

# Corpus Christi Parish Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Guidelines and Procedures

Elizabeth Hand, DRE, and CGS Level 1 Catechist

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**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** is a Montessori based program for the faith and spiritual formation of the child. The focus of the program is to deepen the child's existing relationship with God; to encourage the formation of a personal prayer life; to participate fully in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church; and to develop a deeper understanding of Catholic identity and tradition. This is accomplished using materials, prayer, song, listening to the Word of God, and giving the child time to work with the materials provided.

All lessons are presented using Montessori methods that encourage the child to work with a variety of easily accessible materials. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based upon the principles of the Montessori method of:

1. the prepared environment.
2. child-directed activity.
3. adult as servant and observer.

**Level One is for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children and encourages children, ages 3-5, to develop their innate potential for a faith-filled relationship with God. They encounter Jesus, the Good Shepherd who loves them, cares for them, and knows them by name. Catechesis includes Scripture, Mass gestures, prayers, artwork, and music.**

## ***Child readiness:***

CGS Level 1 is for children ages 3 – 5 (Preschool/kindergarten.) To determine if your child is ready to join the other children in the Atrium (room) the following questions will assist you.

- Can/Does your child follow simple directions?
- Can/Does your child communicate in simple sentences?
- Can/Does your child transition from one activity to another with ease?
- Can/Does your child interact with other children?
- Does your child separate from you easily?
- Is your child completely potty trained?
- Is your child able to care for their bathroom needs without assistance?

*We realize that children are unique and develop at their own pace. If your child has not acclimated to the Atrium by October 31, we would encourage that he/she return to the Atrium the following year. This is in the best interest of your child and the other children in the Atrium. Your tuition fee will be adjusted accordingly.*

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## ***Atrium Guidelines:***

- **All children MUST be bathroom independent**
- Children are encouraged to use the bathrooms BEFORE class begins.
- All children MUST show respect for Atrium personnel, classmates, and property
- Each child will have a folder in which to keep their papers (coloring, gluing, etc.) At the end of the year, we will send the work home. We ask parents not to expect paperwork after each session, since one key Montessori principle is that young children work for the process and not the end product.
- Candles are lit in the Atrium when Scripture is read and during sacred moments. An adult always supervises the children when they are near candles. Only the adult handles the matches.
- Dress children in comfortable clothing that allows ease of movement, as they will be working on mats on the ground.
- No shoes allowed in the Atrium. Please have the children wear socks or slippers.
- Children will be guided in how to handle each of the works. Each work is specially made for the atrium and for the children's use.
- Throughout the year, parents will be provided with Parent Pages that further explain the lesson or work of the day. Parents are encouraged to share this information with their children.
- Parents are to email Liz Hand if child will not be in the Atrium that day.

## ***Drop – Off and Pick Up Procedures***

- **Parking:** Families may park in front of the school or in the church parking lot.
- **All parents and children are to enter the side of the school** and proceed down the steps to the cafeteria level. The Atrium is at the end of the hall on the right.
- Children will hang up their coats/ jackets on the hooks outside the Atrium.
- Children will remove their shoes and place them under their chairs. No shoes are allowed in the atrium. **Socks or slippers are to be worn.**
- Children will wait outside Atrium for catechist to lead them inside.
- The Catechist will lead the children out of the Atrium to meet their parents at the end of class.

## **Cancelation for Weather or Other Emergencies:**

- **We will send out an email alert to all current emails detailing the cancelation of school. Please make sure we have your correct email address.**