

## CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PROGRAM 2017-2018 *(Preliminary)*

*(Please note these dates will be posted on the Assumption Religious Education online calendar once the calendar has been finalized.)*

### **GOOD SHEPHERD PROGRAM SESSION SCHEDULE**

Good Shepherd Level I sessions meet on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm and on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 11:00 am and from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm.

Good Shepherd Level II Sessions meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am – 11:00 am and 11:15 am – 12:30 pm. and on Thursdays from 5:00 pm—6:15 pm.

Good Shepherd **Special** Level II sessions meet on Fridays from 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm.

Good Shepherd Level III sessions will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD BEGINNING SESSION DATES**

Good Shepherd Staff meeting and Catechetical Sunday Mass is Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Orientation for Parents and Children new to Level I Good Shepherd is Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm.

Good Shepherd Level I, II, and III Sunday sessions begin on Sunday, September 17, 2017.

Good Shepherd Level III Tuesday sessions begin on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Good Shepherd Level I Thursday sessions begin Thursday, September 17, 2017.

Good Shepherd Special Level II sessions begin on Friday, September 22, 2017.

### **ABSENCES AND TARDINESS**

Excessive absences and tardiness hinder your child's joyful journey with the Good Shepherd Program and affect all the children in your child's atrium community. Parents are asked to please notify the Good Shepherd Program of your child's absence in advance via email to [tara.speer@assumptionparish.org](mailto:tara.speer@assumptionparish.org) or via text to 908-963-9345.

### **ATTENDING MASS WITH YOUR CHILD**

In addition to attending their regular atrium sessions, all children in Good Shepherd are expected to attend Mass at Assumption regularly with their parents. The Good Shepherd Program is based on Scripture and liturgy. The Biblical message is lived in the liturgical experience of the Church in which the covenant is actualized continually. The young child lives his/her relationship with God in a particular way in the liturgy. In Level I, the 3-6 year old child enters the mystery of the Mass through learning the names of the articles to be used at Mass as well as key moments and gestures such as the Preparation of the Chalice, the Epiclesis, the Offering, and the Sign of Peace. From these gestures the Mass emerges as the Sacrament of the Gift. The child becomes acquainted with the historical character of the liturgy through the events of the Last Supper, Christ's Death, and His Resurrection. In Level II, the 6-9 year old children's response takes a special form: in their sense of belonging to God's plan in history and in the profound enjoyment they show in being called as collaborators in it. In Level III, the 9-12 year old child's capacity for relationship continues to expand to include a wider social sphere, s/he is invited to ponder more extensively the communal relationship that we have with Christ, in addition to the personal relationship. Further presentations on Baptism and Eucharist explore both the vastness of the Church across nations and cultures, but also across history. The Level III child is also invited to reflect more substantially on his/her own role in the Plan of God, discerning which particular gifts they possess and how to put these at the service of God's Reign in anticipation of the Parousia.

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday 5:30 PM Vigil Mass and Sunday 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:15 AM, and 5:30 PM. Please see the parish bulletin for a listing of daily Masses and Holy Days of Obligation.

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday 4:00 PM and by appointment

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD MINISTRY**

In addition to offering 6 Masses each weekend, Assumption church is blessed with a Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry. Assumption Volunteers welcome the children in the parish for Christ by leading Children's Liturgy of the Word sessions during the Saturday 5:30 PM Vigil Masses and the Sunday 10 AM Masses throughout the year. Volunteers are always needed as leaders or support volunteers to help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministry. Training and Materials are provided. This is a wonderful family volunteer opportunity.

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017-2018 GOOD SHEPHERD FIRST COMMUNICANT FAMILIES**

Sacramental Preparation for First Communicant children in Good Shepherd ends on May 20, 2018, the Feast of Pentecost. . Please see the Assumption Religious Education online calendar and the Important Dates for 2017-2018 Good Shepherd First Communicant Families for additional notes and details.

**Dates in red font pertain to the 2017-2018 Good Shepherd First Communicant Children and Families. Dates in Purple are additional dates of interest for First Communicant Children and Families and All Good Shepherd Families.**

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### ORIENTATION FOR PARENT(S)/CHILDREN NEW TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD PROGRAM

Saturday, September 16, 2017: Orientation meeting for parent(s) and children new to the Level I atrium and/or the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program. The Orientation session will last from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will include a parent overview as well as an orientation of the Level I Atrium of St. Therese for your child. Parents of children new to the Good Shepherd Program must confirm their child's attendance to the orientation session via email to [tara.speer@assumptionparish.org](mailto:tara.speer@assumptionparish.org).

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**Dates in red font pertain to the 2017-2018 Good Shepherd First Communicant Children and Families.**

**Dates in Purple are additional dates of interest for First Communicant Children and Families and All Good Shepherd.**

	Sunday Level I , II, III	Tuesday Level III	Thursday Level I and Level II	Friday Special Level II
Sept	10 (staff only), 17, 24	10 (staff only), 19, 26	10 (staff only), 14, 28	10 (staff only), 22, 29
Oct	1, 15, 22, 29	3, 10, 17, 24	5, 12, 19, 26	6, 13, 20, 27
Nov	5, 18, 19, 26	14, 21, 28	2, 16, 18, 30	3, 17
Dec	3, 10, 16, 17, 24, 25	5, 12, 16, 19, 24, 25	7, 14, 16, 21, 24, 25	1, 8, 15, 16, 22, 24, 25
Jan	6, 7, 21, 28	9, 16, 23, 30	4, 6, 11, 18, 25	5, 19, 26
Feb	4, 11, 14, 25	6, 13, 14, 27	1, 8, 14, 15, 22	2, 9, 23
Mar	1, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31	6, 13, 20, 25, 29, 30, 31,	1, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31	2, 9, 16, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31
Apr	1, 7-8, 8, 15, 21, 22, (Last Session), 28	1, 10, 17, 24 (Last Session)	1, 12, 19, 21, 26 (Last Session), 28	1, 13, 20, 27 (Last Session)
May	5, 6, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20		5, 6, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20	

**All members of the Good Shepherd Community are invited to the Good Shepherd First Communion Mass on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 10 am!**