



Our Lady of the Assumption

Roman Catholic Church

Mission ~ St. John the Evangelist, Keene, Ontario



1830 Keene Rd., Otonabee, ON, K9J 6X7

Phone: (705) 741-1018

email: office@assumptionotonabee.ca

web: www.assumption-stjohns.ca

Pastor: Monsignor Michael Heffernan C.H.H.

Weekend Holy Mass Schedule

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Saturday 4:00 p.m. in the fall & winter and
5:00 p.m. in the spring & summer.
(Times will switch at Seasonal time change)

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

3217 County Rd. 2
Keene, Ontario K0L 2G0
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Holy Mass Schedule:

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. for the first Tuesday
of the month and 8:00 a.m. for all others
(Summer time all Tuesday Masses 8:00 a.m.)

Friday 7:00 p.m.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Every Friday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m.

NEW PARISHIONERS—

Have you registered in our Parish?
“Parish Census” Forms can be found
at the back of the Churches. Please introduce
yourself to Fr. Michael and welcome!

Reminder -

**If you or a family member is in the
hospital and you would like the priest at
Our Lady of the Assumption to contact you,
please phone the office.**

MOVING? ~ Please let the office know of your move
from this parish. Also, an address change is necessary
for sending out the year's tax receipts.



**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 16, 2023**

Parish Office: Phone: (705) 741-1018

**Secretary: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Catholic Women's League:

► President: Anna Marie Bolin
(705)742-8249

Marriage: Registered Parishioners must contact
the Parish Office twelve months before the
proposed Wedding date. No date for a Wedding
can be set before a couple has met with the Priest.

Baptism: Please speak with Fr. Michael about
this after any of the Masses. Preparation course is
required.

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Sunday: 8:15 – 8:45 a.m.

**You may also book an appointment with Father
at ANYTIME**

MASS INTENTIONS

JULY 17 – JULY 23

MONDAY, July 17

8:00 a.m. ~ Emma Ironside

(Family)

TUESDAY, July 18

8:00 a.m. ~ Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, July 19

8:00 a.m. + Sr. Sheila Way

(Anne Fitzgerald)

THURSDAY, July 20

St. Apollinaris

8:00 a.m. ~ Helen Vozza

(Friends)

FRIDAY, July 21

St. Lawrence of Brindisi

6:00 p.m. ~ Adoration & Benediction

7:00 p.m. ~ John & Helen Strano

SATURDAY, July 22

St. Mary Magdalene

No morning Mass

SUNDAY, July 23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

5:00 p.m. (Sat.) ~ Missa Pro Populo

9:00 a.m. + Betty Sheehan

(Bill & Jill Larocque and Julie & Harvie Bell)

10:30 a.m. (Keene) + Anne Beebe & Marilyn Manley

(Friends)



LIVE-STREAMING OF THE MASS FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Mass for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time will be live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains starting at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2023. The Mass will be available thereafter on the YouTube channel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough.

Please join in prayer through the weblink found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7ZxzPavens>

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

The third **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** will be celebrated this year on **Sunday, 23 July 2023**. Pope Francis inaugurated this World Day to be celebrated by the universal Church each July, either on or near the liturgical Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus, to help “treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation”.

Pope Francis’ chosen theme for this year’s World Day is **“His mercy is from age to age”** (Lk 1:50), raising the relational interconnection between the old and the young.

St. Mary’s Refuge Madoc

“Respite & Recovery” retreat will take place at St. Mary’s Refuge in Madoc, **August 18-20**. Survivor wellness retreat offers educational classes, therapeutic sessions, personal care and supportive community. Further information may be found at respite@stmarysrefuge.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

July 9: Offertory \$2,585.00 Fuel \$105.00

Bishop’s Appeal \$340.00

July 15: P.O.P. Offertory \$730.00

P.O.P. Bishop’s Appeal \$90.00

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 23, 2023

LAY MINISTRY Eucharistic Minister
5:00 p.m. (Sat.) Colleen Petersen
Sun 9:00 a.m. Mary Pat Goodridge
10:30 a.m. Julia Davis

