

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Helping Children Grow in a Relationship with Christ



What Is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based Catholic faith formation program offered to all Preschool through 2nd Grade students at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

In a specially prepared room called the Atrium, children encounter Scripture and the beauty of our Catholic faith in a way that speaks directly to their hearts.

God and the child are already in relationship.
Our role is to nurture that bond.



Requirements and Registrations

All students receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion who are not enrolled in the Catholic School must register and attend weekly Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) on Wednesday nights held at the Education Center from 6:30-7:30pm. In addition, they need to attend the Sacramental prep nights on the 1st Sacrament handout. They will not have CGS on those evenings.

Registration for CGS *please register by Sept 9

Cost = \$100

CGS sessions begin on Sept 9th through May 5th



**Register for CGS -
HERE!**



Ages / Classes

Level I (Ages 3–6)

Encountering the Good Shepherd

In Level I, children come to know Jesus as the Good Shepherd — the One who knows His sheep, calls them by name, and rejoices when they are found.

They are introduced to:

- The life of Christ
- The parables of the Kingdom
- The beauty of Baptism and the Eucharist
- The rhythms of the Church year

At this stage, the message is simple and lasting:
Jesus loves me. I belong to Him.

Level II (Grades 1–2)

Discovering God's Plan

They begin to see the unity of Scripture and God's loving plan from Creation to Redemption.

They explore:

- The history of God's people
- The teachings and moral guidance of Christ
- The meaning of the Sacraments
- Preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist

Children discover they are not just learning about God's story — they are invited to live it.

What Parents Notice

Families Often Share:

- “My child talks about Jesus like He is a real person.”
- “We see a new sense of reverence at Mass.”
- “Faith conversations are happening naturally at home.”
- “There is a quiet confidence in their understanding of God.”

Why This Matters

In a world that moves quickly and speaks loudly, children need a space that is quiet, intentional, and rooted in truth. The Atrium gives them that space. It allows faith to take root gently — and grow deeply.

Faith formed in childhood becomes faith lived for a lifetime.

“Let the little children come to me.” — Matthew 19:14

We invite your family to experience the Atrium at St. Francis Xavier.



For Public School Students

All students receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion and are not enrolled in the Catholic school must register and attend weekly Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) on Wednesday nights held at the Education Center from 6:30–7:30pm.

In addition, they need to attend the Sacramental prep nights (see above) on the listed Wednesdays. They will not have CGS on those evenings.

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