

## Dear Parents,

As we withdraw from Ordinary Time and set our sights on the weeks of preparation in Lent, it is time to once again listen and open our hearts to the voice of the Good Shepherd. The liturgical season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and ends Wednesday, April 1st, 2026. The works of the Atrium will now reveal the deeper meanings of the parable of the Good Shepherd to shine a light on the *greatest* gift – **Eucharist**.

### Level I (Preschool and Kindergarten)

-Found Sheep... We explore with the child the love the Good Shepherd has for his sheep through the Parable of the Found Sheep. This parable teaches the children that Jesus will never leave or abandon us. The perfect and very great love, the covenant love of the Good Shepherd compels Him to look for the lost, unprotected sheep.

-City of Jerusalem... This work shows that Jesus was a real person in a particular place-Jerusalem, in a particular time in history. This work lifts up Jerusalem as a place of importance in the life of Jesus and to announce the paschal events within a geographical area.

-Cenacle... The child wonders about the events of the Last Supper where Jesus' total gift of Himself established the Eucharist with the words "This is my Body . . . This is my Blood . . ." and gives Himself completely to us so that we know He is with us always.

### Level II (Grades 1-3)

-Breaking of the Bread and the Gesture of Peace... The Eucharist is the new and eternal covenant; it is both personal and communal. The breaking of the Bread, precluded by the sign of peace is an expression of the horizontal dimension of the covenant that is offered to all of humanity, and we are joined together by the one broken Bread. This aids the child in their understanding that though we are many we are all one body in Christ.

-Mystery of Faith... This work lifts up the biblical basis of our liturgical proclamation the "mystery of faith." Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. We hold this as truth because we find it in the Bible. The Eucharist helps us penetrate this mystery.

-Wolf and the Hireling... Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He lays down His life for His sheep and rises again. In the face of evil, we are scattered. God's Love is personal, protective, and complete. This parable proclaims to the children that we are under the protection of the Good Shepherd; who's love is so great, He lays down His life for us.

-Pascal Narratives... This work places the events of the Paschal Mystery into a historical time and place through meditation on the scripture accounts. The Paschal Mystery is the event upon which the Christian faith is founded.

-Reconciliation Parables... The True Vine, The Found Sheep, The Found Coin, and the Forgiving Father are parables used to help with sacramental formation for the sacrament of First Reconciliation for the second graders.

### Level III (Grades 4-6)

-Miracles of Jesus... Using this work, the child learns that Jesus not only spoke of the Kingdom of God but gave gestures that offered a "snapshot" of what the Kingdom of God would be like in its fullness. These gestures were expressed through His miracles. The miracles we explore are Bartimaeus, the Widow of Nain, In a Deserted Place, and Peter's House.

-Sin Typology... This bible study reveals the suffering and evil that we see in the world enters thru the sin of humans. Sin fractures the relationship between humans and creation, humans and God, and humans and their fellow humans. Yet God remains in a caring relationship with humans. We lift up Genesis 3 as a way of pondering with children the dynamics of sin.

-Abraham Typology... Abraham was a man of his time, set apart by God to enter into a covenant relationship to which he responded in faith. This work gives the child a fuller background to understand Abraham as a person of his time. It lays the foundation for the History of the Jewish people.

-Moses Typology... This work gives the child scripture in which they can ponder freedom. They wonder if trust is an important part of being truly free. God is saying to the people... I am trustworthy. God is working on our hearts. Freedom is where we truly live out our covenant. This work also lifts up the desert as a place where we really meet God... where we truly fall in love with God.

-Sacraments... The sacraments are a gift where Jesus acts with us in a special way that will help us work toward the cosmic communion. The bible is a book where God reveals Himself to us: the child is especially looking for the roots of the sacraments in the reading of scripture. This work will name, identify, and lift up each of the seven sacraments.

-Struggles of the Prophets... The vocation of the prophets involved struggles, resistance, physical suffering, social ostracism, and internal struggles (doubt, confusion). God is faithful and stays with the prophets through their struggles, so they can persevere. The child ponders the mystery of suffering in our vocations – God is stronger.

-Synagogue... This work features a diorama that is used with the worship of the Jewish people work. This work compares the similarities and differences between a synagogue and the Catholic church. We discuss how Jesus changed the Passover meal into the Mass.

-Sacred Chrism... This work lifts up the blessing of the Chrism Oil, focusing on the history of this oil in the Plan of God. Throughout the history of the Jewish people and the history of the church, oil has always been used to anoint and consecrate both items and people. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the oil achieves its highest purpose in becoming the Sacred Chrism. We first receive the Sacred Chrism at our baptism, as we are anointed and put on the scent of Christ. The annual blessing of the Sacred Chrism takes place during Holy Week at the Chrism Mass.

I invite all parents to visit the Atrium if they wish. If possible, I ask that you set up a time with me, this will give me time to prepare the children for the observation- something that is important to their sense of order and the order of the Atrium. If you have any questions at any time, please stop by and visit or call me at **701-822-3237**:  
Dione Bohl – CGS Coordinator

St. Therese, Church of the Little Flower  
Level I, II, III Catechists



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