

Atrium

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. It is quite different from published programs. It does not use a catechetical series of books or take place in a classroom. In this approach there is a room prepared for the children in which every object is to aid in their knowledge of God. It is a place of simplicity and order, prayer and work, and community. Everything in this room, known as the “Atrium”, is appropriate to the ages and sizes of the children who gather there.

Materials

The materials in the atrium are attractively displayed inviting children to explore the faith at their own pace. The shelves include maps of Israel and miniature figures representing the elements of the parables and historical events from Scripture that have been shown to satisfy the spiritual needs of the child.

Children in the Level 1 program spend time enjoying and nurturing a relationship with the Good Shepherd. Materials and presentations on the life of Christ and His teaching help make the great mystery of who God is more understandable for the child.

- Through geography, the words of the prophets, and infancy narratives, Jesus is established as a real person.
- The Paschal narratives are treated similarly, using model cities of Jerusalem, empty tombs, and cenacles for the Last Supper.
- Selected parables further the child’s wonder and curiosity about the great mystery of the Kingdom of God.
- Children become familiar with the articles of Baptism, and gestures and articles of Eucharist.
- A prayer corner located in the atrium reflects the liturgical time of year with appropriate colors, prayer, songs, artwork, and readings.

The trained adults in the atrium or “catechists” present passages of Scripture, which call forth the child’s innate desire to draw near to God. Together they ask questions and wonder: “God who are you? How do you love us? What is the kingdom of God like? What is our place in it?”

“If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration, and wonder.”

---Maria Montessori

For more information contact
Leanna Olsem
Level 1 Catechesis
507 828-0585

LeannaOlsem@gmail.com

In addition visit the National Association of
the Good Shepherd website at
www.cgsusa.org

Contact Leanna also if you are interested in
helping develop the atrium this summer or
working as an aide in the room.

“Help me fall in love with God
myself.”

-The motto of the Catechesis of the Good
Shepherd

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH
503 West Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 532-5711
www.holy-redeemer.com

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Registration will begin in the Fall 2017
Tuesdays September – May
Level 1: Ages 3-5
3:30-5:00pm