

Children's & Family Ministries



Programs for 2011-2012

Your guide to everything that goes on at St. James' Church for families with infants and children through sixth grade.

St. James' Church

865 Madison Avenue · New York, NY 10021

Sundays

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Nursery is open for ages 0-2.

9:05 - 11:00 a.m.

Toddler Class (2-3 year olds)

Primary Class (4-6 year olds)

One part of the Toddler and Primary experience is their chapel service each week, led by one of the clergy.

9:10 a.m.

Children first grade and older go to worship with their families. All children are welcome at the service. Our clergy love having children in worship. If you find that your child is disturbing you, you are welcome to go out to Sunderland Hall for a few minutes where you will still be able to hear the service.

10:15-11:05 a.m.

Church School for children first grade and older. We use the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum which is lectionary-, arts- and worship based.

Worship Leadership Opportunities

at the 9:10 a.m. Service

Children **4 years and older** are encouraged to sing in the choirs.

Children in the **3rd grade and older** are encouraged to serve as acolytes. Training is scheduled for September 11 and 18.

Children in the **4th grade** lead the Decalogue during Advent and Lent.

Children in the **5th grade and older** are invited to read the Lesson.

Children and youth in **6th grade and older** lead the Prayers of the People.

Youth in **8th grade and older** serve as ushers.

Youth in the **11th and 12th grades** who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to St. James' are offered the chance to serve as Chalice Bearers.

How do I sign up? Check the appropriate box on the enclosed registration form or contact Vicki at vhall@stjames.org.

For Parents: the Adult Education Forum welcomes parents at 10:30 a.m. each week. Look for information about Parenting Forums/Discussions in the Epistle and the Sunday announcements.

2011-2012

Dear Parent,

This flyer contains the program descriptions and a registration form for the Children's and Family Ministries area at St. James' Church. We are excited about our offerings and hope that your family is able to participate in several of them. For your convenience, there is a glossary to help explain our program. We ask that you fill out the enclosed registration form, listing each child and checking off the program or programs for which you wish them to be registered. Feel free to photocopy the form if additional space is needed, pick up an extra copy at St. James', or register online at www.stjames.org. We look forward to meeting those of you who are newcomers and to seeing each of you this year. It's going to be an exciting year! Questions? Please let me know!

Vicki Hall

Director of Children's and

Family Ministries

212.774-4232

vhall@stjames.org

Weekdays

Playgroups

0-12 months: Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - noon

12-24 months: Thursdays 10:30 a.m. - noon

24-36 months: Fridays 10:30 a.m. - noon

3-5 years: Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Caregiver group: Mondays 10:30 a.m. - noon (all ages)

These groups are a wonderful way to meet parents of young children, ages 0 to 5, who are part of the St. James' parish. A dedicated "caregivers group" is offered for working parents: however, please note that caregivers are welcome at all playgroups whenever personal schedules make it difficult for moms or dads to accompany their child. All St. James' playgroups are adult/child. Playgroups are open to all who are interested. For those with kids who nap: please come early or leave late. We would love to have you.

There will be a Playgroup Welcome Coffee on Friday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Planitzer Nursery. This is a good time to meet other parents, ask questions about the playgroups, and submit your registration form, if you have not already done so. We hope you will join us.

Fees, pledging members / non-pledging members:

Fall (September 12 - December 23) \$225 / 275;

Spring (January 3 - June 30) \$275 / 325;

Full season, \$475 / 575

The playgroups registration fee covers insurance, cleaning, and supplies. We continue to refurbish all toys and supplies in the nursery for the playgroups. We welcome donations to the nursery including new toys and cash that we can use to age-appropriate toys for each group. Cash donations should be forwarded to Vicki Hall, marked for Nursery Toys and Supplies.

Bible Studies: The Bible Project

This year we will read the Old Testament from start to finish over the course of the academic year. We invite all parishioners to join us. The Sunday forums will focus on the week's reading or themes that will illuminate the readings. Small group discussions meet on: Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. led by Dolly Geary (at the same time as one of our playgroups and Cherub Choir), Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. (immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist), Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. (prior to the 6:00 p.m. service).



Thursdays

We Love To Sing!

