

**Good Shepherd School at
All Saints Episcopal Church
Parma, Ohio**

What is it? God and young children connecting in loving understanding of each other.

Who is it for? Children ages 3 to 10.

When is it? Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. The children join their families for Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

Where is it? All Saints Episcopal Church, Parma, on Ridgewood Dr. next to Wal-Mart
The classes are held in two atriums, rooms in the south wing of the church.

Who can come? All children and their parents. All Saints All Welcome!

Who started it? Our Good Shepherd School is modeled after the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based Christian formation program where children can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in scripture and liturgy. This program lays the foundation for a life grounded in an awareness of God's love.

What do we do there? A morning in the Atrium usually includes:

- A presentation of a part of the Bible or Liturgy, given to the children by one of the teachers. The miniature figures and scenes used have been created by woodworkers, seamstresses, and painters from within the parish.
- A significant period of time for children to work with materials of their own choice on their own, as an aid to meditation.
- A gathering time of worship at the prayer table.

What else do children learn there?

Besides their own understanding of God's love for them and his presence in their lives, the children learn to prepare the altar for Eucharist and to identify the seasons of the Church Year. They worship together in a prayer corner and use the scenes and figures individually as they practice their own telling of Jesus' stories.

The Teachers

Miss Jan (Fritzsche), Miss Lisa (Czerny) and Miss Sandy (Kynerd) have been trained to teach Good Shepherd School in a way that allows the children to draw their own conclusions about God when they hear his Word from Holy Scripture. All are certified by The Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Oak Park, Illinois.

From the teachers: "We believe that God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, and that the growth of this relationship, while assisted by the teacher, is actually directed by the Spirit of God within each child."