

An Open Letter to Families with Young Children:

Welcome! And thank you for visiting St. Bart's with your children today. Did you know that the first stage of faith development (experienced faith) is the foundation upon which all future stages of faith flow? That means for young people, simply being in a church building and witnessing the sights, sounds, and even smells associated with the liturgy, points towards a lifelong experience and love of God.

We are a small church with a few young children. But we have many adults, including professional educators, who are eager to walk with you and your children on their journeys of faith.

As you enter our worship space, you will find a **basket of activities, toys, and books** for young children to access, play with at the pews and take home. Don't worry, we welcome the noise. Under the supervision of a professional teacher, we also offer **childcare in a dedicated classroom** with age-appropriate activities & religious enrichment for those who wish to step away for a portion or the entirety of a Service.

Additionally, we are at the ready to launch a **Children's Chapel** for kids who may have "aged out" of our childcare classroom and would like to learn the Weekly Readings at their level and engage in a related activity. This could take place during the Liturgy of the Word section of the Service or even during coffee hour. Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Russ Tripi saintbarteducation@gmail.com if you think this would be something of interest to your child.

We would be honored to have you and your children experience faith with us. Know that wherever you are on your journey, your family's unique gifts will be embraced and celebrated within our community. Please visit saintbartohio.org for more information on our offerings.

Sincerely,

The Congregation of St. Bartholomew's