

Tips for Mass

Feed the kids before you go (donuts are a bad idea)

Use the car ride to prep (talk about the readings, ask questions)

Limit what you bring (one thing, special for Sunday, soft—it will be dropped, many times)

Sit close to the front (so the kids can actually see what is going on, but have an exit plan)

Carry them out if they can't be quieted quickly (kids are generally noisy, but if it's repetitive or they just lose it, they need a change of scenery), **BUT...**

Bring them back in once they are quiet (people typically don't mind multiple trips in and out)

Don't put them down when you bring them out (kids are smart and would rather get down and play in the back than sit still in the pew)

Read the readings *before* going to Mass (this will save a lot of frustration)

Be firm, but merciful (try to remember what it was like when you were a kid at Mass)

Our example is more important than anything we can teach them (they know how we really feel about being there, and that will make all the difference)

“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” Mt 19:14