

Dear Padre,

I'm tired of being distracted by children sliding around in the pews, fidgeting, and giggling with each other. How would the priest like parents to handle these situations during Mass?

I presume you mean children between the ages of two and six—kids too old to be crying in their parents' arms and too young to be in religious-education programs. Many parishes have children's Liturgy of the Word programs, but the kids still spend time at regular Mass.

It's important for kids to be at Mass and to learn to be quiet for an hour. When children come to Mass, they slowly get used to the idea that they're expected to behave for a limited amount of time.

Parents should bring books or soft toys—anything that won't make more noise—to keep the kids entertained. They shouldn't let their kids bring musical toys, electronic games with sound effects, or toy trucks that can be run up and down the pews. If children continue to be disruptive, parents should take them outside for a short time and then bring them back.

Bottom line: Priests want children to come to Mass. It's better to have fidgeting kids at Mass than no kids at all. We want them to learn to behave now so when they get older, they're ready to deepen their participation in the Mass.



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Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
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- Monday**
 OCTOBER 24
 Weekday
 Eph 4:32—5:8
 Lk 13:10—17
- Tuesday**
 OCTOBER 25
 Weekday
 Eph 5:21—33
 Lk 13:18—21
- Wednesday**
 OCTOBER 26
 Weekday
 Eph 6:1—9
 Lk 13:22—30
- Thursday**
 OCTOBER 27
 Weekday
 Eph 6:10—20
 Lk 13:31—35
- Friday**
 OCTOBER 28
 Sts. Simon and Jude,
 Apostles
 Eph 2:19—22
 Lk 6:12—16
- Saturday**
 OCTOBER 29
 Weekday
 Phil 1:18b—26
 Lk 14:1, 7—11
- Sunday**
 OCTOBER 30
 Thirty-first Sunday in
 Ordinary Time
 Wis 11:22—12:2
 2 Thes 1:11—2:2
 Lk 19:1—10



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

With his birth, Jesus made himself a bridge between God and mankind, reconciled earth and sky, and recomposed the whole human race in unity...And today he also asks you to be little bridges, where you live....Sometimes it is not easy, but if we are united with Jesus we can do it.

ADDRESS TO CHILDREN, DECEMBER 16, 2019

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