Lector
Joanne Bolton
Ruth Ciraulo
Aileen Doris

Gift Bearers
Greg & Jean Hall
Joe & Cathy McGriskin
Sue & Tom Livings

C.W.L. News



Bursaries

To support and encourage high school graduates, the CWL will present two bursaries of \$250 to two students from Assumption/St. John Parish. To be eligible for the bursary, the students must be graduating from high school this spring, continuing their education at a post secondary institution, and be members of the Parish. Application forms are at the back of both churches. Please complete and submit according to directions on the form. Deadline for submission is July 31, 2023. Any questions call Valerie Collicutt at (705)748-5237.

Parish Supper

Thank you to those who volunteered to work at the 2023 Parish Supper. Based on the number of people who signed up and are committed to assisting that day, we will proceed with the supper on Saturday September 23rd.

Join us at an **organizing meeting on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30 p.m.** If you are unable to attend and have input, please contact Anna Marie Bolin at 705-742-8249.

Newsletter Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Please enjoy the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada summer newsletter which is available on the online bulletin at the parish website <https://www.assumption-stjohns.ca/> Discover a collection of how the Holy Spirit has been touching the hearts of children and adults across Canada. Let's celebrate how the Holy Spirit is working among us and share this gift of Catechesis with more young Catholic families in the Peterborough diocese!

St. Ann Shrine Cormac---July 30th

Plan to attend the 83rd annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann in Cormac on Sunday July 30th Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Guy Desrochers at 11:00 am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will occur at 1:00 pm. Area priests will be blessing the faithful with St. Ann's oil. Religious articles, memberships, food, and refreshments will be available. The theme of the pilgrimage will be "living a life with the Trinity". Everyone welcome! Further information can be obtained at: www.cormacpilgrimage.com

La Verna Events

(820 Frank St, Peterborough, ON, K9J 4N4)

Blessed Solanus Casey Feast Day

Please join us on **July 30** at La Verna @ 1:00 pm, watch the video and stay for Mass at 3:00 pm.

COFFEE 'N' CAPS

Come join Bro Alan and Bro Stephen on the **3rd Wednesdays of July and August** for an evening of informal discussion on contemporary Church and Faith topics from a Franciscan perspective!

July 19 @ 7.00 PM RSVP (705-243-9131)

Divine Love—Love is Always New

Free Will Offerings, Prayer Requests & Mass Intentions always welcomed.

Annual Walking Pilgrimage

The 9th Annual Walking Pilgrimage - In the Footsteps of the Holy Canadian Martyrs will take place on **August 13 to 19, 2023**. We will depart from St Joseph's Church Powassan at 1pm on August 13 (Mass will be celebrated in the evening on that day) and walk 130 km over 5 days to reach Holy Family Church, Britt where we will venerate the relics of the Martyrs. The Pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at Holy Family Church on the morning of August 19th.

To register please use the link below. Please register by **August 6th**.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/walking-pilgrimage-in-the-footsteps-of-the-holy-canadian-martyrs-tickets-619460642457>

Details of what to bring, etc. can also be found at this link.

Downeyville Jamboree

St. Luke's in Downeyville is holding the "Jamboree" on August 6 from 1:00 - 9:30 pm. Games, music, food and more!

IMMACULATE'S ANNUAL GIANT YARD SALE

Be sure to book **Saturday, August 26th** to support Immaculate's annual giant yard sale at 386 Rogers Street. If you have "treasures" to contribute, you can start dropping them off on **July 22nd** at the front of the large garage door of Immaculate's rectory. Please keep in mind they are looking for donations that are in good condition and saleable. Thank you for NOT bringing clothing or bedding.

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. John the Evangelist

Catholic Women's League Bursary

Application Form

Eligibility: a student must be

- a) graduating from high school
 - b) continuing his/her education at a post secondary institution
 - c) be an active member of Our Lady of the Assumption/ St. John the Evangelist Parish.
- Applications must be received by July 31.

