

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Office of Religious Education

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...but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Dear Sacred Heart Families,

My name is Amy Donahue and I coordinate the parish religious education programs for our grade 1- 10 students. Over the past 2 years, my assistant, Laura Bon Tempo, and I have spent time exploring the religious life of young children through a series of workshops offered by the Diocese of Worcester.

It has been an incredible journey of discovery! We have come to understand and truly believe that young children are particularly capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of our faith: the announcement of God's love, in the person of the Good Shepherd. It is with this discovery in mind, and our desire to serve the needs of our youngest parishioners, that we are excited to offer two programs in the fall for children Birth-Grade K.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
(For Children age 3 through Kindergarten)



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a faith formation method, based on Montessori principles and the realization that young children not only develop a personal, loving relationship with God but actually have a hunger for God. Children gather in an area called the Atrium. This is a term used by the early church for the gathering area where one prepared for membership in the church community. For the child too, the Atrium is a place or preparation for involvement in the larger worshipping community, a place that fosters the child's relationship with God.

We have been working hard all summer to create a dedicated atrium in the former Milford Catholic Elementary School building. We are planning to hold Good Shepherd Catechesis on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45AM, twice a month. Enrollment is limited to 12 students, but a second weekday session may be added, if there is sufficient interest. The fee for this program is \$35 and will begin on September 30.

Little Flock Playgroup
(For Children Birth through 60 months)

The "Little Flock Playgroup" is a playgroup for members of our parish with children birth to 60 months, who would like to come together to play with their children, meet other parishioners with similar age children and draw closer to our faith in a nurturing age appropriate environment.



This is a parent and child playgroup, not a drop off event. It will be facilitated by Laura Bon Tempo and held in the upper level of the former Milford Catholic Elementary School building. The group will meet for 9 week sessions throughout the school year from 10:00-11:30am on Tuesdays. The first session will run September 25 through November 13. A \$10.00 registration donation is requested but not required. Group is filled on a first come, first served basis.

We are holding an **Open House for both programs on September 9 from 11AM-12PM**. Both the Atrium and the Playgroup room are on the top floor of the former Milford Catholic Elementary School building and can be accessed via the Bell Tower Room. The registration forms for both programs are included and can be returned to directly to the Religious Education Office at 5 East Main St. We look forward to welcoming you and your children to either (or both) of these programs. Please feel to contact us with any questions at (508) 473-1036 or ccdoffice@sacredheartmilford.org.

Yours in Christ,

Amy Donahue
Laura Bon Tempo