

Class Mass Guidelines

Grades 3-6

INTRODUCTION

The focus for the K-12 Sunday Morning Faith Formation is to inform, model and enable our youth to the actions and words of Sunday liturgical celebration. Preparation in the classroom, rehearsal of the various ministries is vital for the children to deepen their understanding of and ability for “full and active participation.” The preparation of rehearsal and Mass participation needs to be followed by a reflection on their experience. This preparation should ground students so they may come to understand their role as assembly and the various ministries. As a result, they feel more connected to the liturgy as they continue along their faith journey.

It has been our experience that children take their class Mass day very seriously. They want to do well, and they do indeed serve wonderfully. We can help them by:

- **Emphasizing the importance of reverence.** We are in the Lord’s house, so we do things and act in a certain prescribed manner—no loud talking, no running, bowing at specific times, etc.
- **Conveying a sense of occasion.** This is a special event for them, their families, and the community; therefore, we dress appropriately in our special clothes, we arrive on time, we come prepared, and we do our best. No gum, no candy, etc are allowed. Be sure to emphasize this shows respect as well as reverence.
- **Discussing the concept of pace or tempo.** Remind them not to rush when they are walking up to the altar, bowing before the altar, returning to the pew, walking to the back of the Church for the offertory, reading (slowly, clearly, and deliberately), etc. This slow-but-sure strategy helps children relax and remain as calm and composed as developmentally possible (for third through sixth graders!!). This is a joyful event to appreciate and enjoy!
- **Using correct liturgical vocabulary.** Review in weeks prior to immediate preparation.

Please consult the Class Mass schedule for Mass and rehearsal date/time/location information.

The Mass readings (1 per catechist, 1 per lector, 1 extra) will be available in your catechist mailbox in September (if a Fall Mass date) or January (if a Winter/Spring) date.

Included in this resource:

- Explanation of how to write the petitions and a guide for their content
- Logistical information
- Liturgical vocabulary list

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Many thanks for your dedication and hard work!

Judith Brusseau
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
& Religious Education
jbrusseau@trinity.org

Mary Tull
Coordinator, K-6 Religious Education
REK6@trinity.org

LOGISTICS

- Classes that celebrate Mass in the Church/Trinity Hall will also rehearse in the Church/Trinity Hall unless otherwise noted in the Class Mass Calendar.

- Catechists ask for volunteers for the various ministries or “roles” as follows. Please have back-ups ready in case a child does not show the morning of Mass.
- Contact parent volunteers to assist as needed.
- Please consult your planning guide for liturgical and logistical guidelines for either the Church or Trinity Hall.

LECTORS

- When selecting students to do the readings, make sure they are willing and ready. They should be truly confident readers.
- Should be excellent readers. It is imperative that the students practice their readings/petitions at home and in class before trying them out in the Church and Trinity Hall. Reading carefully, clearly and slowly is very important. **They are proclaiming the Word of God!**
- Help them understand what they are reading by discuss the readings with the class.

WRITING INTERCESSIONS/PRAVERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Writing the intercessions/prayers of the faithful can be a “catechetical moment” in class discussion. This offers an opportunity to explore why we pray, who we are praying for. It can offer a meaningful time for reflection and sharing in the classroom.

The formats in which the prayers are said at Mass are listed below. Note that the list goes from global to local.

- A & C classes will write prayers for 1, 2 and 3
- B & D classes will write prayers for 4 and 5
- Prayers 6 and 7 are written by the liturgy coordinator. These prayers will be ready the day of rehearsal; we ask that one catechist comes forward to read these.
- Note that 6C will write all 5 intercessions, as they are not paired with another class.

Each class is asked to write prayers from the standard format of intercessory prayers:

- 1.) For the Church: this could mean the Pope and Bishops or all Christians;
- 2.) For world leaders or an international need;
- 3.) For those in need, e.g. the homeless or hungry, or victims of a disaster;
- 4.) For our nation;
- 5.) For our city, school, or parish;
- 6.) For the sick: we will be given names before rehearsal (read by catechist)
- 7.) For the deceased: we will be given names before rehearsal (read by catechist)

Phrase the prayers in one of the following styles.

A. For (the) _____. That they may _____. We pray to the Lord.

OR

B. That the _____ may _____. We pray to the Lord.

Each petition should not be too long nor include too many things. Please have these ready **two** weeks before the Class Mass, so they can be practiced in both the classroom and at the rehearsal. Please send them directly to K-6 Coordinator at rek6@trinity.org.

PROCESSION WITH THE GIFTS: GIFTS FOR THE POOR

We have partnered classes with specific outreach organizations, in an effort to nurture a more personal awareness of the great need of people among us. We ask that small donations be brought in on the **Sunday of the Rehearsal**. Donations can be stored in the sacristy for the following Sunday.

CLASS	ORGANIZATION	CONTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS
6ABC	SOME	Men and women's toiletries-- shampoo, conditioner (will accept hotel samples), soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant
5AB	Northwest Pregnancy Center	Baby wipes and diapers
5CD	McKenna Center	Men's toiletries
4AB	Little Friends for Peace	After-school snack foods
4CD	Bright Beginnings	Children's underwear and socks
3AB	Northwest Pregnancy Center	Baby wipes and diapers
3CD	SOME	Men and women's toiletries-- shampoo, conditioner (will accept hotel samples), soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant

LITURGICAL VOCABULARY

- Altar Server
- Acolyte
- Ambo
- Assembly
- Cantor
- Cantor Stand
- Presiders
- Intercession/Prayers of the Faithful
- Lector
- Mass – always written with a capital M as it is a proper noun.
- Procession with the gifts
- Worship Aids
- Sanctuary
- Ministers of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Ministers)
- Deacon
- Introductory Rites
- Liturgy of Word
- Liturgy of Eucharist
- Closing Rite
- Gospel
- Readings from Old Testament
- Liturgical Year
- Nicene Creed/Profession of Faith/Apostles Creed