Thursdays 4:00-4:45 p.m.

A time for fun for any child to come together with an adult to sing! Vicki accompanies on guitar.

Fee: fall \$100, spring \$125, full year \$200

Drama on Thursdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

A class for children who have aged out of We Love to Sing! and who want to express their creative energies through drama.

Fee: fall \$100, spring \$125, full year \$200

Thursdays @ St. James'

Not here on Sundays? Here is weekday Christian education for your children and their connection to St. James'. Education, fun, and dinner for the family.

4:45-5:30 p.m.: creative education time, including Bible storytelling, Praying With Our Hands, Hurry Up and Wait, Celebrating Advent, Living Lent at Home, It's Our Night to Cook, and crafts and activities for bringing the Bible to life.

We divide into two age groupings: older and younger, each group having age-appropriate activities and all coming together for dinner. Additionally, the nursery is always available so that parents/caregivers can give attention to the older children knowing infants are wonderfully cared for.

5:30-6:00 p.m.: buffet dinner (the children choose the menu the previous week)

Fee: the cost of dinner is \$7.00 for an individual and \$15.00 per family. If you would like to pay for the meals in advance, the cost for an individual is \$210 for the year and \$450 for a family for the year. (Pre-payment is not necessary; it is offered as a convenience for those who don't want to have to remember to bring cash each week.)

Family Fridays

6:00-8:00 p.m.: Movies, Bingo, and Lego building with St. James' family and friends. Pure fun for the whole family.

All registration and payments can be made online at StJames.org/Families.

Questions?

Vicki Hall, 212.774-4232
vhall@stjames.org

Glossary

The **9:10 a.m. service** is a service of Holy Eucharist that is welcoming to families. Children and youth serve as acolytes, lay readers, prayer leaders, ushers and chalice bearers, and the children's choirs sing.

Acolytes carry crosses, torches, flags and banners in the procession and assist the priests during the liturgy at the 9:10 a.m. service.

Children's & Family Ministries is the umbrella group for everything that goes on for families with children birth through sixth grade.

Children's & Family Ministries Committee

Renee Anderson	Joni Grossman
Mary Andryc	Paige Hardy
Suzanne Barnes	Graziella Mehrish
Willa Baynard	Emilie Oyen
Sue Bennett	Mary Anne Hunting
Peggy Bitler	Remien
Susanne Blackstock, Co-chair	Ann Roberts
Jeanine Borthwick	Holly Rochell
Kim Church	Dee Dee Scarborough
Martin Dessoffy	Lisa Smith
Kysa Englund	Severn Taylor Co-chair
Laura Forte	Cinder White
Monica Green	Bona Yang,

The **Children's Eucharist** focuses on young children at the 9:10 a.m. service on the first Sunday of each month. The Primary class students worship with their parents, all of the children's choirs sing, one Church School class writes and leads the Prayers of the People, all of the children are invited up to the front for the homily, and the First Sunday Food Offering is received.

The **Church School Offering** is the total of offerings taken up in our Church School classes and/or received in the Children's Offering Envelopes. The recipient of each year's CS offering is chosen by the children and teachers.

Communion Awareness classes are offered twice each year. Children and parents participate in an instructed Eucharist and are able to ask all the questions that they have about communion.

Decalogue Leaders lead the reading of the Ten Commandments during Advent and Lent at the 9:10 a.m. service.

Family Fridays will be offered monthly throughout the year featuring evenings of bingo, movies, Lego building and dance, dance fever, with pizza, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Watch for emails and notices in the Sunday leaflet for Family Friday dates.

The **First Sunday Food Offering** responds to food donations requested by the Yorkville Common Pantry. On the first Sunday of each month at the 9:10 a.m. service, parishioners are encouraged to place food donations in the basket in front of the altar on the way to receiving communion. This concrete way of giving is understandable even to our young children.

Lay Readers read the lesson at the 9:10 a.m. service.

The **Nursery** is a room maintained for our youngest parishioners, ages 0-2. The room is staffed by the same three wonderful women every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parents of Young Children is the group that organizes programs and activities for children ages 0-5. Activities include: Playgroup Welcome Coffee, Playgroups, the fall Pancake Breakfast, and fall and spring parties for parents.

