



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
ST. GABRIEL
 BEING CHRIST · EVERY DAY · EVERYWHERE

Important Numbers & Resources

To find vital information on St. Gabriel such as
 Calendar of Events, Youth Faith Formation
 Enrollment, News, and other valuable resources

www.St-Gabriel.org

Good Shepherd Atrium Phone Number
 440/721-0304

Good Shepherd Coordinators
 Alicia Henrikson, 440/354-7858,
 AHenrikson@St-Gabriel.org
 Laura Keverline, 440/463-4082
 Laurakeverline@gmail.com

Karen Jubeck, Sacramental Administrator
 2nd Grade/Confirmation Questions-440/352-8282

Religious Education Office,
 Rachel Troha, Administrative Secretary
 440-354-7551

Parish Office
 Regina Skrtic, 440/352-8282
 Parish Catechetical Leader



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**“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them,
 for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
 Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the
 kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” Then
 he embraced them and blessed them, placing his
 hands on them. Mark 10: 13-16**



**CATECHESIS OF
 THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

LISTENING TO GOD WITH CHILDREN

The philosophy of the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd

Welcome to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at St. Gabriel. The Good Shepherd Program is a well-rounded, inclusive faith formation program for children from preschool through 8th grade that meets all religious education requirements and standards, including sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. The program is whole heartedly supported by the leaders of St. Gabriel, endorsed by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and is rich in the concepts and teaching of our Catholic faith.

Unlike traditional religious education, CGS does not take place in a classroom, nor does the program utilize textbooks, lectures or desks. Instead, CGS takes place in a specially prepared place called the atrium. The atrium is an environment that meets the unique needs and capabilities of children, and where they will come to know and love Jesus.

The curriculum follows the liturgical year and is entirely based on scripture and liturgy. Lessons are given in a variety of ways to enable the catechist to focus on each child's individuality and their spiritual development. The hands-on materials used to present lessons are designed to speak to the children in a special way, and are dynamic, interactive and multisensory. The atrium allows the children the freedom to revisit lessons previously presented in order to deepen their relationship with God. Additionally, children in the second grade are fully prepared for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. With the Good Shepherd Program, your child will feel the joy, awe, and love of Christ and His teachings, and will experience the liturgy in a way that draws them to the Mass. Each experienced catechist has completed training in their respective level in order to provide a theologically sound program tailor made to encourage and facilitate your child's faith formation.

You and your child will experience what parishes across the diocese, the country and even internationally have already witnessed with the CGS. Weekly sessions run mid-September through early May. Sessions meet in the atrium of the Learning Loft and Religious Education Office, while older groups meet in the Learning Loft Great Room.

For more information, please e-mail Alicia Henrikson at AHenrikson@st-gabriel.org or Laura Keverline at laurakeverline@gmail.com. Also, please visit parish web site www.st-gabriel.org for more information under Youth Faith Formation.



Communication is Key!

Below are the Lead Catechists emails.

SUNDAY

Atrium Level	Catechist	E-Mail
Level I-Not Offered	Not Available	Not Available
Level II	Julie Calvert	juliecalvert29@gmail.com
Level III	Claire Kwitowski	clarekwitowski@gmail.com
Level IV	Laura Keverline	laurakeverline@gmail.com

MONDAY

Atrium Level	Catechist	E-Mail
Level I	Susan Percic	Susan.percic@aol.com
Level II	Alicia Henrikson	AHenrikson@st-gabriel.org
Level III	Claire Kwitowski	clarekwitowski@gmail.com
Level IV	Laura Keverline	laurakeverline@gmail.com

