

Welcome to Christ the King Parish



"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matt 19:14

If you're celebrating Mass with a child today ... relax! God put the wiggle in children; do not feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Here are just a few friendly suggestions to help your family make the most of Mass:

- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of other's heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the Mass and actions of the priest, altar servers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to go to the Family Room (behind the sanctuary and accessible from either side door) where the Mass is audible and telecast on a screen, but please come back after the child has calmed down. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

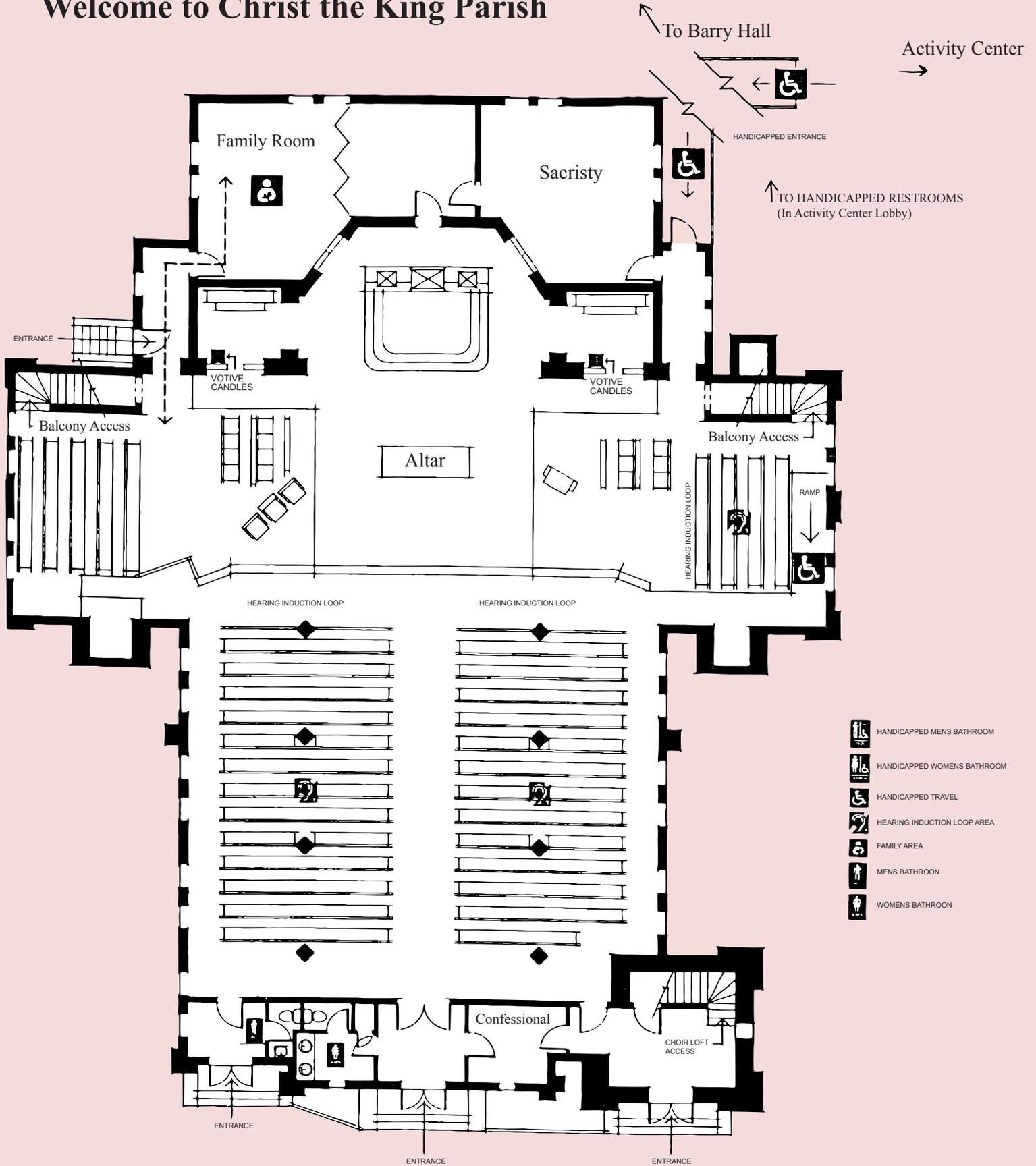
The presence of children is a gift to the Church, and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Through Baptism, we are all made members of the Body of Christ, including the youngest among us.

If you find yourself celebrating Mass near a child today, please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents. If you see a parent struggling, please offer to help!

During the 11am Mass, we have the following options should parents choose to participate:

- **Nursery:** For children ages 1-4 years. Children engage in Bible stories and songs, snack, and free play while their parents and older siblings participate in the Mass. The nursery is located in St. John Regional School (SJRS) in the Pre-K classroom. Drop off begins at 10:45, and pick-up is directly following the conclusion of Mass. Please see the parish website for more details.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade (preschoolers at their parents' discretion) are dismissed following the opening rites of Mass to a room in Barry Hall where they hear and discuss the readings in words they can understand. They rejoin their families during the offertory (collection) for Liturgy of the Eucharist. *(not available during the summer)*

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St. John the Evangelist Church
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