Applicant's Name:

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

High School Attended: _____

School Activities in which you participated:

Name of Post-Secondary Educational Institute you are planning to attend:

Student Signature:

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: _____

Please return the completed form by **July 31** to:
C.W.L. Education & Health Committee
c/o Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Parish Office
1830 Keene Rd.
Otonabee, ON
K9J 6X7

La Verna



**820 Frank Street
Peterborough ON K9J 4N4
705.243.9131**



Blessed Solanus Casey

1870 –1957

FEASTDAY JULY 30

**Come learn more about
Bl. Solanus' life and times.**

Sunday, 30 July 2023 1:00PM

**Video: Solanus Casey
Priest-Porter-Prophet
(1h15m runtime)**

**Discussion followed by
Mass of Bl Solanus Casey
@ 3:00 PM**

Freewill Offerings, Prayer Requests, Mass Intentions are always gratefully received



JUNE 2023 | ISSUE NO. 3

FRUIT OF THE VINE

Witness to the Working of the Holy Spirit

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada

As in previous years, we asked adults—parents, catechists, adults-in-information—to consider how they experienced the Holy Spirit working through their involvement with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). In their responses, we begin to understand the nature of witness. Children make connections, giving witness to their faith—often, it seems, without being aware of it. In observing the children, adults become witnesses themselves. Sharing what they receive from the children, they witness once more. If we look carefully at the testimonies in the pages of this issue, we can see the child’s witness nestling itself inside the adult. Adults interpret what they receive because they have somehow drawn closer to the mystery of God. In some cases, we see adults making connections of their own—independent of the children!—their faith deepening as a result of their involvement with CGS in Canada.

The witness of the children and the witness of the adults burns brightly; it attracts us. We stop for a moment to peruse these pages. Like Moses, we must turn aside to see. We hope also to draw closer to the mystery of our God.

MYSTERIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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A young boy, six-years-old, asked many questions about the altar. I believe he is not a regular church goer. With his parents' permission, I took him upstairs to show him the altar in the church. He and I stood in the vestibule and looked into the church while Mass was going on. He stared at the altar while the choir sang an offertory song. He looked as if he were seeing Heaven. "Oh, it's so beautiful!" he said. He didn't want to leave, but I had to bring him back to the atrium. I was moved by his Awe and Wonder!

Mary Jane Darwent
Catechist, Pointe Claire, QC



Waiting for a turn to practice pouring.

Grace, age 6: At the altar: "I want to be a priest."

Sophia, age 3: At the ambo, 'reading' from the lectionary: "I need you, God."

Andrea Laughlin
Parent and L1A participant, Kitchener, ON

Mystery of the Church

My family attended Mass recently and sat in the front pew—something we rarely do! As we settled in, my four-year-old son, who started Level 1 in Fall of 2022, pointed excitedly at the sanctuary light and whispered, "Mom!! The red light is on! That means Jesus is right in there!!" I was amazed that he knew that, and he was also so excited to tell his brother and sisters.

Riane
Parent, High River, AB

During a visit to the church with the children, a four-year-old immediately pointed out the lit sanctuary lamp and declared, "It tells us Jesus is here!"

Mary-Elizabeth Walker
Catechist, Kitchener, ON

A first year Level 1 child at the altar: "We have to light the candles, because without the light there will be no joy."

Dale Balkovec
Catechist, Nepean, ON



The Altar Area in the Level 1 Atrium at Corpus Christi Parish, the site of our CGSAC National Gathering, October 2022.



Mystery of the Incarnation

We have eight children new to the atrium. At the Christmas celebration they followed me in a procession, warming up to the celebration as we went along. By the time we reached the prayer corner, we started singing, "Alleluia!" The children jumped in praise! It was so joyful!

