

HOLY FAMILY KIRKLAND

CATECHESIS OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD

PARENT HANDBOOK

2018-2019



Dear CGS Parents,

\*Each child is an important person to you as parents and to God. Parenting is a ministry, a service to life. You, as a parent, have the dignity of being the “original and irreplaceable” person in your child’s religious journey.

The family is the primary community in the faith journey of the child, it is the “domestic church,” because it is within the life of the family we find the first place of the Christian community lived. Here, you as parents are “the first heralds of the faith”. Here “faith works through love” and a relationship with God can begin to be nurtured.

You, as parents, have shared the gift of human life with your child, and through Baptism, have enriched your child with a share in God’s own life. Your faith, your attitude toward others, and your trust in a loving God strongly influences the development of your child’s faith.

We offer formation in the atrium community as one humble way to help you nurture your child’s developing relationship with God.

Pax,

Maria Muscado

\* [www.cgsusa.org/parentresources](http://www.cgsusa.org/parentresources)

# **Table of Contents:**

**Artwork, Atrium, Atrium Location**

**page 3**

**Attendance (absent, illness, prolonged, Mass)**

**page 4**

**Bathroom Business, Behavior, Co-Catechist**

**page 5**

**Communication, Dress Code,**

**Drop-Off Location**

**page 6**

**Pick-Up Location, Tardiness**

**page 7**

**Wait List, Water/Snacks,**

**Websites and Various Information**

**page 8**

**Artwork:**

In the atrium, we send children's work home twice a year, before Christmas break, and at the end of the year. Why is this? We do not want the children to feel that they need to "produce" a piece of artwork to take home, which may curtail children's artistic response. For the child, it is the process that is important, not the end product. The child is developing through the process of creating art and theological reflections.

**Atrium:**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classroom is called an atrium. The name comes from the place where people were prepared for joining the Church in the earliest days of Christian history. The atrium is a place of quiet and meditative discovery where children listen to the Good Shepherd's voice during catechetical presentations and can meditate on God's Word while working.

**Atrium Location:**

The Level I, II, and III Atriums are currently located in the Youth/Preschool Building located at 7355 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98033. This building is the one closest to Lake Washington High School and is on the same side of the street as the church.

## **Attendance:**

Unless otherwise indicated on the CGS calendar, we look forward to seeing your children each week. We are unable to make-up individual atrium sessions, but the spiral nature of this program ensures that your child will not miss key presentations.

**-absent:** If your child will be absent from their scheduled atrium session, please let us know as soon as possible. Email Maria at [mariam@hfkparish.org](mailto:mariam@hfkparish.org) or Connie at [conniem@hfkparish.org](mailto:conniem@hfkparish.org).

**-illness:** If your child is experiencing a runny nose with colored mucus, a fever, or has vomited in the past 24 hours, please keep them home. They must be free of illness for 24 hours before returning.

**-prolonged:** If your child is absent without an explanation for a prolonged period of time (3+ weeks), we may need to review their CGS participation.

**-at Mass:** Parents and children are expected to attend Mass weekly. The children must experience the Liturgy to make the connection between what they hear in the Atrium and at Mass.

**Bathroom Business:**

Children must be toilet trained and able to self-toilet. All adults are Safe Environment compliant. If your child requires assistance, safe environment guidelines will be followed. Please dress young children in clothing that is easy for them to work with i.e. sweat pants vs. jeans, leggings vs. tights etc.

**Behavior:**

Children participating in the atrium are expected to be able to listen, follow directions and respect other children and the environment. During the first 4 weeks of atrium, we assess if the child is ready for the atrium. If the child is not ready, we will ask you to wait a few months and try again.

**Co-Catechists:**

We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a co-catechist. Adults and high school students are welcome, training and materials will be provided. Current certification in the Safe Environment program is required; for further information visit the website for the Archdiocese of Seattle at: [www.seattlearchdiocese.org](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org).

**Communication:**

Right before or right after atrium sessions is not the best time to communicate, as we have children waiting for us to begin the session. As we continue to serve a growing population of families, email is the best format for communication. If you have concerns or questions, email Maria or Connie at [mariam@hfkparish.org](mailto:mariam@hfkparish.org) or [conniem@hfkparish.org](mailto:conniem@hfkparish.org).

**Dress Code:**

Children should dress in comfortable clothing that allows ease of movement, reflecting modesty and a respectful attitude due to this special place. Young girls may want to wear shorts under their dresses. Boys and girls may want to wear or bring socks as shoes are removed prior to entering the atrium.

**Drop-Off Location:**

The doors closest to the Teen Center will be used for dropping off your children during afternoon and Sunday sessions. Monday and morning sessions will use the preschool door. Catechists and co-catechists are in meetings and preparing the atrium environment prior to the start of CGS; doors will open at the scheduled start time.

### **Pick-Up Location:**

The doors closest to the Teen Center will be used for picking up your children during afternoon and Sunday sessions. Monday and morning sessions will use the preschool door. For legal and safety reasons, children may **NOT** exit the building without an adult. You must come to the door.

### **Tardiness:**

\*If you are tardy when dropping off your child in the afternoon and Sunday sessions, ring the doorbell closest to the main door of the Teen Center only one time, and a catechist will come to greet you.

\*If you will be tardy when picking up your child, please prepare for this event in advance. The pick-up person must be listed on your registration form(s). It is **NOT OK** to ask a neighbor or friend to pick up your child without first notifying us in writing.

\*We thank you in advance for respecting the time of our catechists and co-catechists. They too have families waiting on them and would like to get home as soon as possible.

**Wait List:**

After the maximum enrollment is reached, a waitlist is started. Please fill out a registration form to be put on this list. When space becomes available, we will contact you.

**Water/Snacks:**

The Atrium is a place of prayer; food and drink is not permitted. We do have water fountains in the building and children are encouraged to bring a water bottle marked with their name.

**Websites and Various Information:**

HFK Parish Website: [www.hfkparish.com](http://www.hfkparish.com)

CGS National Website: [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org)

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**“And whoever  
welcomes a little  
child like this in My  
name welcomes Me.”**

**Matthew 18:5**

