - what would you like to do with our children? Let's talk!

# How can you share and feel the love of God with the children of St. Columba's?

- Come to Wednesday night dinners and sit with a family who has young children and ask the children questions, tell them where you saw God that day.
- Lead a Sunday School class - 6-8 week commitment + training session.
- Become a Nave Storytime storyteller.
- Organize and prepare materials for Sunday School classes.