



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

We are happy to announce the opportunity for families to enroll in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at Sacred Heart Academy. This beautiful and unique form of catechetical instruction, offered to our Montessori students, is also available to all children ages 3 to 6 who are not otherwise enrolled at the academy.

We are offering two open sessions of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. One session will meet on Tuesdays and the other on Thursdays, beginning September 6th through May 25th, from 11:30am to 1pm.

The cost of the program for the year is \$325 per child. Each family is also responsible for a \$25 application fee. All children must be fully potty trained in order to participate.

Schedule

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:

- Week 1 – 45 minutes
- Week 2 – 45 minute
- Week 3 – 60 minutes
- Week 4 – 75 minutes
- Weeks 5 and following – 90 minutes



What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based form of Catholic religious education where catechists and children joyfully encounter and listen to God together. Everything in the atrium—the prepared space where we meet—is carefully designed for children.

Through the use of scripture and handmade materials which we call “works”, children are invited to enter into deeper relationship with God – beginning with the nurturing image of Jesus the Good Shepherd who loves and protects His sheep.

Works of the Atrium

Practical Life - Through simple acts such as pouring beans and polishing a tray, the child finds concentration and enters into the meditative life of the atrium.

The Good Shepherd - From the Parable of the Good Shepherd to Him leading us to the sheepfold of the Church, children realize God’s great love and sacrifice for His sheep.

Kingdom Parables - Children are drawn to the Kingdom of God's mystery as the tiny and hidden become great such as in the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Pearl of Great Price.

The Altar and Liturgy - The child becomes more aware of the liturgy while learning the names for the articles of the Mass along with how to prepare the altar and gestures that are used in the Mass.

Geography - Children find where significant events took place in Jesus' life along with learning surrounding regions.

Prayer Table - The child listens and responds to God and develops reverence for the Holy Bible.

Infancy Narratives - Children are introduced to Jesus' early life from The Annunciation to The Presentation in the Temple.

Paschal Mysteries - Children discover elements of the Paschal Mystery such as The Empty Tomb and The Last Supper.

Baptism - The child wonders at the sacrament of baptism in which we receive Christ's inextinguishable light.

Art - Children contemplate religious art and express themselves through drawing and creating prayer cards.

History

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in Rome in 1954 when Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, reluctantly agreed to give religious instruction to a child. Sofia felt called to this endeavor and began to collaborate with Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori directress on a program that would share the truths of the faith from a foundation in Roman Catholic liturgy and doctrine.

Together, they selected scripture and created materials—called “works”—to guide children to encounter God with joy and wonder. Through a careful process, they observed which works were successful in this goal; those that were not ended up being discarded while those they witnessed to be beneficial and essential are still with us today.

With this combination of scripture and Montessori philosophy, the Catechesis invites children into relationship with God while developing a deep understanding of Catholic faith. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is found in 37 countries around the world.

Contact Us - (616) 459-0948 or email at headmaster@sacredheartgr.org

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2016-2017 REGISTRATION FORM

Sacred Heart Academy
1200 Dayton Street, SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

PARENTS' NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME/CELL: _____ WORK: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

STUDENT NAME	BIRTH DATE	SECTION (Choose One)	
1. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY (11:30am-1pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY (11:30am-1pm)
2. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY (11:30am-1pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY (11:30am-1pm)
3. _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY (11:30am-1pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY (11:30am-1pm)

Note on Ages: Children ages 3-6 are welcome to register for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. All children must be fully potty-trained in order to participate.

FEE CALCULATION:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Total Program Tuition (\$325/child): | _____ |
| 2. Registration Fee (\$25/child): | + _____ |
| 3. Total Fee Due: | = _____ |

Note: Registration fees must be included with this form when submitted. Families who do not have children enrolled at Sacred Heart Academy and who choose to pay in full are not required to register with SMART Tuition.

SELECT PREFERRED PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- _____ Option #1 - Full payment – Due July 1st to Sacred Heart Academy or to SMART TUITION
_____ Option #2 - Semester Payments – Two equal installments due July 1st and February 1st to SMART Tuition
_____ Option #3 - 10 month payment plan (June – March) Payments due on agreed upon date to SMART Tuition

Enrollment Procedures and Policies:

All families registered prior to July 1st must have made their initial payment to SMART Tuition by August 1st. Those whose accounts are not current as of August 1st will forfeit their registration.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on behalf of Sacred Heart Academy reserves the right to pursue collections on any delinquent account. Accounts become delinquent when they are more than 30 days past due. If collections are pursued, any and all collection and attorney fees along with 1.5% fee will be added to any balance owed. Families that elect to cease attending any class prior to the end of the school year will be responsible for the payment of the entire contract amount.

Whenever multiple families are in contention for an open spot at Sacred Heart Academy, the following Order of Priority for Admission will be followed. First priority will be given to currently enrolled full-time families, next to currently enrolled part-time families, then to registered parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish not currently enrolled at the academy, then to non-parishioners who are not currently enrolled in diocesan schools, and finally to non-parishioners currently enrolled in diocesan schools.

Registration Agreement:

I am aware of the above policies governing tuition and fees and agree to pay in full the Total Fee Due as stated above at the times indicated by my "preferred payment schedule".

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____ ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

ONCE THIS REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED, SIGNED BY BOTH PARENT AND ADMINISTRATOR, AND RETURNED WITH THE REGISTRATION FEE, A SEAT IN THE SCHOOL WILL BE RESERVED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT (616) 459-0948.