



Kate's Kids!

In Honor of Our Patron Saint, Saint Katharine Drexel

Saint Katharine Drexel Sunday Preschool Program Ages 3 through K

Saint Katharine Drexel
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Frederick, MD 21702
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WELCOME!

Welcome to **Kate's Kids!** Thank you for volunteering to help our children learn about our Catholic faith. The need is clearly there! We have approximately 40 children between 3 and Kindergarten age who need a place to call their own. This booklet is meant to provide all available information about **Kate's Kids!** and help you find ways to minister in this fantastic program.

Saint Katharine Drexel was established in October 2000 as a mission of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Frederick, Maryland. Since that time we have grown to a membership of over 450 families. Cardinal Keeler granted our Independent Mission status on July 1, 2003.

Currently, we celebrate Mass in the I Theater on Sundays at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Our pastor is Rev. Keith Boisvert (skdpastor@saintdrexel.org).

Our Parish Office is located at:
8428 Opossumtown Pike
Frederick, MD 21702
301-694-6908
stkatharinedrexel@saintdrexel.org

Please visit our Website at: <http://www.saintdrexel.org>

CONCEPT/MISSION

Kate's Kids! program strives to deliver a Roman Catholic lectionary-based program in a structured, routine manner appropriate for 3-5 year olds. Each week our program will be built around the theme of the Sunday scripture readings and last for the entire length of the Liturgy. Children will learn about same scriptures that are being proclaimed in both Liturgy and Children's Liturgy of the Word. This enables families to share a common ground for faith in the home.

LESSON PLAN

The curriculum that we have purchased is called *Celebrating the Lectionary*, by Resource Publications and is designed specifically for ages 3-4. It consists of a leader's packet that includes background information on the season and the readings, session plans, additional resource sheets and handout masters that can be photocopied as needed. Each session is organized with the following elements:

- Playtime,
- Circle Time,
- Story,
- Integration of theme,
- ~~Snack Time (we have elected to omit this),~~
- Activity Time (theme related craft)
- Closing with Music and/or Prayer

Before Mass, children and parents are greeted upon their arrival to the **Kate's Kids!** room. Parent or guardian sign child(ren) in, get number token matching nametag and possibly assist in putting on child's nametag(s). Teen helpers and catechists will help child get integrated into room and activities. After Mass, parent or guardian turns in number token that matches child(ren), removes and returns name tags, and receives a **Kate's Kids!** handout (this includes a cover page saying what to expect for the next week's class, as well as a copy of the Bible Story we read to their child).

PROGRAM STARTUP DATE

Our first **Kate's Kids!** session was held on September 14, 2003. We continually look for ways to improve, evolve and grow this ministry.

LOCATION

We meet in the Media Center of the Saint John's schools while the Nursery meets in the Reading Room which is inside the Media Center. There are restroom facilities available in the hallway outside the Media Center.

STAFFING

Two adults lead the *Kate's Kids!* each Sunday. In addition, two to three pre-teen/teen helpers assist as well so we can deliver a successful lesson each Sunday.

SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Scheduling will be prepared QUARTERLY: JAN-MAR, APR-JUN, JUL-SEP, OCT-DEC.

Nora Will is the Lead Coordinator for scheduling the 9:00am Mass (nora.will@uspto.gov).

Sue Ganley is the Lead Coordinator for scheduling the 11:00am Mass (Sue@PM-USA.COM).

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

All Catechists, Catechist Assistants and Teen Helpers must complete an Archdioceses of Baltimore Volunteer Application. *NOTE: Pre-Teen and Teen Helpers can use teachers and neighbors for references.* To obtain a copy of the Volunteer Application, please contact Laura Weber, Director SKD Faith Formation (Skdformation@saintdrexel.org), phone 301 694-6908, OR visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore Website (www.archbalt.org/stand).

STAND TRAINING

In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, all adult volunteers (18 and up) must complete STAND Training for the Protection of Children and Youth. A STAND program is available for all adults on a regular basis. For more information on STAND training or to obtain a copy of the Volunteer Application, please contact Laura Weber, Director SKD Faith Formation (Skdformation@saintdrexel.org), phone 301 694-6908, OR visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore Website (www.archbalt.org/stand) to learn more about STAND training.

