

August 1, 2025

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, 2025 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](http://www.cgsusa.org).



This ministry takes place in a large room on the lower level of 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

**Wednesday Afternoons from 12:00-1:30 pm - starting September 10**  
**Friday Mornings from 9:00-10:30 am - starting September 12**

Your child would be enrolled in either the Wednesday afternoon or Friday morning 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, we can also connect CGS with those classes and/or the Extended Day program. For your convenience we can even include a lunch opportunity if that fits your schedule best. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is open to all children including those not yet baptized in the Catholic Church.

Our catechist, Cristine Shaw, has completed her first year as a catechist and looks forward to welcoming more children next year. In fact, her daughter, Evelyn, is planning to be in one of the sessions! Cristine is happy to offer a personal tour of the space and answer questions that you might have at [cristine.s2012@yahoo.com](mailto:cristine.s2012@yahoo.com).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kent R. Kaufman".

Rev. Kent Kaufman, Pastor

**Registration** is now open at [stcharleslima.org](http://stcharleslima.org).

You can also request a paper registration form by calling the office at 419.228.7635 or contacting Cristine at [cristine.s2012@yahoo.com](mailto:cristine.s2012@yahoo.com)..