



September 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We wish to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning participants of the Children's Liturgy Program. In 2011/2012, we were blessed with over 100 children participating in various roles in the Children's Liturgy Masses, and we anticipate that this 2011/2012 Season will be just as exciting. Each year at this time we extend an invitation to the children of our Parish to share their many gifts and talents as participants in the Children's Liturgy.

The purpose of the Children's Liturgy is to bring our parish family together in faith and to support our children as they carry out the work of God through their participation in the Mass. You do not need to be an adult to do the work of God; you can be a child and accomplish the same by taking an active role in the Liturgy. There are opportunities to sing in the choir, to greet our fellow parishioners at the door, to bring the offertory gifts to the altar, and to share the Word of God and prayers of the faithful as readers. This year our first Children's Liturgy will be Saturday, October 15 (5:30 pm Mass).

The children will be guided by volunteers who are committed to the children and their role in the Liturgy. Trish Keil, Andy Lafreniere and Helen Malyszka will work with the children of the Choir to help them lift up their voices and lead us in song; Helen Fitzgerald will work with the Greeters to help them welcome our parish family to the celebration of the Liturgy, and with the children bringing up the gifts to help them understand the importance of this offering; and Eileen Vitarbo will help the Readers understand their role in sharing the liturgical readings and Prayers of the Faithful with the congregation.

Please take the time to read the attached set of guidelines and complete the form so that your child will have the opportunity to participate in the 2011/2012 Children's Liturgy Masses. We know how much the children enjoy their participation in the Liturgy, and we look forward to an enthusiastic response again this year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eileen Vitarbo at 203-270-1913 eileenvitarbo@charter.net or Helen Fitzgerald 203-702-4423 hdfitz@gmail.com or for Choir, contact Helen Malyszka at 203-426-3939 or ronnellm@hotmail.com. The children need to choose to either be involved in the choir or in reading/gift bearing because of the commitment needed for the specific ministry. Thank you for your support of the Children's Liturgy.

Sincerely,

Eileen Vitarbo, Helen Fitzgerald, Trish Keil, Andy Lafreniere, and Helen Malyszka

Guidelines for Children's Liturgies 2011-2012

- Children in 3rd grade and older are invited to read the 1st and 2nd readings.
- Children in 2nd grade and older are invited to read the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Children of all ages, beginning with Kindergarten, are invited to bring up the gifts and greet the parishioners at the door.
- If your child has been identified as a participant for a mass (Greeter, Gift bearer, Reader), confirmation of his/her participation will be forwarded to you by email.
- We welcome children in 2nd grade or older to participate in the choir. Participation is a one-year commitment from October 2011 through April 2012.
- **Rehearsal is mandatory.** There is one rehearsal for readers, gift bearers, and greeters, which is held the Thursday immediately before the Liturgy for approximately 1 hour (less time for greeters and gift bearers). We ask, if at all possible, that parents stay with their children during rehearsal. Choir rehearsals will be held on the two consecutive Thursdays immediately preceding the Mass, unless otherwise notified. **Please see the schedule below for all Mass and rehearsal dates and times.**
- Children should arrive at church no later than 5:00 p.m. the evening of the Mass.
- For the Mass, the dress code for Greeters, Gift Bearers and Readers should be 'Sunday best'. The Choir dress code will be black pants/skirt and white shirt or blouses.

Please return the sign-up sheet to the St. Rose Religious Education Office, 38 Church Hill Road, if your child wishes to participate in the Children's Liturgy.

Children's Liturgy Date Saturday, 5:30 Mass	Choir Rehearsals Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm, Church	Reader, Gift Bearer & Greeter Rehearsal Thursday, 4:45-5:45pm, Church
October 15	October 6 & 13	October 13
November 19	November 10 & 17	November 17
December 10 (Sixth graders)	December 1 & 8 (Dec. 8 – Holy Day)	December 8 from 4:30-5:15 (time change for Holy day)
January 21	January 12 & 19	January 19
February 11	February 2 & 9	February 9
March 17 (for scouts)	March 8 & 15	March 15
April 21 (butterfly wkend)	April 12 & 19	April 19 (spring break)

*Please note: Children should be involved in **one** ministry: either choir or reading/gift bearer.

2011/2012 Children's Liturgy – Saturday 5:30 pm Mass

(Sign-up Sheet)
Please print clearly

Child's Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Grade: _____ St. Rose Student: Yes / No

E-mail address for correspondence and participation confirmation:
_____ (Please print clearly)

I would like to participate in the choir (2nd grade or older): Yes / No
(NOTE: This is a commitment for the entire year – October, 2011 through April, 2012)

I would like to participate in: (Please check all that apply.)
_____ greeting at the door (all grades), and/or _____ bringing up the gifts (all grades);
_____ reading (2nd grade or older);

Children's Liturgy & Rehearsal Dates

Please circle Masses for which you would like to participate.

NOTE: Attendance at Rehearsal is required for all participants. If you cannot attend choir rehearsal, please call Helen Malyszka at 426-3939.

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*Please note: Children should be involved in one ministry: either choir or reading/gift bearer.

Parent signature: _____

Please return or mail this completed sign-up sheet to the St. Rose Religious Education Office, 38 Church Hill Road. Thank you.

Contacts: Eileen Vitarbo eileenvitarbo@charter.net, Helen Fitzgerald, hdfitz@gmail.com; Choir: Helen Malyszka (203-426-3939) or ronnelm@hotmail.com.

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**St. Rose of Lima
Religious Education Office
38 Church Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470**

Children's Liturgy

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