

**St. Louis King of France Catholic Church**  
**Early Childhood Ministry**

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*Mary Beth Skinnell-Director*

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 program is an approach to the religious formation of children ages 3-5 years. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an “atrium,” a room prepared for them which contain simple yet beautiful materials that they use. In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or liturgical prayers presented to them by working with the materials provided for that text. The work of the child might be placing wooden figures of sheep and shepherd in the sheepfold of the Good Shepherd or preparing a small altar with tiny replicas of the same articles we use at Eucharist.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the result of a long period of careful observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, and her Montessori collaborator, Gianna Gobbi, in Rome. Sofia and Gianna have reminded us to look to the child and watch for that sign of a deeply religious life-joy-and to ask the question:

*“What face of God is the child telling us he or she needs to see?”*

***Hours: Class times are Wednesdays 1:00-3:00***  
***Tuition: \$100.00 per year due at first Class***

**Calendar:** 2010-2011

September 1	December 1	March 2
September 8	December 8	March 9
September 15	December 15	March 23
September 22	January 12	March 30
September 29	January 19	April 6
October 6	January 26	April 13
October 20	February 2	April 27
November 3	February 9	May 11
November 10	February 16	May 18
November 17	February 23	