



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at MQP



4 November 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new year of Faith Formation! My name is Maria Muscado and I'm the Pastoral Assistant for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at Mary Queen of Peace.

Driven by the Holy Spirit, the fall has been a time of preparation for our littlest ones! We look forward to opening our Level I atrium (for ages 3 – kindergarten) this Advent 2021! Several volunteers are joining the MQP atrium community. They share their time, talent and treasure. Much of the materials for CGS are handmade and lovingly prepared. It's a long Kingdom work!

The projected start of Level II atrium (ages 6 – 9) is Lent 2022. Contact me for ways to serve.

Registration is a 3-step process. *It takes 4 steps for new parishioners.*

Step 1: Fill out the [Online Registration Form](#)

Step 2: [Pay the CGS fee](#) \$60 per child

Step 3: Schedule a Parent Orientation prior to your child's first day of atrium

(Step 4: Not yet registered at MQP? Welcome! [Click here](#) to join our parish.)

More on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS):

What is the CGS approach? We believe that God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, particularly before the age of six; that growth of this relationship should be assisted by the adult, but is directed by the Spirit of God; that children need their own place to foster the growth of that relationship; and that the child's spiritual growth is best served through tangible but indirect means.

The atrium (or prepared environment) is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. After a theme has been presented, the child is free to choose a material that will make possible the inner dialogue with the Holy Spirit.

[The Level I atrium – for children ages 3 – 6](#)

[The atrium – a prepared environment](#)

Parent involvement is expected. *There are two options available.*

Option 1: Attend Thursday Gatherings with Fr. Chad (once a month).
Formation in the Catechism can help you answer those theological questions children often ask!

or

Option 2: Join the MQP atrium community.
We need catechists, assistants, material makers, repairers, clean up, etc.). This allows us to offer more session times. The atrium sessions we offer are based on volunteer availability and numbers.

What happens after [Step 2](#)?

Wait for a Welcome Letter. These will be sent out after November 11. The Welcome Letter will confirm your atrium session time. It will also include a calendar. Atrium sessions are offered in person at MQP from the end of November to May.

The Welcome Letter will also invite you to **Step 3** to schedule a parent orientation prior to your child's first day of atrium.

Note: We will do our best to accommodate most first choice requests. However, scheduling decisions are based on certain variables: total children per session, qualified catechists available, children with special needs, families with siblings, parish registration/engagement, and ongoing covid-19 regulations, etc.

One more thing! Make the Sabbath holy!

Children who flourish in CGS attend Sunday Mass faithfully. Outside of the atrium, their religious potential is supported...

- + at home where parents pray regularly and have conversations about their faith, and
- + in the church where the family engages in parish liturgical life and ministries.

The atrium is the meeting ground between the home and the church. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd does not replace the domestic church and Sunday Mass attendance. It offers remote preparation for Mass.

Looking forward to seeing how the Good Shepherd will bless your children and families!

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