

MAY 12, 2019 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. BASIL'S  CATHOLIC PARISH
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



Good Shepherd - Griffin Toth (7)

A JOURNEY TO FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

At St. Basil's, the preparation for these Sacraments takes place within the context of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Beginning in the month of October, children gather weekly in the Atrium from 11:30am-12:30pm. At 12:30pm the children, accompanied by their catechists, join the larger Church community for the Eucharistic portion of the Sunday liturgy.

Unlike other Sacramental programs that end at First Communion, the children continue in the Atrium until Pentecost, allowing them time to deepen this new aspect of their relationship with Jesus, Bread of Life.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The community of St. Basil's extends our heartfelt congratulations to the children of our parish who encountered Jesus the Good Shepherd in the Eucharist for the first time:

Soraya Colas, Adrian Vieta Diaz, Juliana Lerch, Heather O'Dor, Simon O'Dor, Eliot Park, Anna-Sopia Porup, Mia Vogel-Alexiou, Nico Vogel-Alexiou

We also recognize the commitment of their parents who journeyed with them this year and who dedicate themselves to the building of the domestic church, shaped by the love of the Good Shepherd.

BECOME A CGS CATECHIST

CGS Catechists participate in a 90-hour certificate program offered jointly by the Archdiocese of Toronto and Continuing Education at the University of St. Michael's College.

For more information or if you are interested in joining our team of catechists, please contact **Mariann Dunsmore, CGS Coordinator** cgsMariann@gmail.com

CGS CATECHISTS

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we acknowledge the talents and outstanding contributions of our catechists, who help our parish realize our collective responsibility in the evangelization of our children: **Mariann Dunsmore (CGS Coordinator), Darina Dekirmendjian, Elizabeth Chesley-Jewell, and Nancy Nobrega.**

Also, a heartfelt "merci" to the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir, for collaborating with our parish in bringing the experience of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to 24 JK/SK classrooms in their board, inspiring over 200 children in a living encounter with the risen Jesus! We recognize with gratitude the commitment of **Suzanne Amato, France Bernier, Lulla Brochu, Lyne Proulx and Nancy Schottroff.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The icon of the shepherd with a lamb on his shoulders or of a shepherd standing amid his flock was common in Roman pagan art as a symbol of philanthropy. "[This was] the common classical image was of the Roman god Mercury carrying a ram in his role as the protector of flocks." (J.R. Porter, Jesus Christ: The Jesus of History, The Christ of Faith). Christian iconography appropriated the pagan image of the Good Shepherd and reinterpreted its meaning so that it became a metaphor for Christ.

Placed in conversation with today's gospel in which Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, the image of the Good Shepherd was used to teach the faithful that those who followed Jesus were known, loved and looked after as would a good and watchful shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep"

-John 10.11-12, 14-15

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

by Marilena Berardinelli

Following the events of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus the first Christian communities sought to keep the memory of Jesus alive. Initially, they did so through oral narratives, then by committing the stories in writing in the forms of letters and gospels. These writings would eventually form the canon of the New Testament and as sacred scripture would inform and shape how subsequent generations of Christians would answer the question posed by Jesus, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt 16:15).

In addition, to these oral and written accounts, Christians began to express their understandings of Jesus's nature and mission in art. Similar to today's popular acceptance of the cross as a symbol of the Christian faith, one of the earliest and most common motifs for Jesus was the portrait of Christ the Good Shepherd; the icon of a shepherd with a lamb on his shoulders standing amid his flock.

This image of the Good Shepherd, as a metaphor for Jesus, has nourished the spirituality and apostolate of the church throughout the ages. In the mid twentieth century, Hebrew scholar Sofia Cavaletti and her Montessori trained collaborator Gianna Gobbi

founded the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), a unique catechetical approach that has as its primary goal to nurture the religious potential of the child. Centred on the person of Jesus, Caveletti's research showed that the aspect of Christ that most speaks to young child is Jesus the Good Shepherd, who calls his sheep by name to a personal relationship with him and who lays down his life for his sheep, nurturing and protecting them.

In 2016, St. Basil's began the journey to bring CGS to the youngest of our parishioners. At the heart of our Atrium, the children work with a simple wooden sheepfold, ten sheep and the Good Shepherd lovingly carrying the last of his sheep on his shoulders. This material, like the early icon of the Good Shepherd, is a starting point for the child's journey into entering the mystery of the merciful and bountiful love of God.

Today's liturgical celebration of the Good Shepherd invites us to share the awe and wonder of the young child who meets Jesus the Good Shepherd for the first time and who then meets Him most fully in the Eucharist. In the busyness of our lives, in the noisiness of our world, may we listen to and discern the voice of the Good Shepherd calling each of us by name and may we respond to His invitation to faithfully and joyfully follow Him always.