Level 3 & 4 Curriculum

The History of the Kingdom Of God	History of the Kingdom of God, Individual work, La Fetuccia
	History of the Kingdom of God and the Holy Bible (Open Book)
	History of the Kingdom of God, Individual Gifts strip
	Holy Bible and the Parousia
	History of the Kingdom of God and My Place in it
Plan of God	Plan of God Peoples of God Holy Bible and the Sacraments Plan of God 2-Individual Strip 2000 years My Century
History of the Jewish People	History of the Jewish Peoples Worship in Israel
	The Synagogue, The Origin of the Liturgy of the Word
The Prophets	Call and Vocation of the Prophets The Struggles of the Prophets Content of the Prophecies
Miracles of Jesus	The Encounter with Bartemeaous One Day at Peters House The Heeling of the Paralytic A Day in Naim In a deserted Place The return of the 12 and the Feeding of the Five Thousand
Prayer	Communal Prayer Our Father Synthesis Additional prayers for the Level III atrium
Sacraments	Anointing of the Sick Baptism Blessing of the Chrim Confirmation (theology)
Eucharist	Structure of the Mass Prayers of the Mass The Propers The Memorial The Mystery of Faith The Mystery of Faith and the Prayers of Intercession
Reconciliation	The Story of Bread
	Reconciliation meditations and preparation for second confession
The Virtues	Level III Maxims Maxims in the Cosmos
Parables of the Kingdom	Pearl Mustard Seed
Moral Parables	Workers in the Vineyard Parable of the Talents The Debtors Ten Bridesmaids Vine and the Branches
Typology Studies	Creation (and timeline) Sin (and timeline) Flood (and timeline) Abraham in History of His Time Abraham and Worship Abraham Timeline
Moses, Exodus and the Gift of Law	Vocation of Moses and Passover Sojourn in the Desert Gift of Law Moses/Exodus (and timeline)

SUNDAY Good Shepherd Arrival Dismissal





A Sample Three-Year Cycle for the Level One Atrium

Liturgical Season	3+	4+	5+
Opening Weeks of Year	+Orientation to the Atrium / Intro to Prayer Table +Introduction to the Bible in the Prayer Corner +Practical Life (about 4-5 weeks)	+Reorientation to Atrium +Reintroduce Bible in Prayer Corner +Practical Life (about 2 wks)	+Reorientation to Atrium & Practical Life (about 2 weeks) +Reintroduce Bible in Prayer Corner
Ordinary Time - Fall	+Altar I +Liturgical Colors +Sign of the Cross I +Visit to Church	+Altar II +Liturgical Calendar +Sign of Cross (revisited) +Genuflection +Visit to Church	+Altar III +Liturgical Calendar (revisited) +Visit to Church
Advent	+Globe & Raised Surface Map +Prophecy of the Light +Prophecy of the Names +The Annunciation	+Regions of Israel Puzzle Map +Prophecy of the Place +Prophecy of the Mother +The Visitation	+Prophecy of the Star & Scepter (+other Advent/Christmas presentations not given earlier)
Christmas	+Christmas/Epiphany Celebration +The Nativity & Adoration of the Shepherds	+Christmas/Epiphany Celebration +The Adoration of the Magi	+Christmas/Epiphany Celebration +The Presentation in the Temple
Ordinary Time after Christmas	+Mustard Seed +Precious Pearl	+Mustard Seed (revisited) +The Hidden Treasure +The Leaven	+Mustard Seed (revisited) +The Growing Seed
Lent	+The Good Shepherd +Psalm 23:1 +Cenacle	+The Found Sheep +Psalm 23:1-2 +City of Jerusalem +The Mystery of Life & Death	+Psalm 23:1-3 +Cenacle (revisited)
Easter	+Liturgy of the Light Celebration +Baptism I	+Liturgy of the Light Celebration +Baptism II +Eucharistic Presence	+Liturgy of the Light Celebration +Empty Tomb +Eucharistic Presence (revisited) +Baptism III
Pentecost	+Pentecost Celebration	+Pentecost Celebration	+Pentecost Celebration
Extra Time during the Year*	+Preparation of the Cruets +Epiclesis	+Preparation of the Chalice +Offering	+Preparation of the Chalice (revisited) +Epiclesis ("") +Offering ("") +Sign of Peace +Lavabo

INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNSCHEDULED ATRIUM CANCELLATION

In the event that St. Gabriel day school is closed due to inclement weather, Atrium for that day will also be cancelled. (NOTE: When Mentor OR Riverside School Districts are closed, St. Gabriel is also closed)

However, if the day school was in session and the weather becomes bad in the afternoon, the catechists will notify the parent by e-mail. Please respond to this email. If you do not respond, we follow up with a phone call. **It is imperative we have everyone's best e-mail updated.**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

You are your child's first and foremost teacher of their faith. We welcome this partnership with you. Research shows that how you participate actively in your faith has the most bearing on how your child will grow in their faith into their adult life.

That being said, there are many opportunities for you to partake in the Atrium.

Minimally, we ask that you:

- Attend Mass with your children weekly
- Ensure your child attends Atrium weekly
- If your child is in their Sacrament Year (usually 2nd grade) attend all meetings and retreats for vital information.
- Some sessions may request parent participation for special occasion.

