

## Faith Formation for Children

A program that has been available at our parish for the last 10 years is known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. It is a way of religious formation for children that is quite different from published programs. It does not use a catechetical series of books or take place in a classroom. In this approach there is a room prepared for the children in which every object is to help in their knowledge of God. It is a place of simplicity and order, prayer and work, and community. Everything in this room, known as the Atrium, is appropriate to the ages and sizes of the children who gather there. The Atrium allows the children to come into contact with scripture, the liturgy of the church and for the older ones, the whole of sacred scripture.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is not new. It began in Rome in 1954. The process involving parent and child has been a proven success in many parishes **throughout the world**. Our prayer is that there can be a conversion to God for adults as the child grows in religious development.

### Atrium Times

#### 3-6 YEAR OLDS

Sunday 9am - 10:30  
Sunday 11am - 12:15  
Monday 4pm - 5:30  
Tues 4pm - 5:30  
Weds 4pm - 5:30

#### 6-9 YEAR OLDS

Sunday 9am - 10:30  
Sunday 11am - 12:15  
Monday 4pm - 5:30  
Tuesday 4pm - 5:30  
Wednesday 4pm - 5:30

#### 9-12 YEAR OLDS

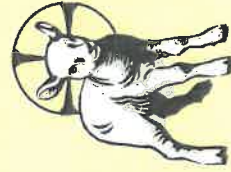
Sunday 9am-10:30  
Sunday 11:00-12:15  
Monday 4:00pm-5:30  
Tuesday 4:00pm-5:30  
Wednesday 4:00pm-5:30

7th AND 8TH  
GRADE

EDGE PROGRAM  
LAST SATURDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
5:00-7:15

ST. LADISLAS  
CHURCH

The Catechesis  
of the  
Good Shepherd  
2021-2022



### St. Ladislav Church

*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

2345 Bassett Road  
Westlake, OH 44145

For more information contact:

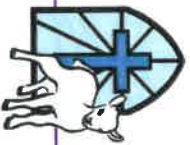
Sr. Johnica D'Amico

Phone: 440-835-2300

Fax: 440-835-5895

"If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage, seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him."

Sofia Cavalletti



## The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

### GOD AND CHILD WITH THE ADULT

An interpersonal relationship is always a mystery, all the more so when that relationship is between God and the child. We believe that there is a deep bond between God and the child which produces in the child the desire to draw near God. The catechists' role is to prepare the environment and to make presentations that "call forth" the child's response rather than "pour in" information. They listen with the child and together ask, "God, who are you? How do you love us?" The adult is a co-wonderer with the child as they together enjoy meditating on the questions generated by the Scriptures with the prepared environment as a developmental aid.



#### The Materials

The materials in the atrium are attractively displayed inviting children to explore and deepen experiences at their own rhythm. The most important characteristic of the materials is their close link to the biblical and liturgical sources. The shelves might include maps of Israel and miniature environments representing the elements of the parables and historical events from Scripture that have been shown to satisfy the spiritual needs of the child. The arrangement of the altar and its related furnishings conveys the centrality of the Eucharist. The Baptismal font & other liturgical items initiate the child into the liturgical life of the church.



"The catechetical material...consists of concrete 'signs' of a transcendent reality...(and)...is a way of letting the child prolong, alone with the inner teacher, the meditation begun together with the adult."

Sofia Cavalletti

*The Religious Potential of the Child*

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- "How does the atrium help to nourish this relationship?"
- The atrium can be compared to a retreat house facilitating recollection and silence.
- The atrium is a place for religious life, for community and worship - not a classroom for instruction.
- The atrium is a place of work which becomes a conversation with God.
- The atrium was the place in the early church where the catechumens were prepared. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community.