

Our Parish Mission is Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Parish Vision: God has a vision for us as a Christian Community, empowered by the Holy Spirit, active in: Worship of God, Discipleship for all ages, Serving Christ in the world.

What Discipleship means for Children's Ministry in this parish:

- An experience of the unconditional love of God,
- A love of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
- A joyful experience of the Holy Spirit through Christian Community,
- Knowing God by learning the basics of prayer, the Bible and Christian belief,
- Learning the basics of Christian worship and the traditions of our church, including the Lord's Prayer, the Nicene Creed, customary worship responses, and some worship music commonly used in our church,
- Learning the basics of Christian relationships, including love of God in Christ, love of neighbor as Christ loves us, kindness, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation, and generosity,
- Finding a place as full members of the church with teens and adults, active in other ministries, including children's choir and acolytes,
- Helping to serve Christ in the world, in relationship with those in need,
- Prepared to grow and develop toward confirmation and Youth ministry.

How will we grow disciples for Jesus Christ in this ministry?

- Loving children the way Christ loves us: with grace and truth, justice and mercy, acceptance and accountability, a warm embrace and a higher calling,
- By adults and youth building caring relationships with children and their parents,
- Through praying for and with our kids,
- Teaching the basics of the Christian faith, the Bible and the Christian life,
- Helping kids develop practices of service, prayer and worship, (connected to "big church"),
- Coordinate with the Youth Ministry and Adult Education programs,
- Support parents for Christian development in the home,
- Intentionally bringing the family together at church and at home.

What is our basic programmatic framework for Children's Ministry?

- Sunday School and Nursery (through 5th grade),
- Children's Chapel (an age appropriate version of worship during the sermon, creed and prayers for pre-K through 3rd grade),
- Special activities such as Christmas Eve drama, multigenerational programs,
- One week Vacation Bible School in the summer,
- Other ministries of the parish including acolytes, children's choir and other involvement,
- Staff and volunteer leaders in pastoral relationships with kids and their parents.

Ministry Development Goals:

- Review the Children's Ministry Program and curricula to align with the mission & vision,
- Work with the Children's Ministry Team to build an effective cadre of volunteers,
- Enhance ongoing support for Sunday School teachers
- Coordinate with Youth Ministry, Children's Choir, Acolytes and other ministries,
- Consider ways to further integrate outreach/service experience into the Children's program.