SNOW POLICY

If in doubt, call the rectory (301-694-6908) or check the SKD website for guidance stkatharinedrexel@adelphia.net. In all cases, please use discretion and do not drive if you are not comfortable with road conditions.

CATECHIST/ASSISTANT ABSENCE

What should you do if you can't make it on a day for which you have volunteered?

Because we have so many people relying on our program to "go without a hitch", we are dedicated to providing this service to our children *every* Sunday. If you know you cannot make it, please follow these procedures as early as possible:

1. Please arrange for a substitute Catechist and/or Assistant by contacting one of the individuals in our Volunteer list (see the back of this booklet) or please contact Peg Garguilo 301-662-6456 or consultmsg@adelphia.net for a current version of Volunteer POC information.
2. Please call the parish office (Skdformation@saintdrexel.org or phone 301 694-6908) and the coordinator for that mass time [Nora Will (9:00) or Sue Ganley (11:00)] to notify them of your absence, as well as who will be substituting for you.
3. **If it is an emergency, please call Laura Weber's cell (Sundays Only please) 240-4099-4801.**

COMMUNION

Communion will not be brought to the *Kate's Kids!* room. We are welcome to attend another Mass so we can participate in the liturgy and Eucharistic celebration. Another suggestion: volunteer for *Kate's Kids!* during the Mass your family does *not* attend, then plan on attending with them. For example, if you typically attend 11:00 Mass with your family, consider volunteering for *Kate's Kids!* during the 9:00 Mass, then attend the 11:00 Mass with your family.

Pre-Teen and Teen Helpers (ages 10 and up)

Thank you for your involvement in the **Kate's Kids!** Program! We are excited to have you with us for an hour of fun and learning! We look forward to working together with you to make this program successful for everyone!

A **Kate's Kids!** Helper is an essential ingredient of the **Kate's Kids!** recipe for success. We are mixing together religious teachings, craft activities, stories and fun. Next, we blend in 2 friendly adults and 2 pre-teen/teen helpers to guide the children through the hour. We value your presence tremendously!

Volunteer Applications and Training - Young Helpers (ages 10 and up)

Please complete the Archdiocese of Baltimore Application for Volunteer Services. You may use teachers and neighbors for the Reference section. For more information or to obtain a copy of the Volunteer Application, please contact Laura Weber, Director SKD Faith Formation (Skdformation@saintdrexel.org), phone 301 694-6908, or visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore Website (www.archbalt.org/stand).

What Does the Pre-Teen/Teen Helper Do?

You are a very important part of the **Kate's Kids!** hour because you have the opportunity to help each child on an individual level. Your role will be to gently guide children when transitioning from one activity to another, help them through craft activities (e.g., cutting, pasting, coloring), and provide lots of TLC. They will look to you for help and support during our hour together. The catechists and catechist assistants will look to you for help when setting up activities, making transitions, or giving TLC to children not having a good day.

TIPS for being helpful: To allow the children to have fun while learning about our shared religion and beliefs, you can be most helpful by keeping these guidelines in mind:

- Get down on the same level as the child (i.e., kneel down or sit on floor with them).
- Do not force the children to participate in a craft – allow them to choose. If they choose not to participate, please help them find another quiet activity (coloring, looking at a book).
- Be open to the child exploring their craft on his/her own terms. Helping them use glue or select the desired crayon color will help them be successful. Try not to do the work for them.
- Some children may have trouble separating from their parents. Be comforting for these children and allow them time to get comfortable in the room. This may mean distracting them with a book or a toy or just sitting with him/her.
- Be aware of what the catechist and catechist assistants are trying to accomplish with the children. Look for ways you can help achieve the goal. For example, if it is time for a Bible Story, help the children get seated in a group on a sit-upon or rug square.
- Please keep the children as your primary interest during the **Kate's Kids!** hour. This will help them get the most out of the lesson, and allow you to learn more about them.

Other Information Sources

Please feel free to request a copy of the Resource section of the **Kate's Kids!** Lectionary. It provides helpful information on working with this age group. Contact Laura Weber Laura Weber, Director SKD Faith Formation (Skdformation@saintdrexel.org), phone 301-694-6908 OR Peg Garguilo (consultmsg@adelphia.net), phone 301662-6456.