If you are unable to partake in the above, please speak with your catechist.

If you want more opportunities:

Please volunteer in the atrium. We can really use parent help! As a parent helper, you must be fingerprinted & VIRTUS trained & only one CGS short training is necessary.

Certified Good Shepherd catechists are necessary for the continuation and growth of the program at St. Gabriel. The Parish continually seeks out and encourages people who are VIRTUS trained to partake in the training. Please contact Alicia Henrikson for more information. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith with your child, as well as give other children the gift of knowing the Good Shepherd, Jesus.



DRESS, SUPPLIES & SNACK

- Attire for Atrium session is comfortable play clothes that can get messy with art supplies we use. At our Liturgical Celebrations we ask that they wear church attire.
- Your child does not need to bring any supplies to CGS. Please do not let them bring toys, electronic devices or cell phones of any type.
- Snack schedules and policies are set by the individual catechists. IF snack is served at your child's atrium session, please do not send items containing nuts as we have a NO NUT POLICY.

CHILDREN'S WORK PROGRESS

Each child's progress will be monitored by their catechists. There are no grade assignments or homework, but each individual will be followed regarding which lessons have been presented to the child. The work that each child completes during Atrium will be kept in a folder, which will be sent home periodically. Additionally, parents have the opportunity to observe their child in the atrium at any time, and catechists are available after sessions should you desire a more individualized or detailed accounting of your child's work.

ATTENDANCE

BE PRESENT

It is very important that every effort is being made to bring your child to Atrium each week (except of course when he/she is ill). The material and faith formation concepts build upon what was previously presented and will have much more meaning and spiritual integration if your child maintains regular attendance. Important information will also be sent home or e-mailed to you on a regular basis.

ABSENCES

If your child cannot attend Atrium either due to illness or a family obligation, please inform your child's catechist as soon as possible, so that we can plan accordingly. Please use e-mail to inform the Catechist of absence. If it is last minute, please leave a voice mail. We also have catechist cell phone numbers available. Texts are acceptable.



CALLED TO PROTECT & VIRTUS TRAINING

In compliance with the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's Policy of the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse (the "Policy"), all employees and volunteers at St. Gabriel involved in Youth Faith Formation who have contact with children have completed a volunteer application form, have been subjected to an Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations and Identification fingerprint criminal records check; and have been properly screened in accordance with the Policy. Each has attended a three-hour long VIRTUS training session focused on child abuse prevention and on the procedures for reporting suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. In addition, all employees and volunteers are required to be familiar with the safety procedures covered in our parish safety policy. Young people aged 14-17 serving as Jr. Assistants need to be fingerprinted by the parish.

Presidium's "Called to Protect" is a multi-media training program focused on matters of personal safety, abuse prevention and the creation of safe environments for children in preschool through 12th grade.

It does not replace the VIRTUS training of employees and volunteers, but is rather supplementary. This program is designed specifically for parents and children and is based on the latest child development research of how children and youth can best protect themselves.

CGS Called To Protect Implementation Dates:

- Week of Sept. 24 & Sept. 25, 2023: Kdg-5th grade Called to Protect Lessons
- January 3, 2024 Parent Information Video sent via e-mail
- February 17 and 24, 2024 —6th grade Called to Protect Lessons. (6pm-7:30pm)

Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting Policy

If you know, believe or suspect that a child under eighteen years of age or a mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired child under twenty one years of age has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound injury, disability, or conditions of a nature that indicates abuse** or neglect of the child you SHALL

- 1) Immediately report your suspicion to Lake County Department of Job & Family Services @ 440-350-400 or 440-918-4000 and/or the local municipal police department and/or Lake County Sheriff's Department at 440-350-5620. If a child's welfare or safety is in imminent danger call 911
- 2) Immediately notify your Principal or Program Coordinator that a report has been made, or jointly make that call together.
- 3) After reporting your suspicion to civil authorities, report your suspicion to the diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator at response services@dioceseofcleveland.org or 216-334-2999 if the suspected abuser is a priest, deacon, religious, seminarian, representative, employee or volunteer of the diocese or of any parish or diocesan entity.

**examples include, but not limited to, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse

Confidentiality : The details of suspected and /or reported abuse are to be kept strictly confidential to the extent reasonably possible and should only be shared as necessary to comply with one's reporting obligations and the Policy.

(reviewed and approved by Kevin T. Burke, Cleveland—Mar 15, 2021)

General Counsel for the Diocese of

