

The Right
Start
Matters

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Pre-K3 to 3rd grades

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered as a class at Our Lady of Lourdes School once a week to our Pre-K3 to Second Grade students, and once a month to our Third Grade students. This program is provided in support of our Religion program.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based approach to the religious formation of children, rooted in Sacred Scripture, liturgy, and respect for the child's rich relationship with God. Because children learn by using their hands, working with materials allows them to nurture their relationship with God.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides a hands-on opportunity for the children to understand the gospel message in an insightful way. The children are able to set-up a model of the altar, practice genuflecting before a model of the tabernacle, pray at a prayer table dressed for the liturgical season, and use hand-made sculpted figurines to retell the infancy narratives. The children learn songs to help them more fully understand the liturgical seasons and use a hand-made wooden puzzle to focus on the liturgical calendar.



At Lourdes, a room is set aside especially for this program. The students go to The Good Shepherd Room, also called the Atrium, and this room serves as a transition between the classroom and the Church building. It is a place where the children learn about the Mass, liturgical seasons, and gospel stories in a way that makes the next time they go to Mass more enriching.

Class begins with the children entering slowly and making the Sign of the Cross with Holy Water. While the lights are dimmed, several children come forward to offer a prayer petition that is dear to their hearts. After praying with the class, the lights are turned on fully, while the children sit quietly and receive a presentation.

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