



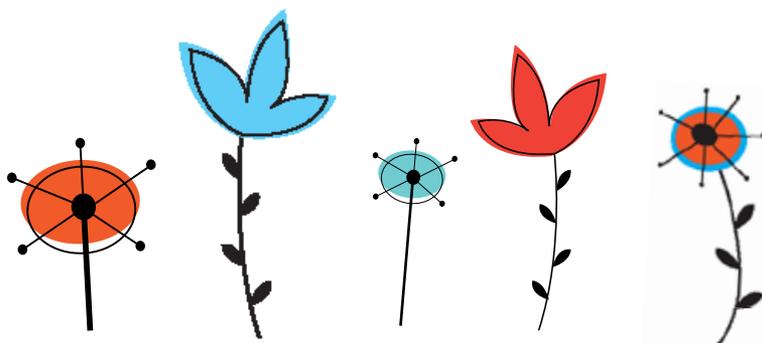
Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry seeks to establish and grow faith in Jesus in our children by bringing them week by week into contact with God's truth and His love.



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WELCOME

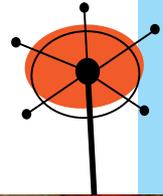


Welcome to Children's Ministry at St. Paul's! We're glad you and your child are here with us. Our ministry includes children from birth to Grade 5. Children younger than age three are cared for in our Nursery and young people in Grade 6 to 12 are invited to be a part of our Youth Group.

We offer Children's Ministry each week during the Bridge (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.) and the 11 a.m. service (11 – 12:30 p.m.).

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and new friends to our growing community.

When You Arrive



Please sign your child in and register when you arrive. We have a short **Visitor Form** and a **Registration Form** for those planning to return. We seek to make Children's Ministry at St. Paul's a safe and welcoming place and our 'sign in/sign out' procedures are an important part of this.



Please let us know about any allergies or other health issues your child may have and how we might need to address them. If your child has allergies, please leave written instructions as to how you would like us to respond if your child is exposed to an allergen. If your child has severe allergies please complete an **Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan** which we will keep on file with your child's photograph to assist the leaders in providing proper care.

Before the start of the program, the children play together in the upper hallway area. We believe this simple activity is crucial in building relationships and fostering a positive experience for the children. Parents are welcome to wait with the children and meet Children's Ministry Team members (wearing nametags) and other parents. Don't worry! If for any reason we need to reach you during the service, we will come and locate you promptly.



During the Service

Our three-year-olds at the Bridge head straight to Room 204 to play, and at 11 a.m. they have their program in the Nursery. For this age group, we offer a simple Bible based program combined with fun play activities.

Once our program starts, the children (ages four and up) will be directed to the Dalton Room where we gather for music and our Large Group time. In Large Group we sing and worship God together. We also welcome new friends, celebrate birthdays and have a short message. After Large Group the children move into their age-grouped classes with their leaders. All the groups are located on the second floor of Cody Hall and each class has two leaders per room. From JK to Grade 5, the children are taught with the excellent 'Walk With Me' curriculum. The teaching materials are Biblical, age-appropriate and use a variety of creative teaching approaches.



After the Service

The children remain upstairs after the service has ended until a parent or guardian signs them out and accompanies them downstairs. The children do appreciate the prompt arrival of their parents! Please indicate on the Registration Form who is permitted to pick up your child (mom, dad, grandparents, family friend, etc.).

Help yourself to our family resources. We have print materials available aimed at supporting Christian parents. We also have

Christian books and movies that you are welcome to borrow. Please remember to return them.

Don't forget to take home your children's resources! The younger children will have something to take home each week and the older children either weekly or monthly. Talking at home about what was taught in Children's Ministry can start off great faith-based conversations.

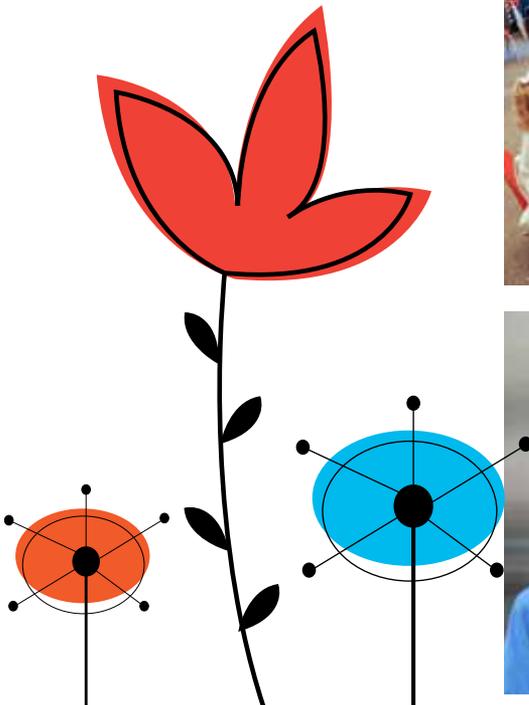
Allergies & Our Peanut-Free Policy

We provide peanut-free snacks such as Goldfish Crackers, Bear Paw cookies, popcorn, and diluted apple juice or water. Please let us know if your child is not able to have the snack for dietary or allergy reasons. We also have gluten-free and dairy-free snacks available.

