

2021-22 Good Shepherd Parish – Catechism Registration Form

All information provided is confidential and will be only be shared with the catechists directly involved in the Catechesis program.

Name of child: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Parent(s)' Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____ Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Has your child been baptized: Yes/No If yes, name and address of church where child was baptized:

Other sacraments your child has received (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation):

Does your child have any allergies? Yes/No If yes please describe the reaction and treatment required:

Does your child have any other physical health conditions, such as asthma, seizures, diabetes, etc. that may require special treatment? _____

Does your child have any emotional, social or behavioural needs that may require special attention or additional support/supervision?

Additional level 1 questions (children age 3-6):

Describe your child's language abilities (does he/she speak, in only a few words or full sentences? Languages understood and/or spoken by the child? Etc.) _____

Is your child toilet trained? Yes/No Does he/she need assistance with bathrooming? Yes/No

Explain _____

Please check off the program and sacramental preparation classes that you would like to register your child for during this school/catechetical year:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 (ages 3-6) _____

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 2 (ages 7-12) _____

First Reconciliation (grade 2+) _____

First Communion/Eucharist (grade 2+) _____

Confirmation (grade 8+) _____

At times, we may take photos of the children at work in the atrium to share with the parents and/or to post within the parish. Do you give consent for your child's photo to be taken and used for this purpose? Yes/No

Date: _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Suggested Family donation for all catechism classes:

1 child \$30

2 or more children \$40

Though there is a registration fee to cover materials and related supplies, no child will ever be denied registration and all are welcome. A receipt will be enclosed in your annual donations envelope or a separate receipt will be issued if you do not have a collection envelope number.

Please note the following:

It is important that your child attend as often as possible as the lessons taught from one week to the next often build off of previous lessons and are presented at appropriate times following the Liturgical calendar. If your child will not be attending a class, please let us know by contacting Monique at 872-7075 or by email qlubqski@gmail.com

Drop off: In order for us to have enough time during the session to do the necessary presentations and allow children time to explore the materials, we ask that children arrive on time. Catechists will meet the families at the door where we will screen children and sign them in. The doors will be locked for the safety of the children and the catechists as we can't see the doors from the atrium/classroom space.

In winter, we encourage level 1 children to bring indoor shoes to keep our atrium floor dry as the children spend some time sitting on the floor.

Pick up: We ask that whomever is picking up your child be present promptly at the end of the session. If you will not be able to make it by this time, please let us know ahead of time so we can make alternate arrangements with you.

If someone other than the parents will be picking up your child, please let us know at the beginning of class.

Once class is finished, the catechists will prepare the children and bring them to meet you at the door. This prevents interruption and distraction of our final prayer time and allows for the door to remain locked at all times for security reasons.

We ask that children not bring any toys from home.

Parents are welcome to visit the atrium or stay for a session as an observer or an assistant. Please make arrangements with the catechists in advance.

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Christian Ministry for children aged 3-12 years that is based on the Bible and liturgy of the church; it is inspired by the principles of Montessori education. This Ministry provides:

- An opportunity for children to fall in love with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in a child-friendly space called an atrium – located in a church or school.
- Guided activity to aid meditation on Bible scripture and the mysteries of the Christian faith once a week - in small groups, facilitated by trained adults (catechists).
- That each child's unique spiritual needs and abilities are respected and nurtured.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is recognized as a ministry offering religious formation for children by the Anglican and Catholic Churches of Canada.

Why is it called “Atrium” anyway?

The word “atrium” actually means “portico, or porch entrance to a large house.” The Atrium was a term given to this space by Maria Montessori. It was chosen because in the ancient church, the atrium was a gathering space between the Church Proper and the street. It was the place where the catechumens, those preparing for initiation to the Church, would receive instruction. The Atrium has a similar purpose for our children, as it is a place to help them enter into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical and communal life of the Church.

What is a “prepared environment”?

The prepared environment is a Montessori concept that the environment can be designed to facilitate independent learning by the child. In a prepared environment, children work with materials of their own choice and at their own pace. They experience a combination of freedom and self-discipline in a place especially prepared to meet their developmental and spiritual needs.

For more information about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please don't hesitate to speak with the catechists.

