

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Office of Religious Education

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...but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Family:

Since your child was baptized at Sacred Heart, Father Richard Scioli and our entire Parish have been praying for you and your family. Parents and guardians are a child's first teachers of our Faith. As part of your child's baptism, those assembled prayed that the parents, "may also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Helping your child to learn about the love of God and to develop a true and lasting relationship with Jesus is one of your primary roles as a Catholic parent and our entire Parish family wants to support you in that role.

As your child grows through the infant, toddler, and preschool years, you might be wondering how our Parish can support you in your vital role as your child's first and best teacher of the faith. We would invite you to consider our *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program for children age 3 as of September 1 through Kindergarten, which is designed to serve the needs of our youngest parishioners.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a faith formation method, based on Montessori principles and the realization that young children not only develop a personal, loving relationship with God but actually have a hunger for God. Children gather in an area called the Atrium. This is a term used by the early church for the gathering area where one prepared for membership in the church community. For the child too, the Atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshiping community, a place that fosters the child's relationship with God.

We are blessed to have a dedicated atrium in the former Milford Catholic Elementary School building. *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* will be held on Sunday mornings from 11:15AM-12:30PM. Enrollment is limited to 12 students, but a second weekday session will be added, if there is sufficient interest. The fee for this program is \$55 and will begin on October 22, 2023.

The registration form is included and can be returned to the Religious Education Office at 5 East Main St. We look forward to welcoming you and your children to this program. Please feel to contact us with any questions at (508) 478-0139 or ccdoffice@sacredheartmilford.org.

Yours in Christ,

Amy Donahue
Laura Bon Tempo

