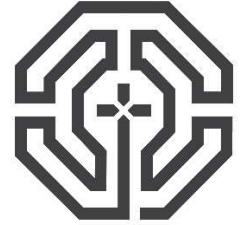


August 2, 2021



Dear Parents of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade children back to in-person Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in our True Vine atrium (Level 2) on Sunday mornings. Catechesis is our primary faith formation offering for children at IPC. Our first day of catechesis will be on Sunday, August 15th, during the regular Sunday school hour from 9:50-10:50 am. The True Vine atrium is located on the first floor of the Children's Ministries Education Hall in room 108. It will be your child's Sunday school classroom during this school year 2021-22.

What is Catechesis? Catechesis is an approach to religious formation that uses Montessori principles of a prepared environment and a child-focused experience to share scripture and our faith practices. A special room, called an atrium, is created for the children to do this religious work. They learn to calm their bodies and minds, enabling them to listen to God, contemplate scripture, and celebrate God's love. The atrium contains beautiful, hand-made lessons to help stimulate interest and the child's natural sense of wonder. In addition to a short group time lesson, children will have the opportunity to sing with Miss Beth, engage in individual religious work and small group lessons with trained teachers, called catechists.

How is the Level 2 atrium different from Level 1? The Level 2 atrium may look similar to the Level I atrium at first glance, but it is specifically designed to meet the developmental interests and needs of the older child. The older children work together in small groups, encouraging them to be social. They have more opportunities to be active participants through reading scripture, writing prayers, planning prayer services, and creating artwork they keep in their personal binders. A primary lesson of the Level 2 atrium is the True Vine parable (John 15:1-11), where Jesus calls us into relationship with Him. The children will be introduced to moral parables, and there is a new focus on Bible literacy, the sacraments, and building connections between religious lessons. We will be thinking about God's plan and contemplate how it unfolds over time as we hear about it in the Bible. We recognize there are lots of scheduling challenges to Sunday mornings, but we invite you to bring your child to atrium as often as you can to give them a special time to slow down, hear God's word, and build relationships with their IPC friends.

What does my child do during the 11:00 am worship service? We encourage parents to attend worship service as a family. Attending worship helps children make real life connections to ideas we've discussed in atrium. Please pick-up a children's worship bag located outside the sanctuary doors that contains activities to further engage them in worship.

We are so looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the True Vine atrium (Level 2) starting Sunday, August 15! In the meantime, if you have any questions about Catechesis, please feel free to contact me. See you on Sunday August 15!

Kay Roller, Director of Children's Faith Formation

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