

UPON THIS ROCK

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD AT ST PHILIP

Volume 1 / Issue 1



The Epi^clesis ... your Spirit ...
The Offering ... through, with, in ... Amen.
The Breaking of the Bread ... Peace ...



Annie, 3, contemplating the gesture of the Epi^clesis at the gestures altar in the Atrium. The children learn that gestures are movements of the body that have great meaning.



Brooks, 7, building the Liturgical Calendar, which brings the seasons of the church and the significance of colors to life. Purple-Preparation, White-Celebration, Green – Growing season

‘UPON THIS ROCK, I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH’

Jesus said these words when he established the new covenant which we know as the Catholic Church. In this moment in history ‘The Rock’ was referring to Peter. Today we are responsible to pass our Catholic Faith on to the next generation just as Peter was entrusted to catechize as our first pope. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has the unique ability to walk with the child, as young as 3 years old, as he/she falls in love with the Good Shepherd – Jesus.

CGS takes place in an Atrium. This is a room designated for the children to encounter sensorial materials that allow them to go deeper. They work with the Geography of Israel (see pic top right -> of Obed, 6, working with the puzzle map and quietly contemplating the location of the 3 major cities as he recreates his own map), Kingdom Parables, Paschal Narratives, articles/gestures of the Mass, Baptism, and the Infancy Narratives (see pic bottom right ->> Laila, 3, studying the diorama of the Annunciation. With some guidance, she found the scripture passage and simply sat quietly with the Word of God.) All materials are hand made through the beautiful gift of a local woodworker, seamstress, and the teachers/students in the Religious Education program at St Philip. These materials lead the child to a full and conscious participation in the Liturgy.



In Summer of 2020 St Philip built an atrium to begin Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Through many individuals’ time and talents, with three sessions and 12 students, the first year was a great success! We are

beginning another year of CGS at St Philip beginning Friday, November 5th. All 3-6 year olds are welcome! Email re.saintphilip@gmail.com or call 715-416-1710 for registration.

“If we want to help the child grow near to God, we should, with patience and courage... This requires study and prayer. The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him.”

~Sofia Cavalletti