If your child carries an EpiPen because of anaphylactic allergies, please complete an **Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan** which we will keep on file. Your child will be photographed to accompany the plan. Please be sure to leave the EpiPen with the class teacher each and every time.



Please do not bring outside foods, including the cookies offered at Coffee Hour, into the Children's Ministry area (second floor) to help us to maintain a peanut-free zone.



Your Child is Important to Us

We want to take great care of your child. Children are valued and cared for at St. Paul's. We hope from their first welcome to their last game with friends – they feel this is the place for them. Please let us know if there is anything special about your child that will help us care for them better. Are they tired, shy or just getting over a cold? Do they have any other types of special needs you would like to share with us? We hope knowing their needs a little better will help us provide excellent care for your child.



Sick Child Policy

We want all our children to have a healthy experience when they come to Children's Ministry. We ask parents not to leave their child with us if they have had any of the following symptoms:

- *Fever within the past 24 hours*
- *Upper respiratory illness*
- *Pink eye*
- *Excessive coughing*
- *Sore throat*
- *Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the past 24 hours*
- *Any symptoms of communicable childhood diseases (Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, etc.)*

If your child is being treated with antibiotics, please wait 24 hours before coming to Children's Ministry. If your child becomes ill while in our care, you will be notified promptly.

The Children's Ministry Team

We have a large and caring team of volunteer leaders in Children's Ministry. Our leaders are members of our St. Paul's community, most are parents, but all of them share a desire to see our children grow in Christian faith. We screen our staff and volunteers and complete Police Checks to ensure the safety of the children. There are two leaders in each class and all our rooms can be observed from the outside.

Children's Ministry is overseen by Janet Earle, Children's Minister, a long time St. Paul's parishioner, a committed Christian leader and mother of three young adults. The Nursery is staffed by Desdemona Gomez, a trained Early Childhood Educator, Catherine Chen and Monica Smith, experienced child-care workers. Linda Deramaix, a trained arts educator, provides assistance and enrichment for our ministry.

Join our Team!

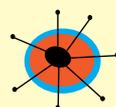
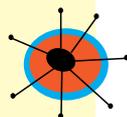
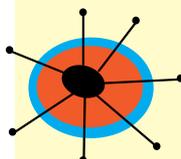
The Children's Ministry Team is a group of over 60 volunteers serving once or twice monthly in a variety of roles. Whether you have gifts as a teacher or helper, have some musical talent or have a warm smile to share at our Welcome Desk – we would love to have you join our team. If you are interested in serving with this enthusiastic group, speak to Janet Earle.



Janet Earle,
Children's Minister



Linda Deramaix,
Children's Ministry Assistant



Special Events



Our fall season begins with Welcome Sunday, a day with special fun activities. The Christmas Pageant in mid-December gives all of our children an opportunity to take part in a simple but very special musical production celebrating the first Christmas. The Pageant Supper for families and friends is our biggest gathering of the year.



On Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. we join together to celebrate the birth of Jesus together. After the service, the party with balloons and cupcakes is not to be missed.

We have a delicious night of Pancakes prior to the start of Lent in February and over Easter we have our Good Friday 'Journey to the Cross' Program, and on Easter Sunday our Easter Egg Hunt and celebration.



We offer special teaching days throughout the year. These fun days have explored themes such as Advent, Pentecost and Worship, and have given the children a chance to do some gardening. We also have a yearly summer program filled with activities and creative fun.



We are Here to Serve

We are here to serve the needs of our families. If you have any questions, please speak to **Janet Earle**, Children's Minister. Janet can also be contacted at **children@stpaulsbloor.org** or at **416-961-8116 ext. 241**.

Growing in Faith

We encourage parents to connect with our community beyond Sunday morning. One of the best ways to do that is through a small group. Our groups meet in different parts of the city to explore their faith together. Check out our website for more details and to find a group near you.

Would you like to have your child baptized? Do you want to find out more about the Christian faith? Begin by registering for our *Intro to Jesus* course offered 3 times each year. For those interested in baptism we offer a second preparation step, our *Turning to Jesus* course. baptism dates for the coming year are available. For more information on preparing for Baptism, please contact Janet Earle, Children's Minister.





St. Paul's Bloor Street

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