Last Supper — Adrian Vieta Daiz (10)

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Nativity – Mia Vogel-Alexiou (11)

recollected themselves before entering into worship and where catechumens received instruction in the faith as part of their initiation into the Christian community. The Atrium in our parish serves a similar purpose. As such, it is neither a drop off program or daycare, nor a child's church separate from the adult church. Rather the Atrium is an aid to the fuller participation of children in the liturgical and communal life of the one church that includes baptized Christians of all ages.

The child's "work"?

After discovering a room devoted entirely to the religious formation of children, adults next remark on the catechetical material found in the room. Often and inaccurately referred to as "props", these carefully and specifically designed materials are for "the work" of the child and are used by the child to foster meditation and prayer. "The catechetical material is a way of letting the child prolong the meditation begun with the adult." (Sofia Cavalletti, *the Religious Potential of the Child*)

How does sorting beads, lacing cards or a pasting activity help my child to pray?

In keeping with the Montessori method, the materials in the "Practical Life" section of the Atrium help the child gain control of their movements and develop their concentration, thus cultivating an independence where they can later be shown "a work" and execute it on their own. This discipline to slow down, is the building block to the child's quiet contemplation and "enjoyment of God." "Help me to come closer to God by myself".

Just another children's program?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in 1954 in Rome by Hebrew and Scripture scholar Sofia Cavaletti and her Montessori trained collaborator Gianna Gobbi. Guided by Montessori principles, this unique catechetical approach has as its mission to nurture the religious potential of the child, articulated in an essential curriculum that places the child's encounter with God at its centre.

A classroom for children?

The Atrium is a purposefully designed space that supports the relationship between God and the child, in a manner that meets the child's developmental, intellectual and spiritual needs. It is not a classroom for instruction, but a place for community and worship in which the catechist and child listen, wonder and together ask, "God, who are you? How do you love us?"

In early church architecture, an atrium was a gathering place between the liturgical space of the church and the street. It was a space where the faithful

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES CHILDREN AGED 3+

*To learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, to schedule a visit of the Atrium or to enroll your child for the 2019/20 season (October 2019- June 2020) please contact **Mariann Dunsmore: cgsMariann@gmail.com***



Happy Mother's Day

May today's celebration be filled with the love and appreciation for mothers in our community, and beyond, that love, nurture, and care for us.

SERRA CLUB

The Serra Club of Downtown Toronto invites all parishioners to a luncheon talk on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019** following the 12:10 PM Mass. The guest speaker will be Father John O'Brien who is the Vocations Director for the Jesuits of Canada.

Originally from British Columbia, Fr. O'Brien lived in the Ottawa Valley, Ontario, as a young man. He attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville and the University of Ottawa studying communications. In 2006 he left Canada to discern his vocation at a program for young Catholic men in Rome and was ordained a priest in 2017. Fr. O'Brien will share with us his discernment process and his vocation story.

The lunch and talk will take place immediately after the 12:10 Mass, in Macrina Hall. Please RSVP to the Parish office at (416) 962-7110 for catering purposes.

SHARELIFE

Living the Gospel by helping those with addictions

It had been two years since Adam spoke in full sentences. When he moved into Covenant House's housing program, he would only say a word or two. Over time, a youth worker succeeded at connecting with Adam and he gradually opened up. Adam finished high school and joined a mentorship program, setting his sights on a career in computer science. With his new voice and positive relationships, his future is open to so many possibilities.

**June 2 is the next ShareLife Sunday.
Thank you for your generosity.**

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, May 5, 2019 \$5,965.00



MASS INTENTIONS

MAY 12TH -18TH

SUNDAY

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00am Feliciano Macalino
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Lina Ciavarella (+)
4:30pm Mitzi Lagdameo (liv.)

MONDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Demaree Jazz Ramos (+)

TUESDAY

7:30am Sasha Peregoudova (+)
12:10pm Greta Matcalfe (+)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am
12:10pm *Vocations*

THURSDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Stefan and Anna Papez (+,+),
Caterina Ciavarella (+)

FRIDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Francis, Monica, and Mary Gannon
(+,+,+)

SATURDAY

5:00pm John Angus (+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Lucy Rietveld Bowers, Mary O'Brien, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Roberto Martello, Filomena Larocca, Joseph Troncone, Rebecca Beaton, Gemma Ciavarella, Gordon Walsh, Michael West, Rita Moran, Paul O'Brien, Barbara Boyle, Maria Teresa Blackwell, Margaret Mary McKenzie, Jose Gaitero, Shane Carroll, Romulus DeMello, Neil McCormack, Alexander Wu, Desmond Brownlee, Emilia Perejmybida, Helen Tilston, Marywynne Parke, and Jasper David-Fuchs.
PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially, Jean Gracias, and Major Ralph Godfrey

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