



Blessed Sacrament Parish

HOME OF THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE CAPE, QUEEN OF CANADA

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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2020–2021 (CGS@BSP)

The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is a child-centered, child-directed method of introducing the mystery of God to children ages 3–6 (JK to SK) and 6–9 (Grades 1 to 3) and their families. It is a parish-based approach to the religious formation/development of children established in the Archdiocese of Ottawa many years ago. This catechesis originated in 1954 in Rome, inspired by the Montessori principles of education.

The *Atrium*, an essential element in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. It is the prepared environment/room that can be compared to a retreat house where recollection and silence are facilitated.

Ministry Activities

- Serves children ages 3–6 and 6–9 and their families.
- Ministers through Catechists of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with the support of the parish community.
- Prepares and maintains the prepared environment — the Atrium.
- Offers two (2) hour weekly sessions with small groups of children ages 3–6 (Level 1) and 6–9 years (Level 2), September to Pentecost, held in the Atrium (Fulton J. Sheen Room). Levels 1 and 2 run concurrently Saturday mornings from 9-11 am.

Volunteer Commitment

- The primary commitment of the adult is to serve as a Catechist or Assistant with the children in the Atrium.
- The groups may involve children approximately 3–6 or 6–9 years of age.
- The duration of each session with the children in the Atrium is usually about 2 hours, meeting once per week.
- There is at least one Catechist, and one Assistant, always the same persons, with each group of children during each session.

In July 2018, the Atrium was transported from St. George's Parish to Blessed Sacrament Parish. This will help more Catholics to become aware of the program and will hopefully generate interest for more catechists to be trained, which would allow more children to participate.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or require more information, please contact Ruth Ann McClure at 613-884-6007; ruthann_mcclure@rogers.com.

Blessed Sacrament Parish Vision Statement

Through dynamic evangelization, Blessed Sacrament Parish seeks to intentionally invite all people into an initial encounter with Jesus, and an ongoing conversion to Him. We are a Eucharistic and Marian parish that is a home for vibrant worship, reconciliation, and prayer as well as an engine for spiritual growth. We support each other on the journey to maturity and reach out to people in need.