

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Faith Formation

for Most Holy Redeemer Church, Montgomery, MN



When: Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 21, 9:45-11:15

Where: Meet in Most Holy Redeemer Church basement after 8:30AM Mass, children will use the atria at Most Holy Redeemer School

Who: Children age three through 2nd grade

***There is a parent/child meeting scheduled for **Sept. 14** after the 8:30AM mass. Please meet in the church basement. This will include all the details you will need to know plus a tour of the atrium, (the room prepared for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) and meeting your children's catechists (religion teachers).

***Fill out the included forms and mail or bring to Maureen at the church office, 206 Vine Ave W, Montgomery 56069 or drop in the church collection to reserve a spot for your child(ren)!

***We will need two people to help as assistants with the children while they are in the atrium. Please let Maureen know if you are interested or would like more information. 507-400-5780. Training is provided.

What is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for children 3-12 years old, is a Montessori based religious formation program based on the conviction that God already has a relationship even with the youngest child. Our role as adults is to protect and nurture this bond. In CGS we present age-appropriate themes from the Bible and our liturgy with materials that are used by the children to internalize and ponder the great mysteries of our faith. We endeavor to put the child in touch with the sources through which God reveals and communicates himself in living form: the Bible and our Liturgy.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd instills a deep love of God in the child and gives them the language, materials and environment to develop prayer and meditation.

What is the Atrium? The atrium, where the CGS sessions are held, is a place of prayer and encounter with God. Each atrium is specially designed with child-sized furniture including a prayer table; a model altar, gestures altar, and other works to delve into the Mysteries we celebrate at Mass and in our liturgical seasons and sacraments; materials to deepen their familiarity with Infancy narratives, the Parables and Miracles of Jesus; the moral maxims; the History of the Kingdom of God; and more. After being presented with a new material, the child

is free to choose work which particularly speaks to him/her to foster the growth of his or her relationship with God.

What Materials are used in the atrium? The materials in the atrium invite children to explore and deepen experiences at their own pace. The most important characteristic of the materials is their close link to the biblical and liturgical sources. The shelves include maps of Israel and miniature environments representing the elements of the parables and historical events from Scripture that have been shown to satisfy the spiritual needs of the child. The arrangement of the altar and its related furnishing conveys the centrality of the Eucharist. The other liturgical items initiate the child into the liturgical life of the Church. Timelines, charts, and bible studies are included in the Level II atrium allowing the older child to deepen their relationship and knowledge at their new developmental level.

Who is the Catechist? Catechists are specially trained adults who give children the guidance and vocabulary which enable them to become aware of their relationship with God and give expression to it. With the CGS the catechist helps each child to continue to fall in love with God, ponder the teachings of Jesus, and how we can stay close to Him through active participation in the sacraments and Liturgy of our Catholic Church .