

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that our efforts to reach out to families with young children are responding to needs you have voiced.

Of course you already know that at the 10:30 Sunday morning mass there's the opportunity for children to be dismissed to the lower level of the church where they will hear the day's scriptures from a children's bible and a presentation on those readings geared for their age level. Songs and prayers are included in this liturgy of the Word. The children return to the main assembly just at the time of the collection. (Contact: Elizabeth Smith on the parish staff)

On the first Sunday of every month at the 10:30 Mass our children's choir sings (grades 3 and up). The children meet to rehearse for this on the same day (first Sunday) at 9:30 a.m. on the lower level of the church. There are no other rehearsals and newcomers are always welcome! (Contact: Elizabeth Smith on the parish staff)

If you have a baby or toddler, the "children's refuge" might be helpful for you and your family. Parents who have a child who is fussing, hungry or needs a toy to play with are invited to take refuge in this glass-walled room, just next to the downstairs organ console. The closed door allows for a little noise without worries and speakers in the room ensure that you can continue to participate in the assembly's worship.

Newest is The Dove's Nest. For many years I've heard parents ask if we could offer childcare during Mass. Well, now we do! Parents looking for childcare during the liturgy are invited to drop off children age 3 months through 4 years old at The Dove's Nest, located on the lower level of the church during the 10:30 Mass. Teen volunteers care for the children while their parents pray upstairs. For more information, to volunteer or to register your child for this service, contact: Ann Jennings at hfdovesnest@gmail.com.

In addition to these regular opportunities, I'm working with Jaye Russo, new on our parish staff in faith formation, on special grade level opportunities for children at the 10:30 Mass. Last week we blessed and presented bibles to the 6th graders in our religious education program. This weekend some of our 3rd graders will come to Mass dressed as favorite saints (it is the week of ALL Saints!). As we go through the school year other like moments will be highlighted at the 10:30 Mass.

Why are most of these offerings at the 10:30 Mass? Because this is the weekend Mass with the largest attendance and the highest number of young families with children. And yes - if we had more volunteers for such services we could offer them at other Masses as well. If you'd like to be involved in any of these services as a volunteer please be in touch with the contact person listed with each group.

I'm grateful to staff and parishioners for providing these opportunities for our younger members and we're always looking for more help!

And for adults in the parish... On Sunday evening, November 19 after the 5:00 Mass, Fr. Charlie Gallagher, SJ (who celebrates Mass with us on weekends) will speak on *Catholics, Jews and International Espionage in Boston 1939-1945*. If you heard Charlie speak last year you know that this evening will be very interesting and you'll learn things about Boston you never knew before! This evening is one of a series of talks on the third Sunday of the month, under the direction of our pastoral associate, Elizabeth Smith. (More information on the series and this particular talk in the bulletin this weekend!)

Parishioner Erik Lampaecher just returned from a week in Puerto Rico deploying a water purification system that is now serving 600 people a day on this hurricane devastated island. Few of us have an opportunity to so directly assist the Puerto Rican people. This project is the kind that makes a real and immediate difference in peoples' lives! Erik has offered to share the story of his work there and will do so after the 5:00 Mass on Saturday, November 18 on the lower level of the church.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming