

Little Lambs.

*“Best program we have been in through the church!...We look forward to this day every month! It is an educational and fun opportunity to learn together as a family! It has helped us grow closer as a family as well as grow in our faith!”
(Shelley Schuette)*

Little Lambs is a once-a-month program for children who are 3 years old – kindergarten age and their parents.

“We like that it gives our child the opportunity to learn about her faith as she interacts with other children. She has become more aware of what church is and means.” (Priscilla Morton)

We meet after 9:00am Mass at the Cathedral for snacks and activities to learn about our faith in a fun way

“The coolest thing about Little Lambs is the way in which you can make our faith so understandable to [our son’s] young mind. Through your stories, manipulatives, activities, projects, and games, they have an understanding of why we do what we do in the Catholic Church. The proof of this is the way that he explains his learning to [his younger brother] when he gets home. Even more important is that his knowledge “sticks.” Even without being reminded, he can remember things he has learned from the previous year and we can talk about it as we enter the new church seasons.” (Annie Martinez)



A favorite activity is the “large game board.” I ask the children a question and they answer. They then move a number of spaces or to a certain color. The happy and sad faces are for the questions about behavior in Mass (Do you run in church? No, so go to the sad face).



Having the parents come to Little Lambs is very important. The lessons are created so that parents are needed to help their children with the activities.

"I like the fact that the class is parent/child and we are learning/doing together."
(Sara Zellers)



The parents hear what is being said and then they can reinforce the learning at home.

"I have learned a lot about the faith and has helped me help my family."
(Kyleigh Cole)

Little Lambs is a good way for parents to meet and visit with other Catholic parents who also want to share the faith with their children.

"I love interacting with other families in the same stage of life." (Sara Zellers)

For many of the parents, it has been years since they have received any formal education about our faith so Little Lambs is a good refresher for them.

"We look forward to going after church for "fun" activities that are educational for not only our daughter but us as parents can refresh our religious knowledge."
(Sarah Sandbo)



Each family is given a packet of home lessons to continue the learning about our faith at home. The home lessons are from Family Formation (<http://www.familyformation.net/AdditionalCurriculum.asp>). The lessons are sent to me digitally via email and copies are made for each family. Completing the home lessons is not required but most families do use them.

"We like the home lessons so that the boys can begin to see that education about the Church doesn't stop at Little Lambs. It's a continuous process that happens all the time!" (Annie Martinez)

The packet of home lessons has all the extra supplies needed to do the activities.

"We do way more religion activities at home with having all the at home materials." (Megan Ontiveros)

The home packets and in-class activities provide the structure for parents to talk about and teach about the faith at home.

"Little lambs has truly benefited our family to really set down and study up on our faith outside of Mass and our daughter who is now 5 years old I feel knows more

about our faith then I could have imagined she would at this age. From reciting her prayers, to knowing why and how each holiday is celebrated couldn't make us as parents more happy. We are so thankful for this class!" (Sarah Sandbo)

Little Lambs is strengthening the young families in our parish.

"[Little Lambs has] fostered stronger family relationships; encouraged family prayer time; helped continue Catholic education at home." (Sara Zellers)

Little Lambs is a way for families to connect with the church in a positive and fun way.

"The program inspired me to have my 3-year-old twins baptized...Little Lambs has provided the support, knowledge and love my family needed to connect and re-connect with what it means to be Catholic. So the effect on my family has been profound." (Catherine Rooney)

In Little Lambs we cover many topics, like Advent, Lent, Easter, the rosary, Stations of the Cross, baptism, Mary, and the Mass. One year we learned about the parts of the Mass and the names of items used at Mass. At our last class for the year the kids and their dads were ready to pretend to be altar servers while using the items found in their Mass kits.





It is fun to have kids and parents excited to learn about our faith.

To see more pictures and/or to sign up to come to Little Lambs, go to:
<http://dodgecitycathedral.com/faith/littlelambs>