

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Where a child falls in love with God

A program of Catholic formation for children ages 4 - 6.

St. Luke's Parish is working towards opening a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd **atrium** here starting in October 2024. We will begin with Level 1—an opportunity for 4-6 year old children to experience this special time of grace and prayer



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a method of religious formation rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "**atrium**," a room prepared for them, which contains simple, yet beautiful and often homemade materials used to lead them into the life of the church.

It presumes that a deep bond exists between God and each child.

In Level I, 4 - to 6-year-old children develop a relationship with a loving God, a God who calls his sheep by name, a God who will look for lost sheep. The children reflect upon many aspects of the Mass; the gestures and prayers they have seen so many times are named, discussed, and practiced. They learn new words, care for themselves and the environment, observe carefully, and respond with joy.



Hands-on materials, which represent the essence of the Christian message, are used by the children to explore and deepen their experiences at their own pace. In addition to preparing the environment, the adult's role is to present works that call forth the child's response and then step back, allowing God and the child to work together.

Prayer is at the centre of the Atrium: Individual Prayer, Communal Prayer, and Work as Prayer.

Our timeline for this year

August 24-25 and August 31-Sept. 1: Information in bulletins and mass announcements

September 7-8: Presentations at Mass and at Coffee Sunday

Registration opens for children

*As we are just beginning at this time,
registration fee will be reduced to \$20 per child for the 8 sessions*

September - October: source and create supplies and materials

Set up atrium

October 15-22: Individual Orientation for families and children

Tuesdays October 22-December 10: 8 sessions

10:00 am to noon: 6-8 children can register

Saturdays October 26-December 14: 8 sessions

10:00 am to noon: 6-8 children can register



If you would like to learn more about this faith formation for children, please contact Dawna Richardson at sacraments@stlukeschurch.ca

A good video to watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwO_CWLKwOE&feature=em-share_video_user



HOW CAN YOU HELP? Please see Following:



Ways to help St. Luke's set up of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

1: Pray! Please remember all our young families in our parish and pray for our children and their parents! This is the foundation of all we do!

2: Be involved!

Can you sew?
Is wood working more your forte?
Do you do calligraphy?
We need assistance creating the materials for our new atrium.

Do you like working with children?
Would you like to be involved as a helper in the atrium sessions?
Contact Dawna if you would like to be involved in any way!

3. Support

Starting in September, you will have the opportunity to donate to Catechesis of the Good shepherd at Mass. Any donations will be gratefully appreciated as we start up this program!

4: Donate items

Starting up a new atrium requires A LOT!
Here are some of the items we need. Can you help?



IKEA FURNISHINGS:

www.ikea.com/ca/en/p/kallax-shelf-unit-oak-effect-90307492 / (x 3)



<https://www.ikea.com/ca/en/p/lack-coffee-table-white-stained-oak-effect-50319029/> (x2)

NATIVITY SETS
(We need 5 sets!)



SMALL TABLES



LAMPS



AREA RUGS



WOODEN KIDDIE CHAIRS



CANDLE SNUFFER



HAND BELLS



WICKER BASKETS



TRAYS



LOCKS AND KEYS



If you have any questions, please contact Dawna
sacraments@stlukeschurch.ca