

August 1, 2026

Dear Parents of Children not yet in Kindergarten!

I am happy to invite your son or daughter to a ministry at St. Charles Parish that is especially designed for those youngest members of our parish who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The ministry is called the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** and this will mark the seventh year of this ministry here at St. Charles. It is open to children who have turned three by August 1, 2026 and are able to use the restroom on their own.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessorian-based approach to religious formation that introduces children to the Bible and to the Liturgy. Most importantly, it fosters a relationship with Christ and helps the child draw close to God “all by myself.” You can find out more about this international approach that began in Rome in 1954 by visiting www.cgsusa.org.



This ministry takes place in a large room on the lower level of the church that has been specially prepared and is called the “atrium.” The Montessori approach requires many “hands-on” materials since the young child does not think abstractly, but rather uses the senses of touch and sight to ponder more deeply what is being revealed to them. If you or someone you know is handy with woodworking, sewing, art, calligraphy, or related skills and would like to help make materials, please let us know! We welcome your gifts of time and talent!



The catechesis follows the seasons of the liturgical year and meets once a week. Beginning the week after Labor Day, and once the kids are settled into the new school year, we will offer a choice for weekly catechesis on either

Friday Mornings from 9:00-10:30 am
Friday Afternoons from 12:00pm-1:30pm

Your child would be enrolled in either the Friday morning or Friday afternoon session depending on which fits your weekly schedule the best. If your child is also in the Preschool or Pre-K at St. Charles Catholic School and attends the extended day program. We can coordinate CGS with Extended Day for added convenience. For your convenience we can even include a lunch opportunity that fits that schedule best. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is open to all children including those not yet baptized in the Catholic Church. Our first day would begin September 11, 2026 and the last day would be May 21, 2027.

Our catechist, Cristine Shaw, has completed her second year as a catechist and looks forward to welcoming more children next year. In fact, her daughter, Evelyn, will be attending her second year in one of the sessions! Cristine is happy to offer a personal tour of the space and answer questions that you might have at shawc@stcharleslima.org.

We look forward to the opportunity to help our youngest members become Living Stones here at St. Charles as we live our mission:

**To build a community of faith
united by Christ in the Eucharist,
living as disciples,
sharing God's love and grace.**



Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Kent Kaufman, Pastor

Registration is now open at stcharleslima.org/youth/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd/.
Or use the QR code below:



You can also request a paper registration form by calling the office at 419.228.7635 or contacting Cristine at shawc@stcharleslima.org.