

*“Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 19:13-14).*

Jesus states explicitly over and over throughout the Gospels the need to become like little children in order to gain entrance into the kingdom of heaven. So, what does that mean, to become like little children? Anyone who has ever spent time with a small child knows children have a very simple outlook on life. They live in the here and the now with very little concern for the past or the future. They also don't typically desire much beyond their basic needs such as food, warmth, or love.

What Jesus is calling us to is a simpler lifestyle. He's encouraging us not to grow anxious about what has been or what's to come but to be content here in the now with Him. Trusting that our Father will provide for us and humbling ourselves to His will like a child dependent on their parent is also essential for admittance into the kingdom.

*“Truly, I say to you unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 18:3-4).*

Here at All Saint's Parish, we have a vibrant children's ministry. Our numbers grow with each week and we are nearing 100 children enrolled in the weekly faith formation program alone. We are thriving.

On a weekly and monthly basis children's ministry not only provides faith formation with sacramental prep, but also many other programs such as children's liturgy of the word, kindle care, mom's group, seasonal events, vacation bible camp, bible study groups, and community outreach. It takes 14 well-trained and highly energetic weekly volunteers to maintain these programs; we at All Saints Parish are extremely thankful for them.

Children's ministry isn't a program per say: we're young families coming together humbling and entrusting ourselves to be a part of the Church. We're grandparents and grandchildren gathering together to share our wisdom and faith with one another. We're friends and neighbors sharing our talents as catechists and event coordinators. We are the living and breathing Body of Christ. We are a family yearning for the Kingdom of heaven.

It's been 17 years since I joined this parish and I can honestly say there's no place I'd rather call home than here at All Saints. For my family, our roots became firmly planted here because of the phenomenal men and woman who touched our lives through the children's ministry. I encourage you to become like little children, and to trust that God will inspire you to serve here at All Saints Parish in Children's Ministry. Join us; you will be welcomed.

God Bless, Carrie Jake

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My Parish Family,

In light of the changes happening in our parish, I wanted to share with you some of the changes in Young Adult and Adult Faith Formation. One change is RCIA. We had a former Evangelical join our church in December, and we have other members at various stages of discernment. RCIA is all about meeting people where they are at, and helping them to draw closer to God. In an effort to meet this need, and to become more proactive in evangelism, we will be redesigning how we catechize and how we evangelize. Look to your bulletins and the parish website in the next few months for updates.

We have also seen the startup of a parish men's group. Our first meeting was Feb. 9th, and men from all walks of life and age groups attended. We had an amazing time, and couldn't stop talking with one another. If you are a man who is interested in building relationships with other guys, and drawing closer to God, you are welcome to join us anytime. As the saints have taught us, becoming a saint isn't just about prayer and detachment, though that's a big part. It's also about laughter, friendship, and allowing ourselves to be joyful. Look to your bulletin and parish website for details.

I am very grateful to be able to serve you, and worship with you as God draws us closer to Himself.

May God bless you, Timothy LeRoy