WAYS VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP

Role	Description		
Scheduling Coordinator	<p>Nora Will is the Lead Coordinator for scheduling the 9:00am Mass (nora.will@uspto.gov).</p> <p>Corina Noah is the Lead Coordinator for scheduling the 11:00am Mass (corinan@msn.com).</p> <p>In addition to distributing copies of the Kate's Kids! schedules to all volunteers on a quarterly basis, these individuals will also request that Mr. Art Mathsen (mathsen@juno.com) post to the SKD website (http://www.saintdrexel.org) under Schedules/Kate's Kids! Also, relay overall program concerns/suggestions to Laura Weber and/or Peg Garguilo so we can address them promptly.</p>		
Catechist	<p>Person who leads the group of children through the hour of Bible Stories and related crafts. Our resource material already outlines the lesson for each Sunday – giving us an easy to follow step-by-step, well structured plan! This does take preparation and coordination with your Assistant. Please review the section of this booklet on tips for preparation.</p>		
Catechist Assistant	<p>Provides assistance to the leader, guides Pre-Teen/Teen Helpers, etc. While the Assistant is still expected to know the material and interact with the children, his/her role is secondary to the Catechist. This person is very essential for this age group. Please review the section of this booklet on tips for preparation.</p>		
Teen Helper	<p>Helps children through “stations”. Help children to restroom. Provide TLC to children having a rough time. Please see the section in this booklet that discusses Pre-Teen and Teen Roles.</p>		
Craft Coordinator	<p>Lead Coordinator: Laurie Vaudrail (lauriemv@mac.com).</p> <p>Contact Laurie to find out when the next craft preparation meeting will be. Have fun visiting with other crafty people over coffee, while cutting, pasting, etc.</p>		
Copy Committee	<p>Coordinator: Ingrid Kowalk (301-228-2791).</p> <p>This team copies Family Handouts, Sunday Lesson Plan, Kate's Kids! Booklet, schedule, etc. for Catechists, Catechist Assistants and Teen Helpers. This can be done in advance or on whatever basis the “copy team” deems suitable. Materials are prepared based on the involvement each Sunday of four (4) adults in the Kate's Kids! Session: One (1) Catechist and one (1) Assistant for both the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. (Helpers do not need these materials).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 1304 1427 1617"> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 1304 618 1617"> What to copy </td> <td data-bbox="618 1304 1427 1617"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using the original Lectionary Book (Green binder with stickers all over it in the bookcase in front room of rectory), make two (2) <i>double-sided</i> copies of every Sunday's Lesson Plan. (Note: three sets are ordered – one will stay at the office and the others will be distributed). Make 40 double-sided copies of the Resource Section of the Kate's Kids! Lectionary Book (this is in the back of the Lectionary). Make 30 copies each of Family Handouts page (approx. 15 for each Mass). This is a separate notebook marked “Family Handouts”. Use colored paper to distinguish it. </td> </tr> </table>	What to copy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using the original Lectionary Book (Green binder with stickers all over it in the bookcase in front room of rectory), make two (2) <i>double-sided</i> copies of every Sunday's Lesson Plan. (Note: three sets are ordered – one will stay at the office and the others will be distributed). Make 40 double-sided copies of the Resource Section of the Kate's Kids! Lectionary Book (this is in the back of the Lectionary). Make 30 copies each of Family Handouts page (approx. 15 for each Mass). This is a separate notebook marked “Family Handouts”. Use colored paper to distinguish it.
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WAYS VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP, *continued*

Role	Description	
Copy Committee, <i>continued</i>	<i>Prepare the packet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Kate's Kids! Schedule, create “packets” for Catechists and Assistants by labeling manila, 10x13 clasp envelopes with: Name, Date(s) of Service, Time and Role. <i>EXAMPLE</i>: SUE DOE, 1/11/04, 9:00 MASS, ASSISTANT CATECHIST.
	<i>Each Packet Gets:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lesson Plans for each date of service • Copy of Resource Section of the Lectionary. • Copy of Kate's Kids! Booklet • Copy of Kate's Kids! Schedule

