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## *CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD*

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The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is an approach to the religious formation of children, 4-12 years of age. The catechesis is based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship. The child has a deep need to experience and a special capacity to enjoy the presence of God. The task of the Catechist is to help the child live fully the encounter with God. When helped to do so, this experience becomes formative of the child's whole person and generates great joy.

This model of Catechesis happens in a specially prepared environment quite unlike any traditional classroom setting. The curriculum does not employ the use of the usual textbooks, rather, the children learn about Scripture, Liturgy and the Sacraments through presentations given by the Catechist with the aid of hands-on materials. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a sensorial rich experience that gives children the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of God through our rich Catholic tradition

**Because this program is unique in character and we have limited Atria sizes we need to employ very specific guidelines. Registration for new students is limited each spring to PK/4 year olds (already age four by June 1 and completely toilet trained), Kindergarteners, and 1-3 grade students only. If your child has a Good Shepherd background they may be considered for enrollment in the Level III Atrium (grades 4-6), otherwise no new family will be able to enroll in Level III. The number of parents who wish to enroll their child in this program continues to grow. Families who currently have children in the program have first priority for the upcoming school year and those Saint Thomas Parish families who are *not* registered at Saint Thomas School. REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED by June 1, to reserve your child's spot. We will confirm your registration for the atrium or will let you know if your child is placed on the waiting list.**

The formation and learning ability of the child participating in the Good Shepherd Program continues to build on the presentations from one week to the next. For this reason, weekly attendance is imperative. Illness and other such circumstances are understood excuses. If more than three consecutive absences occur, we will need to reevaluate participation in the program and offer the spot to someone on the waiting list. If you would like to know more about this program, please do not hesitate to contact CGS Catechist and Formator, Annette Witte at 516-0437, or Patti Reynolds in Faith Formation.

*A spiritual home nurturing Catholic faith*