



Youth Formation Information & Schedule for Fall'24

St. Francis' Church offers Godly Play and Tween-Teen Group. Please read below for more information and our schedule.

Godly Play (GP)

Ages 4 to 12 years

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired spiritual formation program that helps children to explore their faith through story and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. In its simplicity, Godly Play seeks to equip children with the religious language needed to express their original experience of God and become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. If you think your 3-year-old is ready, feel free to bring them and we can try it out! Caregivers are welcome to stay with your children, but this is not required.

How is a Godly Play class structured?

1. **Gathering & Getting Ready:** Children are greeted at the door and are invited to join the storyteller in the circle, where they visit and "get ready" (prepare their minds & hearts) for the story. Every week we open with prayer, light our Christ candle and review where we are in the liturgical year.
2. **The Story:** The storyteller tells a sacred story using special materials and speaking in a simple, meditative manner, allowing time for silence. This invites the children to meditate on the Word and pay careful attention.
3. **Wondering Questions:** The group engages in a series of "I wonder" questions allowing them to explore the relationship between the story and their lives.
4. **Work Time:** Children are invited to respond to the story by choosing where they would like to work in the classroom. They can choose to play with the story itself or choose from a variety of art and building materials to express and respond to the story in their way.
5. **Goodbye:** We say goodbye and bring the children up to join their families in the sanctuary around 10:30AM-10:40AM.

Tween & Teen Group (TTG)

Ages 13+

This group meets the first Sundays

God is on your side. Why and how to use discernment and prayer in your life.

This fall, the Tweens and Teens will learn about how God is on our side and why and how to use discernment and prayer. Each week's topic will examine common themes, challenges, and issues to learn how to apply knowledge of how God is our side, discernment, and prayer to our lives. The group employs a variety of reading scripture, videos, music, and discussion to learn lessons from the Bible for real-life application.

Fall Schedule

9/15 – Homecoming Sunday

GP: The Circle of the Church Year

9/22

GP: The Holy Family

9/29 – The Feast of St. Francis Blessing of the Animals @ 11:15 AM

GP: Creation

10/6

GP: The Falling Apart

TTG: Embracing everyone. Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-10)

10/13

GP: The Flood and the Ark

10/20

GP: The Great Family

10/27

GP: The Story of Abraham

11/3

GP: The Exodus

TTG: What difference do I make? Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-13)

11/10

GP: The Ten Best Ways

11/17

GP: The Exile and Return

11/24

GP: The Prophets

12/1

GP: The Story of Jacob

TTG: The Power of Prayer and How to Pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

12/8 – Santa Lucia. No class. Please attend the service in the sanctuary.

For more information about having your child participate in this special service, contact Carol Thollander.

12/15

GP: Advent I & II

12/22

GP: Advent III & IV

12/24 – 5 PM Christmas Eve Service with Children’s Pageant

Youth of all ages, please participate in the Christmas Pageant.

12/29 – No Class

1/5 - No Classes