

August 2015:

### **All you need to know about Faith Formation for youth at St. Bernard's**

- All classes are held on most **Sundays**, Sept. through May, including SVdP Free Store Sundays. (See the class calendar for more information.)
- For 4th through 10th grade, the one hour classes are held from noon to 1 p.m.; on SVdP Sundays, classes will start late, but will still end at 1 p.m.
- For 4 year olds through 3rd grade we have two Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) classes, both an hour and ½ long:
  - Children ages 4 through kindergarten attend Level I class from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.
  - Children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3rd grades attend Level II class from noon to 1:30 p.m. (1st graders with no previous Atrium experience may be asked to attend Level I, depending on class size for Level II.)
- We request that children have had breakfast before coming to the Church campus. A simple lunch is provided for all children, following the 10:30 Mass, in the Parish Center.
- Return completed registration forms to the parish office by Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> or drop off a completed form in the box in the church vestibule or the collection basket through Sunday, August 30th. If mailing the registration form to the Parish Office, please mail them no later than Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

\*\* Do you have children 4 to 6 years old that have never been in the Atrium class (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)? We will have a phasing in class for those children on Sunday, September 13, from 10:15 to 11:30. Please bring your child(ren) to the grade school basement (west doors, facing the back of the Parish office) between 10 and 10:15 that morning.

### **Where to meet on the first day of class, Sept. 20**

- Every Sunday following lunch, the 4th through 10th graders should line up with their teachers in the Parish Center and the exodus to classrooms will begin by noon. Teachers will have signs indicating the grades they teach.
- For the Atrium classes, the start and end times are different:
  - If your child is in the 1st Atrium class, bring him or her to the west side doors of the elementary school (this door faces the back of the Parish Office) between 10 and 10:15 a.m. Children will not be picked up in the church this year.
  - If your child is in the 2nd Atrium class, please bring him or her to the Parish Center after Mass and as the children from the 1st Atrium class are dropped off at 11:45, the 2nd class will be picked up and brought to the Atrium for their class at noon.
- All children will be escorted to the Parish Center after class. Please be prompt when coming to pick up your children after class is over.

Please contact David Neira (our new director of faith formation) at (651) 558-9307 with questions or if any clarification is needed.

### **Are you new to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium) program?**

If you have child enrolling in the faith formation program at St. Bernard's who are between the ages of 4 years and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they will be attending one of our Atrium classes. The Atrium is offered in two levels: 4-6 year olds (preschool through kindergarten) are in Level I and meet from

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*(Good Shepherd/Atrium introduction continued):*

10:15 am until 11:45 am every Sunday. The 1st through 3rd grade children are in Level II and include those 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children who will be receiving their first Holy Communion this school year. They meet in the Atrium on Sundays from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm. We would expect those children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the spring of 2015 to be attending the 10:30 am Mass during the year as part of their sacramental preparation (or another Sunday Mass with their family.)

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori based program which allows the child to explore his/her faith via hands on materials and hearing and reflecting on scripture. The children are exposed to the elements of the liturgy and see up close the things that they see in church. The scripture that is chosen gives the children a sense of wonder (the kingdom parables), a sense of joy and love (the parable of the Good Shepherd and the infancy narratives), and invites them into a relationship with God. There is a display board in the church vestibule with pictures from the atrium and a booklet explaining a little more about the program.

This year, we will have a 'phasing in' for children new to the Atrium on Sept. 13, from 10:15 to 11:30. This will help acclimate new children to the environment. On September 20, all the children—new and returning—will start the new class year together.

We have three catechists (Karen Cronin, Elizabeth Doherty, and Steve Polson) that have received special training for this wonderful program. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Karen Cronin at 651-552-1033.