

# **Childrens Liturgy of the Word**

*St. Clare Catholic Church, Roseville, CA*

*Take these words of mine...Teach them to...your children."*

Deuteronomy 11:18,19

*"Let the little children come to me".*

Mark 10:13

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## **Overview**

<b>What Is Children's Liturgy?</b>	<b>What is our purpose?</b>	<b>How to sign up to Volunteer?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children listen to God's word which has been adapted so that it is easily understood.</li> <li>Children reflect on what they have heard in the scriptures by answering open-ended questions.</li> <li>We respond to God's word with praise and gratitude through prayer and song.</li> </ul>	<p>To bring each child closer to Jesus Christ and his one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.</p> <p>Let the children know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus loves them.</li> <li>Jesus cares for them.</li> <li>Jesus will always be there for them.</li> </ul>	<p>SignUpGenius - <a href="#">Click Here</a> , or type in the following URL:  <a href="http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084fa4a723abf58-childrens1">http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084fa4a723abf58-childrens1</a></p> <p>(If you need additional instructions on how to use SignUpGenius, please see below.)</p>

## Children's Liturgy Of The Word (CLOW) – St. Clare Catholic Church

### CLOW Procedures

#### Please complete the following steps:

- Contact the office to find out when the next onsite fingerprinting process will take place. There is no cost to you.
- Complete the online training “*Shield the Vulnerable.*” [Click here](#) or type in the following URL <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>. Once you arrive to the sign in page, click on the button “First Time Sign-Up.”
- Sign up to volunteer at SignUpGenius - [Click Here](#) or type in the following URL <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084fa4a723abf58-childrens1>.
- Obtain a “*Weekly Leader Guide*” at the training session or request a copy from CLOW organizer. (red, green, or blue books)
- Volunteers will receive the Q&A and discussion points and readings monthly via email from CLOW organizer.
- You are welcome to attend CLOW to observe and ask any questions prior to volunteering.

#### Arrival and Room Access:

- 9:30 AM Liturgy team (includes lectors and shepherds) sets up before Mass. Arrive by 9:00-9:15 am to set up in St. Mark room in the Gospel Annex.
- 11:30 AM Liturgy team should arrive by 11:15 to straighten carpet tiles and ensure everything is ready.
- 11:30am Liturgy team is also responsible for clean up after Mass.
- Days with dramatizations require extra time to dress and rehearse. Please arrive ½ hour early.
- Access St. Mark room from another room or get key from the office.

#### Altar Set-up:

- Set up table in front of room as an altar.
- Place colored cloth on table. Green for Ordinary Time. Purple for Advent and Lent.
- Set up small wooden holder (dais) to prop up the children's lectionary book (blue, red, or green hardbound book).
- Light large candle place on 2<sup>nd</sup> step of altar on front right side of the church altar. (See “**Procession**” for further instructions on candle)

#### Seating:

- Set carpet pieces on the floor (carpet squares stored on left side of CLOW closet in the St. Mark room).
- Set up 3-5 chairs in the back of the room for volunteers and for visiting parents.
- After 11:30 mass, ask children to put all their carpets in a pile in front of the room.

#### Apostles' Creed:

Hang up or prop up posters w/ Apostles' Creed. Or, have volunteer children hold them up when needed.

#### Music(if applicable):

- Turn on TV and CD player.
- Music selections should complement readings for the day.
- Entrance song should be uplifting and joyful.
- Entrance song should start playing as children file into room.
- Final song can be uplifting, but sometimes a contemplative and reflective song helps settle the children down before returning back to Mass.
- If running late - dismiss children while final song is being played.
- If running early – play more songs!

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### Procession:

- Immediately after the Opening Prayer, just prior to the First Reading, the priest or deacon will call the children to the front of the altar.
- Gospel leader should rise and walk to front of the altar to gather children.
- If the priest or deacon forgets to prompt the children, the step above should help prompt them to call the children forward.
- Assistant(s)/support may need to step forward into the aisle in front of the baptismal font to “prompt” the priest to call the children forward.
- Priest or deacon may offer a brief blessing to dismiss the children.
- Give Children's Liturgy book to one of the children and candle to another for procession.
- Book and candle should be taken immediately towards the back of the church, so once dismissed they are now in the front of the procession.
  - *“So the last will be first, and the first shall be last.”* Matt. 20:16
- Candle goes first, then lectionary book and then children.
  - The candle represents the Light of Christ.
  - *“Jesus spoke to them, saying: I am the light of the world: he that followeth me, walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* John 8:12
  - *“I am come a light into the world; that whosoever believeth in me, may not remain in darkness.”* John 12:36
- The Children's Liturgy book is the Word of God.
  - *“Blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it.”* Luke 11:28
  - *“And he was clothed with a garment...; and his name is called, THE WORD OF GOD.”* Revelation 19:13 –
- All the rest of the children follow behind the candle and the Book.
- Proceed to Evangelist Center.
  - preK and K assemble in the St. Luke room.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade assemble in St. Mark room.

