



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

Newsletter – May 2019

Our Last Session is May 7!

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Communications/Reminders

- **CGS Children’s Mass Participation and Family Luncheon – May 5**
 - Please arrive 10 minutes early for the 11:00am Mass. The Luncheon will immediately follow in the third/last trailer near the atria.
 - Please RSVP if you have not already.
- **Register now for fall!**
 - [Click here](#) for registration information.
 - Take note of the new day/time offerings, and spread the word!
 - If you did not receive a pre-populated registration form, blank ones may be downloaded and returned to the Rectory office or dropped in the Sunday collection basket.

May in our Atria

May is the Month of Mary – when we honor her as Mother – not just of Jesus, but everyone’s mother – because she cares for and intercedes for all of us every day! We pray that all will be able to celebrate Mass together on May 5th. Keeping in mind May’s liturgical season of Easter as well as the Church’s devotion to Mary, the children will begin Mass with a “spiritual crowning” of Mary; and raise their voices in singing the “Alleluia” at the reading of the Gospel when the Risen Lord appears to Peter and the disciples.

The Easter Season continues throughout May – until Pentecost Sunday on June 9th. Yet our time together in May is brief! Tuesday, May 7th, is our only session in May, and our final session of the year! The Easter Season has been a time to reflect on the gift of New Life that Jesus shares with us. We receive the Light of the Risen Christ at our baptism. During Easter, we spend time in the baptismal corner of our atrium looking at the many gifts we received on that day that help us think about the Light of Jesus we now carry in our hearts. Though still Easter, we will close by jumping to the end of Easter to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

A Celebration of Pentecost:

Forty days after Easter, on Ascension Thursday (May 30 this year), we remember that Jesus ascended to Heaven. Prior to his ascension, He promised to send another gift – His Holy Spirit! (Our Level II children meditate more on this). Ten days later - on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after Easter) - the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. We, too, receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized! And so we will close our year together in the atrium with a Pentecost Celebration by placing and lighting seven red candles on our prayer table – one for each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

*The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of WISDOM and of UNDERSTANDING,
A spirit of COUNSEL and of STRENGTH,
a spirit of KNOWLEDGE and PIETY,
and his delight shall be the FEAR OF THE
LORD.
Isaiah 11:2*



The children are asked to choose one of the gifts. We light a candle for each child from the red candle corresponding to that gift and place it on the table. We enjoy the beauty of the light and give thanks to God for all His gifts!

For the Home

As the beauty of spring and the promise of summer fills our days with warmth and light, take a moment each day to pause, enjoy and give thanks to God together!

Family Prayer Corner

Here are two thoughts/reminders for your Family Prayer Corner:

- During May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner using a statue, picture, or some other reminder of Mary.
 - o Hold a family “crowning” ceremony - either actual or spiritual
 - o For more information, see [Why is May the Month of Mary.](#)
- The Feast of Pentecost is June 9th this year.
 - o You can change your prayer cloth from white to red for the day, then
 - o Remember to change back to green for the rest of the summer (for the growing time/Ordinary Time)

Family Worship

On June 9th, celebrate Pentecost! Here are some ideas (from the [2014 CGSUSA newsletter](#)):

- Wear **RED** to church. (Share a family Pentecost selfie on our [St. Joseph Facebook page](#))
- Read Acts 2:1-4 (or verses 1-12 for older children) and Isaiah 11:2-3a.
 - o What does the prophet Isaiah have to do with the day of Pentecost?
- Since Pentecost is considered the “birthday” of the Church, celebrate with cupcakes or a cake (strawberries on top can look like tongues of fire)
- At mealtime, discuss your “Holy Spirit Moments” of the day:

- **When did you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit?**
- **When were you aware of the presence of a particular gift of the Holy Spirit at work?**
- **Using red paper, make your own cards with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit for your family prayer table. The gifts are:**
 - **Wisdom**
 - **Understanding**
 - **Counsel**
 - **Knowledge**
 - **Fortitude**
 - **Piety**
 - **Fear of the Lord.**

May God bless you and your families for a safe and wonderful summer!

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