

**Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - HANDBOOK
Level I (Ages 3-6)**

**2016-2017 Catechetical Year
Sunday, 1-3PM**

ATRIUM LOCATION: The Atrium is located in the upper room on the far right side of the church hall. The corner stairs lead to the atrium space upstairs.

CALENDAR: The Atrium follows the liturgical seasons of the Catholic Church.

ENVIRONMENT: The Atrium is a special place of prayer where children listen to the Good Shepherd's voice during catechetical presentations and ponder God's Word while working with the materials. In order to cultivate a prayerful environment, we teach children to use the slow Atrium walk and quiet Atrium voice. Please model a quiet manner of speaking and walking to help your children become accustomed to using their Atrium voice and Atrium walk.

ARRIVAL: Before arriving at the Atrium, please be sure children have eaten a well-balanced meal. Please bring a snack for your child should you wish to wait in the church after the 11:00 AM mass. The children can have their food in the hall or outside (weather permitting) prior to the CGS session.

On-time arrivals are essential so that you do not disrupt the children's work. Please help your child take off any outer clothing and hang in the closet downstairs in the hall. Please bring indoor shoes and change from outdoor shoes to indoor shoes before entering the Atrium. Please make sure that the child has used the washroom before catechesis. The washrooms are located adjacent to the hall.

TOILET TRAINED: Children must be toilet trained prior to the commencement of the session.

CANDLES: Candles are lit in the Atrium when Scripture is read and during sacred moments. An adult always supervises the children when they are near candles. Only the adult handles matches. However, the children will use snuffers to put out the candle.

SCISSORS: The children will be using a pair of children's scissors for cutting work.

WAIT LIST: A waitlist is established after the maximum number of children is reached. Please fill out a registration form to register for the waitlist. If space becomes available, we will contact those on the waitlist.

COMPLETED FORMS: Please bring original signed completed registration forms and cheques payable to Holy Redeemer Catholic Church if not done already.

Please sign the parental consent form for pictures and artwork. We may use them for our website, parish sharing and the CGS Association newsletter from time to time.

FINALLY: If any parent is going to stay, you are encouraged to wait in the church or in the Blessed Sacrament chapel until the end of the catechesis session. The children will process into the hall at the end of the session.