CATECHIST/ASSISTANT PREPARATION

Preparing for your **Kate's Kids!** session is probably the biggest favor you can do for yourself. This act alone instills confidence, produces valid and constructive thoughts and questions, and helps to reduce possible surprises. After conducting 2 Sundays of **Kate's Kids!**, the general consensus is that these preparation steps aide you in fulfilling your role:

1. Read the Lectionary material provided for your assigned **Kate's Kids!** date. This material provides preparation tips, insight on the readings, and alerts you to any new/different props you should incorporate in the lesson.
2. Plan to arrive early so you can setup the classroom the way you like it. If you are a 9:00 volunteer, you will need to transport materials and hang signs. If you are an 11:00 volunteer, you will need to stay after to cleanup and breakdown the classroom. This is further described below.
3. Get in touch with your respective Catechist/Assistant. Talking about the material before teaming up on Sunday makes for a smoother delivery for the children and as a result, increases your comfort level.
4. Be ready for unhappy children and have a plan for ways to distract them so they can become more comfortable in their environment, and so their parents can enjoy their time at mass.
5. Have fun!

VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 9:00 VS 11:00

While we are in the classroom, our roles remain the same: to share the scripture readings and teachings with the 3 to 5 year old children in a nurturing, caring and safe environment. But, as one might expect, the time slot for which we volunteer further defines our volunteer responsibilities. For example, there are certain conditions that need to be in place before the 9:00 hour so we are ready to receive the children. Likewise, because we are using a space whose purpose is to serve as the school library, we have the responsibility of returning the area and facility to working order for the college. So, to make it smooth for everyone involved, we have identified ways to work through the peculiarities of the two Mass times.

9:00 Catechist And Assistant Responsibilities

We are responsible for arriving ½ hour early to setup and prepare the classroom. This includes:

1. Arriving in time to retrieve the **Kate's Kids!** Cart from the storage closet, along with the Toy Box.
2. Hanging **Kate's Kids!** signs to show parishioners where we are.

11:00 Catechist And Assistant Responsibilities

We are responsible for staying after class is over to “break down” the SKK! Setup. This includes:

1. Placing all materials back into their respective container (see checklists) and back onto the Kate's Kids cart.
2. Returning the **Kate's Kids!** cart to the storage closet.
3. Collecting signs, materials, etc. and putting them in the **Kate's Kids!** Basic Supply Cart.
4. Generally inspecting the Media Center to ensure we return it to clean, working order (e.g., throw away trash).

GENERAL SETUP/CLEANUP OF THE KATE'S KIDS! HOUR

These are some guidelines to give you an idea of how we are using the Media Center in the new building. Last Sunday things went very smoothly. We will undoubtedly learn other and better ways to conduct the Kate's Kids hour, but for now, here are some guidelines that will help you along the way. Please do not hesitate to email/call me with questions. Thanks everyone!

Supply Cart:

Supplies for Kate's Kids are now kept in the supply room which is the first door on the right as you come in the main entrance of the building. We've acquired a TV cart that easily fits everything we need, except for the Toy Box. You will still need to roll in the Toy Box.

Signs:

We have new signs that will help direct people to the Media Center. They'll be on the cart.

Nursery:

The Nursery is "contained" within the Media Center in the Reading Room. So, if you need to give a parent a pager, you will need to go into the Reading Room for it.

Sign-In Table:

Please setup the sign-in location at the round table in the middle of the room. Don't forget to recruit and put the volunteer signup sheet out!

Play Area:

The play area will be in front of the librarian's desk so the sign in table will be a good "drop off" point for the children.

No Exit Doors:

We need to place chairs in front of the two doors leading to the school hallway. These doors are not to be used as they lead to an area of the building that is closed off during non-school hours.

Books for Kate's Kids:

We've assembled a basket of books and let the children know that these are our books and not the books on the shelves.

Pray Area:

- Conduct prayers and lessons by the windows using the book display/standing cart. We can drape our cloth over the top of the cart and place the cross and children's bible on the book ledge.
- Chris the Cat can easily sit below in one of the cubby spaces.
- Please review the "Rules to Grow By" contained in the Catechist Binder with a special emphasis on the new rule of the books are for our EYES only - with a specific reminder that we created a new basket of books just for Kate's Kids that they are free to play with.

