

Learning Programs for Our Children

Children are valued and nurtured members of our Holy Cross family. We have a commitment to help them learn and grow. Children younger than 3 years may join our professionally staffed nursery or are welcome to stay with adults and attend the church service.

Godly Play

For Children Ages 3–7

“... The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language-parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.”

Godly Play

For Children Ages 7–12

Ages overlap and children are invited to attend the program in which they feel most comfortable.

Godly Play begins in mid-September and ends in mid-June.

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*Holy Cross
Episcopal Church*

Children’s

**Christian Education
Sunday School**



**Sunday School for Pre-School - 8th Grade
during the Liturgy of the Word
at 10:15 a.m.
Children join their parents for Communion**



Godly Play Ages 3 through 7

Godly Play is a Sunday School Curriculum based on the Montessori approach to education. In Godly Play, children are invited to hear and actively participate in telling and retelling our sacred stories. Led by a storyteller using

three dimensional figures, children are engaged in our faith stories in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic ways. They are encouraged to explore, wonder, and discover meaning as they choose ways to "work" with our Godly Play stories. Through these experiences,

children actively learn the language, sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions, and silence of the Christian tradition. After community prayers and feast, the children join their family in church to take communion as part of the family of God.

Our Godly Play wooden storytelling figures

were created by our Rector, Mark Spaulding. We invite you to come and explore some of these figures and note your own response as you experience a sacred story through the eyes of a child.



The Creation Story



Jonah and the Whale

Godly Play Ages 7 through 12

Our older children continue to extend their learning using the Godly Play Curriculum based on the Montessori approach to education. Sitting on cushions around our child sized altar, children engage in listening and relating to our sacred stories. Using three dimensional figures, a storyteller tells our faith stories and offers opportunities for children to reflect and interact with the story. Using sensory materials, children are given opportunities to work with the story in a myriad of ways. Godly Play for older children encourages children to discover, wonder, and make meaning in ways that deepen their understandings and provide opportunities to connect God to life. After sharing in community prayers and feast, the children join their family in church to take communion as part of the family of God.



Opportunities for Adults and Teenagers

Godly Play is staffed by parish members who volunteer to teach Godly Play on Sundays during the Fall and Spring Semester. During the four Sundays of the Advent Season, both younger and older children join together to practice a Christmas Pageant which is presented on Christmas Eve.

Godly Play is staffed with people who have been trained to teach the Godly Play Curriculum. We have a rotation of volunteer instructors who partner and teach a few times each semester. Training is always available for newcomers and we welcome new people interested in joining our staff. Teenagers are also welcome to volunteer to help with Godly Play.

Our Children's Ministry Advisory Team (CMAT) meets regularly to plan curriculum, schedule teachers, and train new members. If you are interested in joining CMAT or are interested in gaining more information, please contact our Rector, Mark Spaulding at (510) 889-7233.

