

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium Session Dates:

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| September | SUN 17 /MON 18/TUES 19/WED 20 | WEEK 1 |
| | SUN24 /MON 25/TUES 26/WED 27 | WEEK 2 |
| OCTOBER: | SUN 1 /MON 2/TUES 3/WED 4 | WEEK 3 |
| | SUN 8(NO 1:45)/ NO MON /TUES 10/WED11 | WEEK 4 |
| | SUN 15/MON 16/TUES 17/ WED 18 | WEEK 5 |
| | *SUN 22/MON 23/TUES 24/WED 25 | WEEK 6* |
| * | SAC PARENTS/STUDENTS BRING SACRAMENT BOOKS – HW DUE Lesson 1 | |
| | SUN 29/MON 30/ NO CLASS TUES/WED | WEEK 7 |
| NOVEMBER: | SUN 5/MON 6/TUES 7/WED 8 | WEEK 8 |
| | SUN 12/ MON 13/TUES 14/WED 15 | WEEK 9 |
| | *SUN 19 /MON 20/TUES 21/WED 22 | WEEK 10 CANCELLED |
| | *SUN 26/MON 27/TUES 28/WED 29 | WEEK 11 |
| * | SAC PARENTS/STUDENTS – HW DUE Lesson 2 & 3(REC BACK PAGE ONLY) | |
| DECEMBER: | SUN 3 /MON 4/TUES 5/WED 6 | WEEK 12 |
| | SUN 10 /MON 11/TUES 12/WED 13 | WEEK 13 |
| | SUN 17/MON 18/TUES 19/WED 20 | WEEK 14 |
| JANUARY: | SUN 7/MON 8/TUES 9/WED 10 | WEEK 14 |
| | SUN 14/MON 15/TUES 16/WED 17 | WEEK 15 |
| | * SUN 21 /MON 22/TUES 23/ NO WED | WEEK 16 |
| • | SAC PARENTS/STUDENTS BRING SACRAMENT BOOKS – HW DUE Lesson 4, 5, 6 | |
| | SUN 28/MON 29/TUES 30/WED 31 | WEEK 17 |
| FEBRUARY: | SUN 4/MON 5/TUES 6/WED 7 | WEEK 18 |
| | SUN 11 /MON 12/TUES 13/WED 14 | WEEK 19 |
| | NO CLASSES SUN 18- WED 21 | |
| | *SUN 25 /MON 26/TUES 27/WED 28 | WEEK 20 |
| • | SAC PARENTS/STUDENTS BRING SACRAMENT BOOKS – HW DUE Lesson 7 & 8 | |
| MARCH: | SUN 4/MON 5/TUES 6/WED 7 | WEEK 21 |
| | SUN 11/MON 12/TUES 13/WED 14 | WEEK 22 |
| | *SUN 18/MON 19/WED 20/THURS 21 | WEEK 23 |
| * | ONLY YEAR 2: PARENTS/STUDENTS BRING SACRAMENT BOOKS – Lesson 9 & 10 | |
| | SUN 25/MON 26/TUES 27/WED 28 | WEEK 24 |
| APRIL: | EASTER /MON 2/TUES 3/WED 4 | WEEK 25 |
| | SUN 8 /MON 9/TUES 10/WED 11 | WEEK 26 |
| | *SUN 15/MON 16/TUES 17/WED 18 | WEEK 27 NO YEAR 1/YEAR 2 |
| | *SUN 22/MON 23/TUES 24/WED 25 | WEEK 28 NO YEAR 1/YEAR 2 |
| APRIL/MAY: | SUN 29/MON 30/TUES 1/WED 2 | WEEK 29 |
| MAY: | SUN 6/ MON 7/TUES 8/WED 9 | WEEK 30 |
| | NO SUN / MON 14/TUES 15/WED 16 | WEEK 31 |
| | SUN 20/MON 21/TUES 22/WED 23 | WEEK 32 NO YEAR 1 or YEAR 2 |
| JUNE | *SUN 3/MON 4/TUES 5/WED 6 | *WEEK 33 |

(LAST CLASS – PENTECOST CELEBRATION) POT LUCK- FAMILIES/GUESTS/CAMERAS!

