

Benefits to Participation in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

- An opportunity to fall in love with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and lay a foundation for a deep and meaningful relationship with God that will last a lifetime.
- A solid grounding in the theology and liturgy of the church, that meets the spiritual and developmental needs of the child.
- An opportunity to foster the child's natural spirit of wonder and thankfulness toward God.
- An approach to moral formation, growing out of the child's relationship with God.
- One and a half hours each week for quiet and spiritual reflection and a respite from the busyness of daily life.
- Membership in a community of children and adults seeking to know God together through reflection, prayer, and worship.
- Preparation for "fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 14). This is the foundational aim of each and every activity in the Atrium.

*"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration and wonder."
~ Maria Montessori*



Atrium St. Mary's

*St. Mary Catholic Church
Atrium Learning Center
506 Main Street
Minong, WI 54859*

*Parish Office
715-378-4431 ext. 3*

*Catechist: Mag Rasmussen
715-817-3940*

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



For Children ages 3 - 12

St. Mary Catholic Church

What is the Catechism of the Good Shepherd?

CGS is a Montessori-based Catholic faith formation program where children can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in Scripture and liturgy.

God and the Child

CGS is based on the belief that God and the child are already in a relationship. Our work as adults is to provide a place for the child and God to come together and grow.

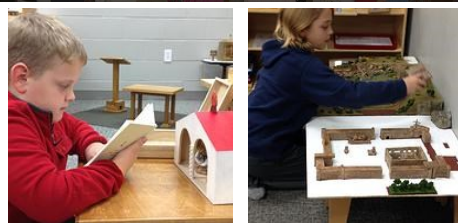
The Atrium and Materials

The Atrium is a specially prepared room where children can come to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The Atrium is prepared with materials children work with as a way of meditating upon the essentials of our faith found in Scripture and in liturgy. Examples of these materials include:

- * Small wooden figures of Jesus and the disciples which are used to meditate on the Last Supper
- * Detailed interactive maps of the Land of Israel and the City of Jerusalem to help situate Jesus as a real person in time
- * Jerusalem Mustard Seeds and beautiful pearls to help ponder the Parables of the Kingdom of God
- * A small Baptismal font and Paschal candle used to explore the significance of Baptism.

Generally a session in the Atrium lasts 1 to 1-1/2 hours and includes:

- A presentation including a part of scripture or Liturgy given to the children by the Catechist.
- A significant period of time for children to work with materials of their own choice as an aid to meditation and prayer.
- A gathering time of worship at the prayer table.



- **St. Mary Church—Minong**
- Levels I & II (ages 3 –12)
- Sunday mornings at 9:00 am*

* Refer to schedules in the back of the church for specific dates or contact the church office.

The Catechism of the Good Shepherd next Session begins September 2017
Forms and schedules will be available upon request or in the back of the church to enroll your child(ren).

Children of all denominations are welcome.

Fill out an application and drop it off or mail to:

St Pius X Catholic Church
Religious Education Programs
11651 S. Bus US Hwy 53
PO Box 303
Solon Springs, WI 54873

Any questions, please call the office at 715-378-4431 ext. 3.

...the silent plea of the child: "Help me to draw closer to the Word by myself."

Sofia Cavalletti