

## Children's Ministry Online Intro

"Good Morning, boys and girls." (or afternoon, or evening, or anytime, and any name)

"Good Morning, (Mom?, Dad?, Rosie?)" is the response.

"The Lord be with you"

"And also with you", the students respond.

This is the "Call to Order" for many of our Children's Ministry programs and events. Most of the children will recognize that it is the signal to be quiet and pay attention. Parents may find this to be a good lead-in to a designated time for Christian Education.

At Holy Nativity now, the formal Christian Education curriculum that we have chosen comes from two sources. We believe that both work well for our parish and we want to begin our on-line CE with these.

Most of our parents are familiar with the **Godly Play** curriculum that we use in Children's Church on Sundays and for "Sunday School on Wednesday" evenings. We certainly want to continue with this, and there are many resources for this. Liz Ward has studied and served as our Godly Play authority. She has attended Godly Play training, and she is now training for virtual school digital instruction as a teacher at HNES. She is also very creative, technologically-savvy, and deeply devoted to the spiritual development of our children so we are indeed blessed to have her lead our online production of Godly Play.

The Episcopal Church publishes **Lesson Plans That Work** with lessons correlated with the Bible readings in church each week according to the liturgical calendar. Realizing a need for a program for fourth and fifth graders, several parents worked with Father Steve to design an appealing platform and space just for them. Holly Melzer has been using this syllabus with Club 45 and we are very pleased with the results. Holly is not a teacher; she is an attorney who is able (and willing) to connect with our pre-teens. Although they will miss the service projects she plans for them, their nice, new clubroom will be awaiting them. In the meantime we will be posting links to the lessons and activities on the website. **Lesson Plans That Work** has age appropriate plans so that you may choose which is better received by your child.

These adaptations may seem challenging and new to us but actually it is not. We are teaching our children Christian Formation and Spiritual Development every day of our lives – by what we say, what we do, how we act, how we treat others, and how we treat them. Setting aside a special time to think and to talk about God and our faith should be insightful and certainly interesting. Just be sure to WONDER and to ask I WONDER questions. I wonder how you will use this, and I wonder what stories and comments you will have to share. I may have to relent and join Facebook just to keep up with you. We will pray for each other and love one another for we know that God loves us all,