Mary-Elizabeth Walker
Catechist, Kitchener, ON

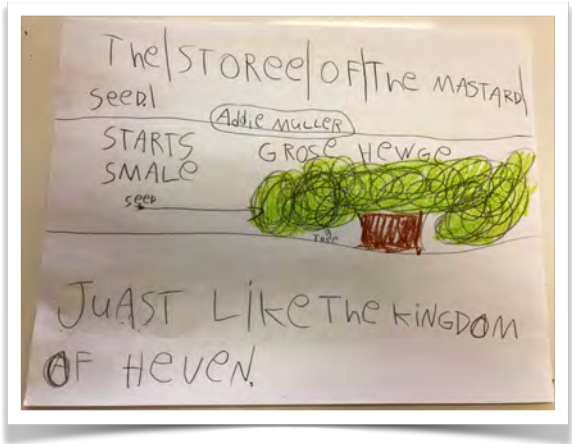
A 4-year old boy in Level 1 commented while working with the materials for the Presentation in the Temple:

"Because Jesus came to the temple, Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna won't have to walk in the darkness any more."

Dale Balkovec
Catechist, Nepean, ON



Contemplating the Birth of Christ



Addie (age 7)

One of the three-year-old girls in Level 1 this year has hardly ever said anything. We pondered the Precious Pearl together. When I asked, "I wonder how the merchant knew that pearl was the most valuable one?" With a look of utter contentment on her face, she gazed at the pearl in the merchant's house and said, "Because it's Jesus."

Dorothy Burns
Catechist, Okotoks, AB

After hearing about the presentation of the parable of the leaven, a boy (aged 6) commented that the woman making the bread was like Mary, and the bread was like Jesus. I thought this was pretty profound!

Mary Jane Darwent
Catechist, Pointe Claire, QC

Mystery of the Kingdom of God



One of my Level 2 children is diagnosed with ADHD. His constant movement and fidgeting have been a challenge to me during presentations. But he is such a smart and tender-hearted child, and I have discovered that he has been absorbing lots!

One day during group prayer time, I quickly noticed that this boy's constant movement, to which our group has become somewhat accustomed, had suddenly ceased. His body had become still, because his mind had become engrossed by a pressing question—the essential question we seek to help the children who come to the atrium answer: “Who is God, and who am I in relation to him?”

He voiced his version of this question aloud. “Is Jesus always calm?” he asked with great intensity.

His question broke my heart. As challenging as this boy's movement has been to me, I had

not fully realized the challenge his condition poses to him. Our Montessori roots in CGS help us to understand that self-mastery is a human need. Imagine the frustration this child must experience in his inability to achieve this human desire! Imagine how many times those around him have encouraged him to “calm down”, a request with which he would gladly comply were he capable.

“That is such a good question,” I managed to respond with enthusiasm, “I wonder.”

This child has asked to know God better. I couldn't answer his question, but I have no doubt the Good Shepherd will answer him in good time.

“But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.” Psalm 131:2

Monica Perry
Catechist, Vancouver, BC

Mystery of Christ as the Good Shepherd

The mother of a 3-year-old Level 1 child reported that she went into her daughter's room one Sunday morning to find her awake but lying peacefully and quietly in bed. When asked what she was doing, the child replied, “I'm just being silent, thinking about how Jesus is in the silence.”



A first year Level 3 child received the Plan of God presentation for the first time. While tracing the rise and fall of civilizations, this child commented, “Nobody rules the world forever.” Another child immediately responded, “God does!”

Dale Balkovec
Catechist, Nepean, ON

After hearing the Good Shepherd parable proclaimed, a three-year-old's response to the question, “What does the Good Shepherd do?”, was simply, “He loves the sheep.”



In response to Psalm 23, a four year old said confidently, “God gives us EVERYTHING He has.”