CURRENT – Updated as of 11/2017

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community

2017-2018 Student Handbook



Level I & 2 (ages 3-9 years old)
 Sunday 11:15/1:45 & Monday 5:30/
 Tuesday 3pm/Wednesday 4pm

Contact Information:

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What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a “Montessori based” religious education program that nurtures the child in their relationship with the Good Shepherd. Created by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi about 60 years ago, it is based on the belief that the child and God are already in a relationship.

What is the atrium?

Sofia coined the term based on the fact that in older times the catechumen would meet in the “atrium of the church” and discuss the Bible and Liturgy prior to being received into the Catholic Church. For the 3-6 year old child, it is a place of prayer and enjoyment prepared especially for them to contemplate the life of the Good Shepherd – to hear their name when the Good Shepherd calls.

Through the use of many “sensorial” materials the atrium is a place where the child learns and works with the Infancy Narratives of Jesus, the Geography of Israel, the Kingdom Parables, the Paschal Narratives, the articles and gestures of the Mass, Baptism, and the altar. We present our faith to the children with a “hands-on” approach that lets them become part of the Mass and the Bible.

Why doesn't my child bring home papers every week?

In the atrium a folder will keep your child's papers (coloring, pastings etc.), we will send this work home twice a year. The work of the child is most important not the papers brought home. So don't be upset if you don't see materials coming home, this does not mean they are not taking it all in.

What is atrium behavior?

Atrium behavior is the conduct we will introduce your child to at the beginning of the year. We ask you to try to practice atrium walking and atrium talking with your child. (Don't be concerned if it takes several visits, we find that eventually the unruly kids are the ones that are learning the most!)

Atrium Dress: No t-shirts with characters, flashing sneakers, jewelry, sparkles, or big hair bows. Girl's hair must be pulled back in a ponytail. Dress simply for the atrium.

Why are there candles in the atrium?

Only the adult handles the matches. When we read God's sacred Word it reminds us that God is with us in a most Holy way and that Jesus is the light of the World!

Can I visit the atrium? Yes – Just let us know a week or two before so that we know you are coming.

Important Drop-Off and Pick-Up Information

Children must arrive and be picked up *on time*.

Park and walk your child, entering from 4th Street, into the Atrium area. Where you sign your child into the atrium is where you will pick them up. (We will be meeting in the “Lower Room” of Olive Hall). **Take your child to the restroom and wash hands thoroughly.** One of the designated emergency contacts may drop off and pick up for you. Please be courteous and on time for dismissal. **Regular attendance is expected, unless he/she is sick or a family emergency.** Please e-mail or text if your child is going to miss a session.

Attend Mass and Class!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Children enjoy caring for God's creation. As a part of that behavior we offer the child “Plant Care” as a part of practical life (it helps to build fine motor skills). There will be a sign-up sheet in the atrium, if you would like to bring a small bunch of flowers.
- We also polish metal. If you have old small silver, brass etc. objects that you would like to donate to the atrium we will take them. Also if you would like to purchase polish make sure it is non-toxic.
- One time a year we will have a celebration in the atrium. Our children are not focused on snacks as snacks are not provided; we ask that you save the goodies for the celebration day. We are in the atrium to share in the love of the Good Shepherd and we try not to create an atmosphere where the child is waiting for a snack; thank you for understanding.
- We always appreciate anyone who can sew or cut out materials! Please volunteer as you are able! Basket of things to do near sign in.

The first couple of weeks we will be creating “atrium behavior” we encourage you to leave your child with us ~ some 3 year olds suffer separation anxiety, as parents you want to scoop them up and run, we will work with your child to help them overcome that obstacle. We promise to love them and ...

“Help them come to God by themselves!”