Craft Area:

Please cover the tables with the NEW VINYL TABLECLOTHS (tables are as you come in the door of the Media Center - straight ahead). Please cleanup any crafts "by products" that may fall on the floor. We have a sweeper that can be used for "severe damage control".

GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF THE **KATE'S KIDS!** HOUR

Here is a *suggested* timeline to follow. Of course, we all know it is usually the children who mostly dictate the pace! NOTE: If the craft involves glue, or is particularly involved, it may be a good idea to do the craft first thing. Afterwards, conduct the prayer and story time and integrate the craft accordingly.

TIME	DESCRIPTION
9:00am	Arrival time, free play When the children arrive, the Catechist should: 1. Issue Nametag 2. Request Parent Sign child(ren) in, 3. Introduce child(ren) to Assistant or Helpers for Integration
9:15am	Circletime (Prayer, Conversation with Chris the Cat)
9:20am	Story Time
9:30am	Integrating the Word through song and movement.
9:40	Activity Time/Craft
9:50	Cleanup
9:55	Closing Prayer
10:00	Departure When parents arrive, the Catechist and Assistant should: 1. Ensure child(ren) get matched up with the parent, 2. Collect child(ren)'s nametag(s) 3. Distribute parent sheet and craft.

TIPS FOR CONDUCTING THE SKK! HOUR

During our most recent meeting, the SKK! Team compiled this list of helpful tips for the SKK! Hour:

SIGN-IN/SIGN-OUT/MEETING/GREETING

- 1) To further protect the children, we developed a system for signing children in and out.
 - a) At arrival, parent/guardian signs child in
 - b) Parent/guardian gets the matching numbered nametag and attaches it to the child.
 - c) Parent/guardian removes the attached, Velcroed, numbered token from the nametag. They hold onto this and return it when they pick up their child.
 - d) At pickup time, the numbered token is then matched to the child. And the nametag is removed and child is released.
- 2) During pickup, have one volunteer assigned to “matching” child and parents. Don’t forget to get the nametag and token paired up again for the next SKK! Hour.

TRANSITIONING

It is during transitions that most behavior challenges occur because children do not know what is expected of them, are excited about what is to come or are unhappy about stopping what they are doing. Volunteers may be distracted with cleaning up or preparing for the next step and supervision of children suddenly decreases in intensity.

These suggestions were made for moving from one activity to the next:

1. “If you are wearing red, please put your sit-upon away”.
2. Whisper secret code words in their ears (e.g., eagle) and when they hear their code word, they may go to the next activity.
3. Close your eyes. When you feel a tap on your shoulder, you may quietly go select a toy from the toy box.
4. Assign at least one volunteer to guide children from one activity to the next.
5. Give a warning countdown so the children can prepare, e.g., “We have five more minutes to finish up”.
6. It is generally better to go to each grouping of children and give them instructions rather than yell to the whole group.
7. Be clear about what is expected at each step and make it special if possible:

8. "I need some helpers at this table to be pen-cappers, glue toppers, and scrap picker uppers...which one do you want to be?"
9. "Those of you waiting on the rug can play Simon Says with Ms. X. Watch out she's tricky sometimes!"
10. Use sign language for "yes" and "no"

TIPS:

- Use clean up races very sparingly or not at all. Encouraging competitive behavior will often create a frantic win-lose environment instead of a cooperative one.
- Be sensitive to those children who have trouble moving from one activity to the other and give them extra warning time if possible.

DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS

1. Affirming Feelings: If a child is having trouble integrating or transitioning, validate their sad feelings.

EXAMPLE: Use gentle words such as: "You are having a hard time leaving Mommy and Daddy. When you're ready, we have some blocks over there for you to play with." Allow the child to have their moment to feel.

Most important point: resist the urge to distract him/her immediately into another activity so we can help him/her stop crying. While that makes us feel better, it is very difficult for a 3-5 year old to "move on" to the next task until their experience is acknowledged and affirmed.

2. Give Special Job: We will come up with some ideas for simple jobs that the child can do that will help him/her integrate into the room.

EXAMPLE: Would you please help me make sure all the glue sticks have caps on? Will you please hand out the sit-upons? This gives the sense that we value their help and their presence is important to us.

