



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Faith Formation for children
Level I – ages 3-6 (preschool & K)
Level II – ages 6-9 (grades 1-3)
Special needs – all levels

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is 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 materials that they use. In the atrium, children fall in love with God and form a life-long relationship with God. This relationship is lived in the fullness of the Church community, strengthened by the liturgy and sacraments, and with a profound reverence for Scripture. Children learn and live the central mysteries of our faith – through the celebration of an encounter with the Father, in listening to Jesus the one Teacher, and in obedience to the Spirit. Children in Level II will also receive the textbook which they will be expected to work on at home.

Saint Kilian will be offering both levels this coming year. **Level I** begins for children ages 3 or 4. **Level II** is for children who have spent at least one year in Level I or who attend an orientation week. This parish program is available to all children in our parish and the local community at our Parish Center and also at the Mars site in the social hall in two atria (special rooms).

Level I – CGS I (Preschool-K)

CGSI	Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (SKP)
CGSI	Tuesday a.m.	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Mars)
CGSI	Tuesday p.m.	4:30 – 6:00 p.m. (SKP)
CGSI	Wed. a.m.	10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (Mars)
CGSI	Wed. p.m.	5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (Mars)

Level II – CGS II (grade 1-3)

CGSII	Wed. p.m.	5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (Mars)
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Program overview →

Program Overview

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, for children 3-12 years of age, originated in 1954 in Rome and has now spread to many countries all over the world.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program consists of three levels based on the developmental ages of the children. It is designed so that the child will spend three years in each level. Each week the catechist presents a new lesson. The most essential information is presented in the first year, with additional information or a deeper meditation on the same work added in years two and three. Materials that parallel the child's development are also added for the children to work on as they get older.

- A child of three or four is the ideal candidate for beginning Level I. The child at this age is particularly capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of our faith – the announcement of God’s love, in the person of the Good Shepherd, who died and is risen. Ideally a child should spend 3 years in the Level I atrium before moving to Level II.

- In **Level I** the children see presentations on the altar, the vestments, and gestures of the Mass and have the opportunity to work with materials that reinforce what they have learned. They start to pay attention at Mass, noticing what color the priest is wearing and what he is doing at different points of the Mass.

- The children listen to and meditate on the parables, and especially love the parable of the Good Shepherd. They know that the Good Shepherd knows them and loves them, cares for them, and calls them by name.

- In **Level II (ages 6–9)** the focus is the Eucharist, the moral parables (preparation for Reconciliation), books of the Bible, communal prayer and maps of Israel. Level II is for children who have spent at least one year in Level I or who attend an Orientation to Atrium in early fall.

If you would like to register your child for this program, or to assist with this program as a catechist, an aide or with material preparation, please call Celine Mitchell at the religious education office ext. 2107.

* This CGS method is especially helpful for children with special needs of all ages.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19: 14

Saint Kilian Parish Faith Formation
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