



St. Joseph's
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)
Newsletter – March 2020

Communications/Reminders

Schedule Notes: Mark your calendars to celebrate Mass together:

Sunday March 1 at 11:00am

Our CGS children will participate in different ways.

Lent: Did you remember to change your prayer cloth to purple (for “preparation”)? Look for new prayer cards to be distributed.

Children Preparing for First Eucharist: Preparation continues this month. See below for more important information.

Did you know: What does Liturgy mean?

Liturgy is a ritual which serves as a communal worship service – such as the Mass. The origin of the word liturgy is from the Greek word leitourgia/leitourgos, where *leit*=people and *ergon*=work. In other words, it is the “work of the people”. The liturgy of the Mass is a celebration, and our work is to *participate* in that celebration! To our children, it may seem that participation is only meant for the adults. But it is meant for everyone – including them! We can help them feel more like welcome participants by helping them to join in our prayer responses (especially the AMENs!), songs, and gestures – showing them how to genuflect, kneel, do the (frequent) Sign of the Cross, and Sign of Peace. Greater physical participation leads to fuller spiritual celebration and a sense of belonging!

March in our Atria

Now that we have entered into the Liturgical Season of Lent, our Level I children ponder the mystery of Christ as our Good Shepherd and the many ways in which He loves, protects, and gives of Himself. We also focus on the events that occurred in the City of Jerusalem in the days leading up to Jesus’ Resurrection. Likewise, our Level II children explore these themes and events in even more detail and ponder our own response to our Good Shepherd’s love.

Level I Atrium (pre-K/K) Spotlight – The Last Supper

Our model of the Upper Room (or Cenacle) with figures of Jesus and the Apostles is used to reenact the events of the Last Supper when Jesus spoke words that had never been heard before: “This is my Body”, “This is my Blood”. After singing hymns, Jesus and the Apostles leave for the Mount of Olives where he is taken from to be crucified. A crucifix is placed on the table symbolizing Jesus’ death. But we celebrate that he rose on the 3rd day by lighting the candles on the table (which has been transformed to look surprisingly like an altar!)
(For more about this presentation, see this [CGSUSA newsletter](#).)



Level II Atrium (1st/2nd Grade) Spotlight - The Origin of the Eucharist

We revisit our (Level I) materials and events of the Last Supper when the expected Passover Ritual was interrupted as Jesus spoke those perplexing words over the bread and wine:

“This is my body.” and “This is my blood. Do this in memory of me.”

We wonder about what it was like for the Apostles to hear these unexpected words spoken by Jesus. Surely, they would have contemplated them, and later remembered them.



Jesus gave all of Himself at the Last Supper, and on the cross. And yet it was His desire to share Himself not just that one time with His apostles, but with all people of all times. And so through the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were empowered to spread the Good News of Jesus’ continued presence in the Eucharist, and to themselves transform the bread and wine into His body and blood. This power was passed from the Apostles, through the bishops, and to the modern-day church through the ordination of priests. Jesus continues to invite us to the table, to share in the Eucharist. At mass, we, too, are gathered into the real presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine!

For the Home

Lent is a time to draw closer to God. Here are some ideas for your whole family:

- Commit to daily family prayer time in your prayer corner
- “Give up” electronics: designate a daily device-free time
- Look up these simple Bible passages and make prayer cards together:

John 10:11	Isaiah 40:11
John 10:14	Psalm 100:3
John 10:27	Psalm 79:13
- *A**eluia* - We do not say or sing this word in the Atrium or at liturgy during Lent and Holy Week. You might make this prayer card for your prayer table collection but place it in a box or drawer until Easter Sunday. Some families ritually “bury” the prayer card for the season of Lent.
- Participate in Operation Rice Bowl (bowls may be picked up at church)

First Eucharist Preparation Information - As we continue our preparation for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion, please keep these in mind:

1. Attend Mass regularly, celebrating the Eucharist together as a family. Receiving Communion will be second nature if they regularly approach the altar with you for a blessing.
2. Pray together daily. In addition to prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petitions, these prayers should be committed to memory:
 - ❖ Sign of the Cross
 - ❖ Glory Be
 - ❖ Hail Mary
 - ❖ Our Father *** may be sung at one of their services.* [Click here](#) to learn to sing it.

3. Additionally, an Act of Contrition of their choice or personally written, such as:
Lord God, in your goodness have mercy on me: do not look on my sins, but take away all my guilt. Create in me a clean heart and renew within me an upright spirit.
Remind your child's prayer partner that they are invited to the Reconciliation Service and First Eucharist Mass.
4. Be sure your calendar has these other important items:

Remaining Meditations:

Forgiving Father	Thurs Mar 5, 4:30-5:30pm (<i>parents and children</i>)
Centurion's Servant	Sun Mar 15, 9:45-10:45am (<i>children</i>), then Mass
Rain Date:	Thurs Mar 19, 4:30-5:30pm

Retreat:

Sat March 28, 2:00-4:15, *followed by Mass*

First Reconciliation:

Thursday, April 2nd, 7:00pm

First Eucharist:

Sunday, May 3rd, 11:00am

Asking God for His peace and blessings this Lenten season!

St. Joseph's CGS Team

CGS Catechist and Formation Leader:

Anne Pulsifer

cgsstjoseph@comcast.net

484-431-5156