

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you are familiar with our parish faith formation approach for children 3-12 years old. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an experience which is rooted in scripture, liturgy, and relationship with the Lord. The basic premise of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to foster an understanding of and participation in the Mass through Montessori designed curriculum corresponding to the developmental stages of children.

The Eucharist is central to the life of the atrium at every level and the spiritual themes are taken from the Bible and the liturgy (prayers and sacraments) as the fundamental sources for creation, nourishing, and sustaining the child in his/her most vital spiritual needs.

We introduced the first level for children ages 3-6 in 2013, the second level for children ages 6-9 in 2014, and finally the third level for children ages 9-11 in 2016. Our parish families prefer CGS over the traditional CCD programs and this has created a demand for additional sessions.

We have been blessed with the majority of our catechists since 2014. Between last year and this year, we will lose a few of our catechists due to ever-changing things in life and we are grateful for their many years of service, commitment and dedication to the children and families of our parish. In response to the loss of catechists, we are in search of fully initiated adult volunteers to fill these very important positions as catechists. Here are the expectations of the individuals:

- 18+ years in age and are open & engaged in their faith
- Have a love for children and of sharing their faith with a desire to dig deeper into the Christian message through knowledge of biblical and liturgical resources
- Complete a parish funded 90 hour formation course required by the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Are open to at least a three year commitment to ensure a high level of consistency
- Willing to prepare and maintain materials needed in the atrium and create an environment of a peaceful setting, which is more like a retreat, rather than a classroom

It is my hope that if you feel God is calling you to be a catechist, you respond willingly and obediently. Even if you feel you are not qualified. Remember, God does not always call the qualified, but he *always* qualifies the called.

For more information, please contact:

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