3. If No Response, Move on But Check Back:

If the child does not respond, Ms. Rose suggested saying reassuring words like: "I'm going to leave this book here for you. I'll be over there helping some of the children with the craft, but I'll be watching you and will come back to see how you are doing." This helps the child to feel important and builds a trust between teacher and child.

CONVERSATION WITH CHRIS THE CAT

"Chris the Cat" is our beloved cat-puppet friend who is part of every Sunday's transition into story time. Chris engages the children by always seeming to have a problem, issue or basic question that provides a nice segue to the story.

- Use the bigger cat
- Provides consistency for children from week to week
- Prepares children for Bible story message

BIBLE STORY TIME

Children love being involved in the story. If possible, integrate a simple line that they can repeat during story time. For example: Catechist: "*Jesus said*"; Children: "*Blessed are the Children*".

Other tips include:

- Read ahead to determine if it may be above children's heads
- Make it your own
- Use children's Bible for supplemental stories
- Discuss essence of message instead of reading it verbatim
- Catechist uses common sense and edits message
- Feel free to use gospel if same theme
- Use Chris the Cat to introduce theme. The children of this age group can relate to Chris the Cat and he is one of the constants to counterbalance the ever-changing faces of the catechist/assistant.

CRAFTING

Preschoolers are beginning to shape the work they do to balance pleasing themselves and the adults around them. Here are some suggestions for working through the craft segment of SKK! Hour:

1. If particularly tricky craft or glue is involved, do the craft first. Then integrate it using the story and prayer time.
2. Spread tablecloths on the tables.
3. Split children into two groups: one goes to craft section, other gets a story by catechist or assistant.
4. Our job is to allow the children to enjoy the experience of creating something (e.g., the way the glue feels on the fingertips, how colors mix together and even how a child's mood is affected by the colors in front of them.).
5. Allow children to tell you about their pictures themselves without telling the child what you think they made.

PICKING UP AND SIGNING CHILDREN OUT

- Helpers keep children in order
- Adults sign children out
- If possible, have parents queue up outside in hall
- Anticipate the arrival of parents/guardians and organize crafts so each child leaves with his/her creation.

KATE'S KIDS! SUPPLIES

We have acquired several items that will become a permanent part of our **Kate's Kids!** Repertoire. As we continue growing with the program, we will add supplies that will further enhance the **Kate's Kids!** Hour. Here is a sample of recent acquisitions:

- CD Rainbow Sing-along and the tape God Made All of Me. At a future meeting, we will feature several favorites from these sources so we can all learn a few of them together! *As you read through the materials, you will see references to this CD.*
- "Chris the Cat" is a constant in each of the **Kate's Kids!** sessions. We have a Chris the Cat puppet who the children can get to know and expect to see every Sunday. *As you read through the materials, you will see references to our friend, Chris the Cat.*
- To adorn the prayer table, we have a cloth (we will have the appropriate colors available in the future), a crucifix, candle and children's bible.
- Additional supplies in the Basic Supply Cart include bingo, crayons, pens, sign-up sheets, glue sticks, nametags, markers, signs, coloring pages, first aid kit.

BASIC SUPPLY CART and TOY BOX

We have acquired a TV cart which fits several containers neatly and is on wheels. The various containers house supplies for the Kate's Kids hour. The Toy Box is in a separate storage cart and labeled. It is also on wheels for easy transport.

STORAGE FOR KATE'S KIDS! SUPPLIES

Our new building has a storage closet where the TV cart and Toy Box are kept.

KATE'S KIDS! SUPPLY CHECKLIST

THIS MATERIAL...
Kate's Kids! Basic Supply TV Cart <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Signs2. Sign-in sheets for both Masses3. Nametags4. Music CDs and CD Player5. Prayer cloth, Bible, Candle, Crucifix and lighter6. Craft7. Crayons, glue sticks, markers, books8. Coloring sheets9. Parent/Family Prayer Sheet
Mobile Toy Box <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Toys and various activities for the children during free play

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I stay with my child if I choose to? Yes, feel free to accompany your child during the preschool program! We'd love to have you! If you happen to leave your child crying, chances are he/she will recover very quickly after your departure. We can provide feedback for you on this.