- Adult and teen volunteers must ensure children stay together from walk between church and the Evangelist Center. Best to have someone in front and someone bringing up the rear

### CLOW:

- Children place the book and the candle on the small altar in front of the room.
- Everyone finds a carpet square to stand on.
- The children gather in the classroom with a song (volunteer starts the music when children arrive) (optional).
- Children remain standing as leader or teen volunteer reads Opening Prayer. Usually, have children repeat each verse for more participation.
- Children sit as the First Reader or teen reads the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.
  - The Reader leads discussion and Q&A on the first Reading.
  - Interactive discussion, not lecture format. Make it relevant to their lives.
- Children stand for Alleluia chorus. (E.g. Celtic Alleluia.). Ask for volunteers to be “Alleluia Leaders” to stand in front of the room and lead everyone in the Alleluia.
- Leader or teen reads the Gospel (Children remain standing).
- Leader then leads discussion and Q&A on the Gospel.
- Interactive discussion should focus on what they heard in the scriptures that day and how it relates to their lives. (Children sit for discussion).
- “Sheppard” should notify facilitator when the Church is on Nicene Creed, CLOW should begin Apostle's Creed and then dismiss.
- Apostles Creed (Children stand). Ask for 2 child volunteers to lead children in the Creed along with the poster board with words.
- End with a song (e.g. DVD).
- Typically we have a “bulletin” or pamphlet to give to each child.
  - *“I am come a light into the world; that whosoever believeth in me, may not remain in darkness.”* John 12:36

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### Return To Mass:

- Return children to Mass. One leader/support in front and one in the back.
- NO RUNNING. Keep children together and walking in a group.
- Children are released back to the main assembly in small, quiet groups.
- Dismiss during the time of the Collection, before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### After Mass (11:30am volunteers only):

- Put all supplies away in the CLOW closet. Turn off lights. Be sure doors to Matthew & Mark rooms are locked.

### Reminders to review with the children:

- **Explain what we are doing:**
  - What we are doing is a part of the mass. The bible readings we are reading are the same ones your parents are reading in the church.
  - We are here to celebrate your Lord and Savior. To praise Him; to give Him glory; to worship Him.
  - So be on your best behavior, pay attention, and participate in the songs and readings and discussions.
- **Explain the procession:**
  - Candle: The candle represents the Light of Christ. Jesus is the light of your life, who lead you through darkness and guides you to his heavenly father.  
*“Jesus spoke to them, saying: I am the light of the world: he that followeth me, walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* John 8:12

### • **Children's Lectern:**

- The Children's Liturgy book is the Word of God. These are readings from the holy Bible containing the Word of God. As Catholic Christians, we follow the Word of God.
- *“Blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it.”* Luke 11:28
- *“And he was clothed with a garment...; and his name is called, THE WORD OF GOD.”* Revelation 19:13
- **Table:** represents the altar in church.
- **Colors of the cloth:** represent the different seasons of the church year. Green is for Ordinary Time, Purple is for Lent & Advent, etc.
- **Rules:**
  - Need to pay attention and participate.
  - No disrupting other children or you will be asked to leave. It's not fair to others.
  - If you need to go to the bathroom, you will be returned to your parents and they can take you. We cannot.

# Children's Liturgy Of The Word (CLOW) – St. Clare Catholic Church

## SignUpGenius

### How to Use SignUpGenius:

#### Step 1:

Click [Here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084fa4a723abf58-childrens1) or type in the following URL  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084fa4a723abf58-childrens1>

#### Step 2:

11/24/2013 (Sun)	9:30AM	First Reading/Q&A Intro/Gospel/Q&A Support/Timer/Shepherd (2)	✓ Mary Rivet-Pool ✓ Malinda Cirimele <input type="button" value="Sign Up"/>
	11:30AM	First Reading/Q&A Intro/Gospel/Q&A Support/Timer/Shepherd (2)	<input type="button" value="Sign Up"/> ← <input type="button" value="Sign Up"/> <input type="button" value="Sign Up"/>

Select the box that corresponds with the date and time that you would like to volunteer for

←

#### Step 3:

**Sign Me Up For:**

Date	Available Slot	Qty
11/10/2013 (Sun) 11:30am	Support/Timer/Shepherd	1 ▾

I'm a SignUpGenius member ← Select if you already have an account OR

I do not have a SignUpGenius account ← Create an account if you don't have one

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

Re-enter Email \*

Create an account at SignUpGenius so I can login and edit my items if I ever need to make a change.

Send me a confirmation email with an iCalendar (.ics) file and a link that will allow me to edit this item later.

## CLOW Facilitation Tips

### How do we fulfill our purpose?

- CLOW is personalized for the children
- What does this reading mean to *you*?
- How do *you* feel about this reading?
- What would *you* have done?
- Has this ever happened to *you*?
- **Talk in 2<sup>nd</sup> person instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> person**
  - God loves *you* vs. God loves *us*
  - Jesus died for *you* vs. Jesus died for *us*
- Active Participation
- **Socratic method vs. lecturing**; 2-way dialogue vs. 1-way instruction
- Ask questions: individual & group responses
- Recitations: **Repeat after me**: "Jesus Loves Me!"  
**Everybody**: "Jesus Loves Me!"
- Repetition: Say it again: "Jesus Loves Me!"  
Say it louder! "JESUS LOVES ME!"  
I can't hear you! "**JESUS LOVES ME!**"
- **Bring scripture to life**
- Close your eyes and imagine yourself being in this scene
- Dramatizations & reenactments
- Tie it in with other experiences.
- Why do we do what we do in Mass?
- How is Sacred Scripture expressed in the Holy Sacraments?
- What are they learning in Faith Formation?
- Can you give examples in your life: home, school, in your neighborhood?

### General Questions:

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