

The Arc of Formation

PreK ages 3-5 (Catechesis Level I)

Worship

- Understand Church and Worship as a special and prepared space/time where we draw close to God
- Understand that the way we enter/speak/move/etc. prepares us for Worship
 - Greet ushers and choose a worship bag
 - Use walking feet
 - Choose where to sit
 - Use the bathroom before service starts
 - Use quiet voice to talk to parents/siblings/friends
- Use controlled movements to actively participate in Worship
 - Stand and sit with the congregation during processions, collects, hymns, readings, prayers, etc.
 - Listen to the choir sing
 - Follow the cross to and from Children's Chapel
 - Pass the Peace by greeting others, shaking hands, etc.
 - Place an offering in the plate
- Participate in the Eucharist by coming forward to receive the Bread/Wine or blessing (as they express curiosity)
- Practice Eucharistic manners
 - Use walking feet to come forward
 - Kneel at the altar rail
 - Cup hands together to receive the bread
 - Receive the wine (dipping wafer into chalice or gently guide sip from the chalice)
 - Use walking feet to return to pew

Formation

- Develop a deeper familiarity with elements of worship and the Eucharist through atrium "work"
- Begin to know and understand introductory Biblical narratives and parables
 - Annunciation to Mary
 - Adoration of the Shepherds
 - Nativity
 - Visitation of the Magi
 - Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
 - Parable of the Mustard Seed
 - Parable of the Precious Pearl
 - Parable of the Good Shepherd

- Parable of the Hidden Treasure
 - Parable of the Grain of Wheat
 - Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
 - Last Supper
 - Jesus' Crucifixion
 - Jesus' Resurrection
 - (Christmas, Last Supper, Easter, Lost Sheep, Leaven, etc.)
- Learn to handle Bible and Hymnals with care
 - Begin to understand and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ as a real person and God's Son
 - Begin to practice prayer in different forms in church and at home
 - Kneel to pray following Eucharist
 - Say grace at mealtime
 - Say bedtime prayers
 - Begin to recognize the seasonal life of the Church (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc.)
 - Learn to sing as an expression of praise and thanksgiving to God

Fellowship

- Participate in age appropriate fellowship and worship opportunities to deepen their connection to and comfort with The Redeemer community (peers and elders alike)
 - Regular Church School and Children's Chapel attendance
 - Attend Christmas Eve Pageant
 - Shrove Tuesday
 - Church Picnics

Outreach:

- Participate in Outreach events to begin to recognize that the Church works on behalf of others.
 - Christmas Bazaar
 - Interfaith Hospitality Network

Resources:

Sunday Morning by Gail Ramshaw

The Story of King Jesus by Benjamin Irwin

Let Us Pray by Jennie Turrell

Whisper, Whisper: Learning About Church by Mary Moerbe and Martha Aviles

A Child's First Book of Prayers by Lois Rock and Alison Jay

Water, Came Down! The Day You Were Baptized by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Right from the Start: A Parent's Guide to the Young Child's Faith Development by Shirley Morgenthaler

Parenting in the Pews: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship by Robbie Castleman