Can I pick my child up right after Communion? We ask that you wait until the end of Mass to pick up your child. Typically, we are still involved in our lesson and it is distracting to the other children when friends leave early.

Can I "pop in and out" of the Kate's Kids! hour during Mass? Yes. Come check on your child whenever you wish.

Can I volunteer to be a Leader any time during the year? Anytime! You may volunteer your time doing any number of things to help enhance the program. Your level of involvement can be as much or as little to suit your needs. Call Peg Garguilo (301-662-6456) or Laura Weber (301-694-6908).

How are bathroom breaks handled? Will anyone accompany my child? A bathroom is available in the room. A member of the **Kate's Kids!** team will accompany your child to the bathroom as needed.

Does my child need to be potty-trained? No. But please bring a diaper in the event of a diaper changing need.

Is it okay if he/she is already in kindergarten? Yes. We will take 5 year olds whether or not they are in Kindergarten.

What is the difference between Kate's Kids! and Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)? CLOW ministers to the older child by presenting the same readings we hear during Mass. In addition, it is geared for children K-10. There is a discussion and often a related craft or hands on project. Children in CLOW are escorted out of the church setting before the 1st reading and returned to their seats after the homily. The Lead Coordinator for this service is Pat Mayernick (pamayernik@yahoo.com).

What if I have a 6 year old whom I think is not ready for Children Liturgy of the Word (CLOW), can he/she attend? Consider your child's disposition. He/she may attend the **Kate's Kids!** Program to see if it is a better fit. Chances are that your child will be distracted by the younger ones and if this is the case, we will provide feedback and you can try CLOW.

My child has never been in pre-school or any organized religious-based program. What can we expect? Obviously, you know your child best. However, please know that our goal is to provide a religious-based program geared for this age group that is a positive experience for the child. For this age

group, a predictable routine often plays a key role in helping him/her to feel safe and comfortable. The program will never vary from its most basic elements. Some parents feel disconcerted after dropping their crying child off in the classroom. But, keep in mind that usually within 5 minutes of your departure, the child is calm and integrated into the classroom. However, if you feel you need to accompany your child this is fine as well.

I have an older child that I do not feel comfortable leaving in church while I help, what can I do about that? If you have a child that is willing to help while you lead the younger children through the program that would be wonderful! We will provide guidance for pre-teens (10-13) and teens (13 and up) and will gladly accept their assistance!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FALL/WINTER 2005 – 2006

		9:00 AM		11:00 AM	
		Catechist Assistant	Teen Helpers	Catechist Assistant	Teen Helpers
9 Oct	Ingrid Kowalk (needs a sub) Karen Goldstein	Lucas Reuling Aubrey Horton Kathleen Reed		VACANT Katie Wagoner	Mary Kreke Peter McDermott Liz Corker Katie Gery
16	SueEllen Barnes Kim Johnson	Annie Spencer Matt Spencer Lucy Bill Brittany Keen		Carol Davis Beth Frey	Brigid Ayer Maggie Garvey Katie Hicks Emily Rother
23	Nancy Richardson Peggy Nathan	Heather Greene Courtney Greene Megan Lynch		Beth Sutterman Chris Traube	Cristina & Natalia Riccio Molly Howser Tess Flanagan
30	Nora Will Diane Schnepfe	Lucas Reuling Aubrey Horton Kathleen Reed		Sue Ganley Amanda Strand	Brigid Ayer Maggie Garvey Emily Rother
6-Nov	Nora Will Corina Noah	Ingrid Will Maddie Will Kayley Eisenhart		Sue Ganley Patti Kreke	Florence Schmehl Michael Vince Kathleen Kelly
13	Beth Sell Karen Goldstein	Lucas Reuling Aubrey Horton Kathleen Reed		SUE CHAPIN? Amanda Strand	Mary Kreke Peter McDermott Liz Corker Katie Gery
20	Carol Rayos-Davis Kim Johnson	Annie Spencer Matt Spencer Lucy Bill Brittany Keen		Irene Romersa Beth Frey	Brigid Ayer Maggie Garvey Katie Hicks Emily Rother
27	Peg Garguilo Peggy Nathan	Heather Greene Courtney Greene Megan Lynch		Beth Sutterman Chris Traube	Cristina & Natalia Riccio Molly Howser Tess Flanagan