



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: “Little Flower Atrium”

With great joy, we are blessed to enter into our third year of the Saint Therese Carmelite School “Little Flower Atrium.” It is within this beautiful space that our children will participate in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as part of their school day. This program, which seeks to help children grow in knowledge of God and develop a prayerful relationship with Him, is the foundation of our school's religion curriculum for Grades TK through Third Grade. We are delighted to partner with the parish to offer this program to our registered parishioners.

About Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

What is it?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based form of Catholic religious education. Everything in the Little Flower Atrium, the prepared space where we meet, is carefully designed for the children to joyfully encounter and become friends with Our Lord. He reveals Himself to them in the nurturing image of the Good Shepherd Who loves and protects His sheep.

The children experience the Good Shepherd's love for them through the use of scripture and handmade materials which we call “works.” With this combination of scripture and hands-on Montessori philosophy, the Catechesis assists the children in developing a deep and permanent understanding of the Catholic faith.



Works of the Little Flower Atrium

- **Practical Life** – Through simple acts such as pouring beans and polishing a tray, the child develops concentration and begins entry into the meditative life of the atrium.
- **Prayer Table** – It is where the child begins and ends class each session. The child listens and responds to God's Word and develops reverence for the Holy Bible.
- **The Good Shepherd** – From the Parable of the Good Shepherd to Him leading us to the sheepfold of the Church, the child realizes God's great love and sacrifice for His sheep.
- **The Sacraments**– In the atrium, the signs and symbols of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist are placed into the hands of the child, so that these sacraments can become an integral part of the child's heart forever.
- **Infancy Narratives** – The child is introduced to Jesus' early life from the Annunciation to the Presentation in the Temple.
- **Geography** – The child learns where the significant events in Jesus' life took place.
- **Kingdom Parables** – The child is drawn to the mystery of God's Kingdom as the tiny and hidden become great such as in the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Pearl of Great Price.
- **Paschal Mysteries** – Through the works of the Last Supper and Empty Tomb among others, the child enters into the elements of the Paschal Mystery.



Registration Details

Because space is limited for this program, registration is only open to registered parishioners whose children are ages 3 to 5 by September 1, 2018. **All children must be fully potty trained in order to participate.**

Schedule

We are offering Catechesis of the Good Shepherd on Wednesdays, October 3, 2018 through May 29, 2019, at 3:15pm.

In order to properly introduce children to the atrium, meetings of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will gradually increase in duration as the semester progresses according to the following schedule:

- 10/3, 10/10, 10/17 – 45 minutes
- 10/24, 11/7, 11/14 – 60 minutes
- 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 – 75 minutes
- 1/9 and forward – 90 minutes (3:15pm – 4:45pm)
- **There will be NO class on 10/31, 11/21, 12/26, 1/2, 2/20, 4/17, 4/24, 5/15**

Cost

The cost of the program for the year is \$300 per child *plus* a \$25 application fee. Applications must be submitted with application fee by September 21, 2018. Families will be notified through email by September 28, 2018 if their child has been accepted into the program. Because acceptance is dependent upon the balance of ages in the classroom, as per Montessori philosophy, acceptance cannot be on a first come first serve basis.

Payment Options

- **Full Payment** – If this option is selected the \$25 application fee is applied to the cost of program. The remaining balance of \$275 must be received by October 10, 2018 to secure your child's spot in the program. Please make checks payable to Saint Therese Carmelite School.
- **Individual Semester payments** – \$150 due October 10, 2018 and a second payment of \$150 due by January 9, 2019. First class of second semester begins on January, 9, 2019.

It is important that your child attends all classes. Two or more absences will result in a re-evaluation of your child's participation in the program.

Visit: www.sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com/cgs
for more information and to download a registration form today!

Return your Registration Form with application fee to the school office by Friday, September 21, 2018:

Saint Therese Carmelite School
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Alhambra, CA 91801
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