

Steps we are taking to ensure the safety of your child during their Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium time. Please see our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for St. Michael Faith Formation for more information, found on our website. Please email with Andrea when needed, and call if the correspondence is last minute and needs immediate attention.

- Individual and Family Steps
  - o We are asking that families take an active role in monitoring their child's health. If your child is sick, or a family member is sick, we ask that you do not come to atrium session and email Andrea. We will provide resources for at home time, when needed. Symptoms include: a fever over 100.4, runny nose, and a cough, among other symptoms. We are asking parents to take the temperature of their child before coming to atrium, to ensure that they do not come with a fever. Please call or email Andrea if you are unsure.
  - o If your child or someone in the home experiences symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid, we ask that you email Andrea so that further discussion can take place.
  - o We stress good hand hygiene throughout the year. We will have your child wash their hands at drop off and before picking up. We will also have your child wash their hands, during the atrium session, when the need comes up. Making sure your child has clean hands is essential with the Montessori environment.
  - o We will have a teen helper stationed outside the atrium to assist in bathroom trips.
  - o We ask that when you arrive, you use one of the hooks along the wall to place your child's coat on. You can escort your child to the bathroom, have them use the restroom and wash their hands with soap and water. When done, your child can go in the atrium right away. If you are late dropping off or early picking up, we ask that you still follow the steps of bathroom use and hand washing.
- Atrium Environment
  - o Each child will have a set place for doing their individual work.
  - o Each child will have their own folder, clip board, and pencil pouch during their atrium session.
  - o The atrium environment will be cleaned in between each atrium session.
  - o To maximize the space of our atrium, will be utilizing the choir room. Our prayer table, along with other materials will be spread throughout a portion of that space.
  - o The prayer time at the end of each session will take place around the prayer table in the choir room. This allows for a larger space to distance the children for the time where we all come together.
  - o Our sessions will cap at 8 children, 1 lead, and 1 assistant.
- Masks and Face Shields
  - o As allowed by the State of Minnesota Mask Mandate and recommendation from the Archdiocese, the adult leads and assistants will be wearing clear face shields, so as to not prohibit the learning of the educational process. The Atrium environment is a space that is very intentional regarding the educational process but also to the relational side of the children. Having them see my face is crucial to my time with them.
  - o As allowed by the State of Minnesota Mask Mandate, (Since Level I involves a range of ages below and above the required mask mandate age) all Level 1 children (3-6 years old) will not be asked to mask, although you are welcome to have your child mask, so long as they can wear it properly, in compliance with the CDC guidelines. If you choose to have your child mask in Level I, please email Andrea.
  - o As per the State of Minnesota Mask Mandate and the recommendation from Archdiocese, Level 2 children (6-9 years old) will be required to wear either clear face shield provided to each child (it will be theirs for the year) or a clear face covering of their parent's choice. This clear face covering will be stored on site, in their folder, and cleaned after each session.
  - o A medical exemption form will be made available for those who have a "medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering."

Our aim is to help children encounter the Good Shepherd, in a space specifically prepared for them. The steps we can take this year, will ensure that we can meet with your children and cultivate the child's need for God and community. I strive to honor the child's freedom (within boundaries), encourage mastery of the language of prayer, and respect the independence and dignity of each child.

Faith Formation Coordinator

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