



Children working with the Good Shepherd materials

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd St. Agnes Atrium of the Lamb

St. Agnes Parish offers a model of faith formation for young children ages 3-5 called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This program was developed over 60 years ago by a Hebrew and biblical scholar named Sofia Cavalleti based on the methods of Catholic and educator Maria Montessori. The catechists who instruct the children are certified and trained over 90 hours to present this spiritual formation to the children who participate.

All the materials used have been hand made with the child in mind by both catechists and parish community members.

Who We Are

About Us

We are a Montessori based Catechesis Program for Children ages 3-5. Here they learn hands on about the Mass and Jesus' life in order to nurture a relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Our Atrium

St. Agnes' Atrium of the Lamb is located on the second floor of Thomas Patrick Hall Room 206. The Atrium has been especially designed with the child in mind, all materials handmade with love and care.

To Register

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is held on Thursday and Saturday Mornings. There is a minimal fee to participate. Please contact the Religious Education Office to register. Space is limited.

Contact Us

Phone: 610-436-4640

Email: prep@saintagnesparish.org

Web: <http://www.saintagnesparish.org/faith-formation>

More information at www.cgsusa.org



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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

*St. Agnes Religious Education
Ministry*



Catechist presenting the Last Supper

“Help me to come closer to God all by myself.”

A child 3 to 5 years old...

Is already deeply connected with God, “Since I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jer. 1:5). As they discover and begin to build relationship with people and the world around them their imaginative life which closely resembles prayer and the real world are merged without separation. This is an ideal time to introduce the little child to the person of Jesus Christ and His plan of Love for each of them.

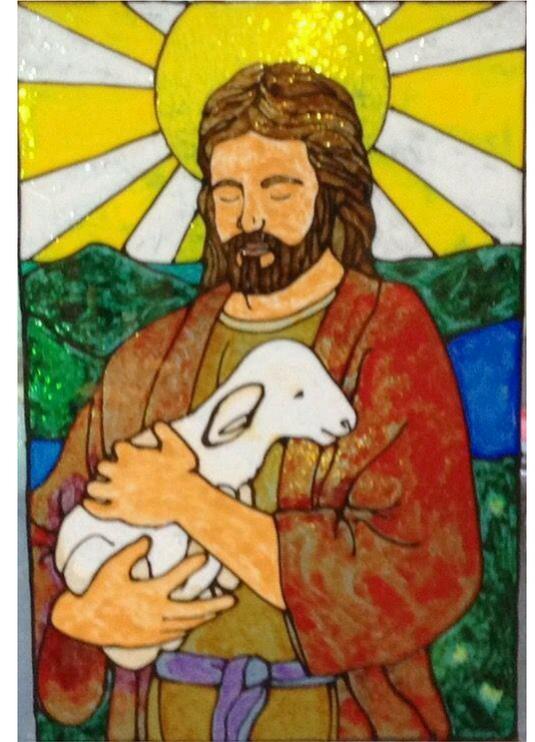
The child is able to recognize all the signs God gives to us to remind and teach us about Himself. The signs of Light, Water, Color and Words for instance are recognized by the child as Gift. These along with gesture, and stories from Sacred Scripture they find God loves them. Often the child responds with deep gratitude and Joy. They cannot thank God enough for all the gifts of the whole world.

“Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been a wonderful introduction to the Mass for my daughter. The program uses “kid language” to help her understand the mass. She loves being able to touch everything and help set up the altar. It has also taught her how to be reverent and the importance of reverence during the Mass”.

Allison Treston

St. Agnes Parishioner and School Family Mom

Child working with altar materials



*The Good Shepherd at St. Agnes’ Atrium of the Lamb
“Let the little children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to these”. (Matthew 19:4)*

One of the hallmarks of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the Atrium, a specially designed room that traditionally in history was a room filled with light. In the atrium during a presentation children often display deep concentration, stillness and pondering. Sometimes it can get very quiet while the child does not “play” in the atrium but instead, consistent with Montessori principals, “works”. It is the catechist’s role to give the presentations either from Sacred Scripture or the Liturgy of the Mass then, listen to God with the child. *Tours are available of St. Agnes “Atrium of the Lamb” anytime upon request.*

