

Join us for A SEED PLANTING

(otherwise known as an OPEN HOUSE)

Sunday, August 28th
following the 8:30am Mass

We are beginning the 3rd year of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd or commonly referred to as **CGS**. We are gradually transitioning the traditional CCD program at St Philip to this Montessori method of faith formation for children 3 – 12 years old. This takes place in a space called the Atrium.

Why is it called "Atrium" anyway?

The word "atrium" actually means "portico, or porch entrance to a large house." The Atrium was a term given to this space by Maria Montessori. It was chosen because in the ancient church, the atrium was a gathering space between the Church Proper and the street. It was the place where the catechumens, those preparing for initiation to the Church, would receive instruction. The Atrium has a similar purpose for our children, as it is a place to help them enter into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical and communal life of the Church.

What is a "prepared environment"?

The prepared environment is a Montessori concept that the environment can be designed to facilitate independent learning by the child. In a prepared environment, children work with materials of their own choice and at their own pace. They experience a combination of freedom and self-discipline in a place especially prepared to meet their developmental and spiritual needs.

We invite you to come and experience what **CGS** is.

Our catechists will be happy to share with you the materials that have allowed our young people to fall in love with Jesus and his Church.

Atrium is located in the old chapel of the Religious Education building – previously the convent.

Questions can be directed to re.saintphilip@gmail.com

