



St. Gabriel the Archangel introduces

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

For Children 3-6 Years Old

Sundays 8:00-9:00 am

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to catechizing children in Scripture and Liturgy through presentations and hands-on activities. It fosters a very strong and loving relationship with Christ at a very young age, and growth in that relationship through the years. Level 1 is for children 3-6 years old.

“The 3-6-year-old child is particularly capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of our faith—the announcement of God’s love especially experienced through Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who died and is risen. Materials on the life of Jesus Christ and his teachings help to make the mystery of God concrete for the child. The heart of the catechesis for children under six revolves around the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus announces that he is the Good Shepherd who calls each one by name. The sheep listen to the voice of the Shepherd and follow him.” <https://www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-method/>

“The 3-6 year old child enters the mystery of the Eucharist by first learning the names of the articles used on the altar and then through the most important gestures including the preparation of the chalice, the epiclesis and offering, and the sign of peace. Through the experience of seeing these gestures, presented one by one, the Mass emerges as the Sacrament of the Gift. The child becomes acquainted with the historical character of the liturgy through the events of the Last Supper, Christ’s death, and His resurrection.” CGS website <https://www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-method/>

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is conducted in a specially prepared environment called an Atrium.





What is an Atrium?

An Atrium is a well-prepared, sacred environment where children pray, sing, learn and work. This environment is carefully prepared to be a calm and inviting place for children. The adult CGS catechist will present aspects of Bible and Liturgy to the children each week; then the children will be able to choose and use the materials in the atrium that will help them grow in their love relationship with God.

In the Level 1 atrium children see and engage in practical life activities (pouring, sweeping, polishing), Mass and Baptismal gestures and activities, and presentations of Bible stories. They also gather for prayer and song. These activities allow the child to “discover” their understanding of God as the Good Shepherd, and their love of Christ.

The fully completed Atrium requires a great many materials for children to engage in these hands-on activities. We will start small and build over time. We would welcome any assistance you wish to provide.





Who teaches Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd requires catechists to have extensive training —90 hours for Level 1 alone. This year, three very experienced catechists have taken the first 45 hours of Level 1 training. However, assistants are welcomed and needed., since the work in the Atrium is very individualized.

My child has a learning disability. Will he be able to participate?

Children with learning disabilities are welcome. This is a very hands-on learning method, so most children who learn differently will do well in this environment.

Where can I learn more?

You can read more about the program at <https://www.cgsusa.org/> . Videos are available at that website and on You Tube. Numerous books are also available at the website.

More information about St. Gabriel's program will also be forthcoming at Church, on the website.

You can learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. Gabriel by contacting the Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation, Mary Jane Choi, at mchoi@stgabriel.net or (502) 239-5481 X 314.

How can I sign my child up?

Sign Ups are through PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) registration. However, please be aware that CGS is open to all children 3-6 years old, not just public school children.

How can I become involved in CGS?

You can assist the trained catechists in the Atrium on Wednesday evenings.

We need help making the materials for the atrium. This is a large project and your hands will be appreciated. Specific directions are available so you don't have to re-invent the wheel!

You can help us develop promotional materials.

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