A **Pledging Member** is someone who has let the church know their financial commitment to the parish (what they intend to give) for annual operations in the calendar year. The gift(s) to fulfill the commitment may be made at one time, every week, or in another giving pattern during the year.

Prayer Leaders lead the Prayers of the People at the 9:10 a.m. service.

Sunday Morning Hospitality includes coffee and donut holes made available in Sunderland Hall from 8:30-9:05 a.m. Coffee service will continue following the 9:10 a.m. service.

The **Toddler-Primary Chapel Service** is a brief worship service in the Primary classroom. The children light the candles, take up the offering, make a prayer circle and say "Thank you, God for ...", hear a homily by one of the clergy and extinguish the candles. On the 4th Sunday of the month, this service includes communion.

The **Worship Cart** at the back of the nave provides packets for children's use during the service. Each packet contains crayons, a pencil, paper and the Sunday Paper, an activity page for children based on the Gospel lesson of the day. A letter to the parents on the back of the Sunday Paper helps parents continue the teaching of the day throughout the week.

Questions? Contact Vicki Hall, Director of Children's & Family Ministries, at 212.774-4232 or vhall@stjames.org.

Calendar

September

9	Friday	Playgroup Welcome Coffee
10	Saturday	Acolyte Training
11	Sunday	Special Project for Children at 10:30 p.m.
12	Monday	Playgroups begin
13	Tuesday	Choir rehearsals begin Tuesday afternoon Bible Study begins
15	Thursday	We Love to Sing, Drama on Thursdays and Thursdays at St. James' begin
17	Saturday	Acolyte Training
18	Sunday	Homecoming
25	Sunday	9:10 and 11:15 a.m. services begin; Church School begins
29	Thursday	Parents Party

October

2	Sunday	Children's Eucharist Blessing of the Animals at 4 p.m.
20	Thursday	Children's Pumpkin Festival
29	Saturday	Parents of Young Children Pancake Breakfast

November

6	Sunday	Children's Eucharist
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December

1	Thursday	Advent Wreath-making
3	Saturday	Christmas Pageant rehearsal
4	Sunday	Children's Eucharist
10	Saturday	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
10	Saturday	Gingerbread House-making
11	Sunday	Christmas Pageant at 4 p.m.
13	Tuesday	Parish Caroling
24	Saturday	Children's Christmas Eve Service at 3 p.m.

January

5	Thursday	Children's Epiphany Service at 5:00 p.m.
25	Wednesday	Winter Parish Celebration

February

5	Sunday	Children's Eucharist
11	Saturday	Valentine-making Party
21	Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
22	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Children's Service at 4:00 p.m.

April

1	Sunday	Palm Sunday
6	Friday	Children's Good Friday Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

8 Sunday Easter

May

6	Sunday	Children's Eucharist Family Picnic; Choral Evensong
13	Sunday	Annual Meeting
20	Sunday	Church School Recognition Sunday

For times and calendar updates, visit www.stjames.org.

2011-2012

Music for Children & Youth

Choirs

Boys' & Girls' Choir (grades 3-12)
Tuesdays 4:15-5:30 p.m. *or*
Wednesdays 3:45-5:00 (choose one)
St. Cecilia Choir (grades 1-2)
Thursdays 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Cherub Choir (ages 4-6)
Tuesdays 3:45-4:15 p.m.

Benefits

- Help lead worship
- Learn to read music
- Sing like the angels
- Meet new friends
- Make recordings
- Travel to exciting destinations
- Be a part of a team that works and plays hard

Progression through the graded choir program is based on a combination of age and musical ability. As such, choristers can move at their own pace through our Voice for Life curriculum, which will not only help teach music fundamentals, but allow individual recognition of progress through ribbons, medals, etc. Participating in the chorister program for children and youth is also a good way to teach the importance of faith and encourage a lasting involvement in the church, although church membership is not required.

Suzuki violin class

We offer a tuition-based program available to children and youth of all ages that meets Sunday afternoons during the school year.

For questions or to enroll, contact

Christopher Jennings

Associate Organist-Choirmaster
and Music Associate for Children & Youth
212.774-4204
cjennings@stjames.org

