

Information about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

CGS is an approach to the religious education and spiritual development of children that respects the pre-existent relationship between God and the child, and nurtures its continual maturation. By introducing the children first to the parable of the Good Shepherd, they come to understand that God is a Person Who provides safety, sustenance, and serenity to each and every one of His beloved sheep. This foundation is critical to their development as freely moral people.

CGS is a Montessori approach developed in Rome approximately fifty years ago by Maria Montessori and Sophia Cavelletti. The "classroom" is set up as an atrium, with several stations related to liturgy, prayer, scripture, and sacraments. Everything is hands on and designed to understand the spiritual nature of the child and enables adults to nurture the child's spiritual formation and present information most effectively.

There are several aspect to CGS that I think will appeal to you, some of which are the following:

- Allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through the Child
- Fostering love and understanding of the Divine Liturgy
- Introducing the relationship between the Good Shepherd and the child at an early age

There are not a lot of Orthodox Churches using this approach, but it is catching on. The most fully equipped program is St. Athanasius' Antiochian Church in California. Please take a look at their website to get a better understanding of the CGS. (<http://www.stathanasius.org/site/content/catechesis>)

I would like you to consider attending a course that will be offered in Homewood at All Saints Episcopal Church July 30-August 1. Our Cathedral has graciously offered to pay for you to attend. Some of our current teachers have already signed up. Even if you are not a Sunday School Teacher, this class will be a beautiful experience for you as a parent who desires to foster a relationship with your child and God. Please consider attending the first weekend and see what you think, you do not have to commit to the entire course at this time. The dates for the remaining weekends are listed in the enclosed brochure.

There will also be a course offered in Mentone, Alabama beginning Friday and Saturday, August 27 & 28th.

If either of these dates appeals to you, please call me before June 15th.

I hope you will join me and others in our parish as we grow in our relationship with the Good Shepherd and offer our love of Him through our Holy Orthodox Faith to our youth.

Training Dates and Times

Level 1 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

All Saints Episcopal Church

100 West Hawthorne Road

Homewood, AL 35209

July 30, July 31st and August 1, 2010

October 15, 16 and 17, 2010

February 4, 5 and 6' 2011

April 29, 30 and May 1, 2011

July 29, 30 and 31, 2011

Fridays: 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mentone Training Dates (All Day Friday and Saturdays – free lodging)

Marsha.hurt@gmail.com

August 27,28 - 2010

November 5,6 - 2010

January 21,22 - 2011

February 25,26 - 2011

September 23,24 – 2011

For more information contact Alexis Pappas at apappas@holytrinity-holycross.org