Mary-Elizabeth Walker
Catechist, Kitchener, ON



Juan Carlos (age 7)

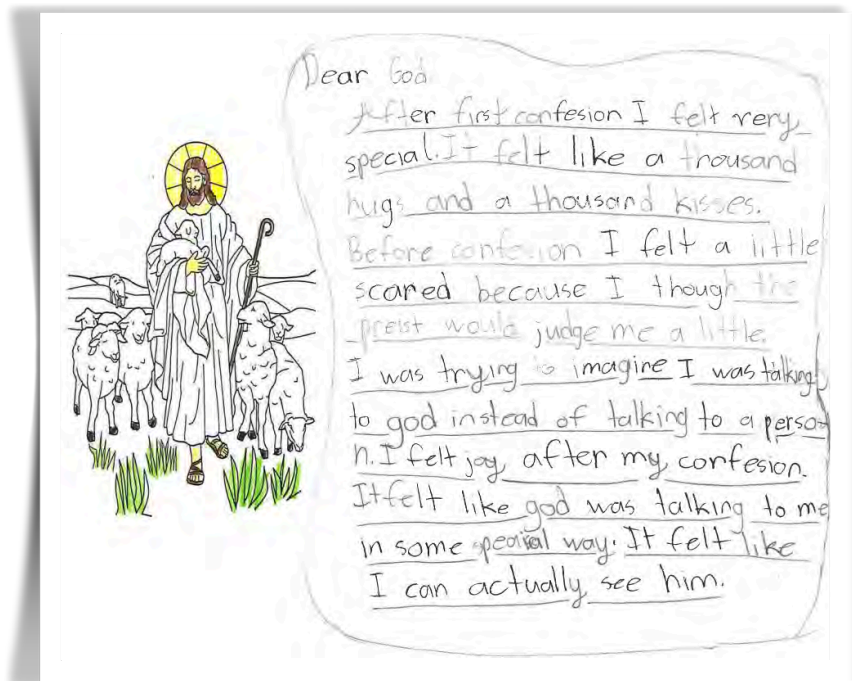
Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd: "I cut out the two sheepfolds together so they would be exactly the same size and shape."

I was presenting the first moment of the Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd to a five-year-old. When all the sheep were gathered around the altar, and we were sitting together in silence, the child took each sheep and tilted it forward so that they all were all bowing towards the altar.

Carla Raposo
Catechist, Winnipeg, MB

Dominic, age 4: Had a hard first year of school. When shown the Found Sheep, his posture changed. It was if he had been truly seen.

Andrea Laughlin
Parent and Level 1A participant,
Kitchener, ON



KC (grade 2)





Susan: "Take a moment to study the painting. Wonder who or what are the clouds in your life, the mountains ahead, the narrow path, the deep snow, the tree waiting for spring and new growth, who is with you on the journey..."

Twenty-five years ago, this picture was painted for me by a teenager named Konrad Szymanski. We have never met.

The original image on which the painting is based was given to me on a small gift card. I shared it with a woman named Margaret Olszewski who was then working with me in the “Mary Help of Christians Atrium” at St. Benedict’s Parish in Toronto.

Margaret had an idea! We both really loved the image and wondered what it would look like as a larger painting. Margaret knew someone who would paint it for me, and the task fell to Konrad who painted it at his family home, in Mississauga, Ontario.

On one of my trips to Rome as a representative from Canada to the International Consiglio, I took copies of this painting to help emphasize the challenges of doing CGS in Canada. The winter weather, the vastness of our land, and the cost of travel to reach the people living in the peripheries are challenges unique to our country. Yet, these people also need to know the light, peace, and hope of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. As the image portrays, the Good Shepherd leads his sheep over the bridge and towards the light of home.

This past winter, I co-facilitated a Level 1 course in Kitchener, Ontario. I travelled down from North Bay once a month. On the Saturday we explored the Mystery of the Good Shepherd, I brought my painting with me to place on the prayer table as a focus for our mediation.

As I began closing prayer, one of the participants suddenly said, “I know that painting!” I thought that perhaps she had seen the same gift card, but this was not the case. She knew it because

her 17-year-old brother Konrad painted it when she herself was in Grade 5! She had watched her big brother paint it in her home, pondering the meaning of “being led.”

The shock of connecting my painting to her brother the artist filled the entire room with joy and AWE!



Konrad’s sister, Ania, and Susan at St. Francis parish, Kitchener, ON

I phoned Margaret to tell her of these marvellous new connections. Having moved from Toronto, she brought CGS to the Diocese of London. Her work came to the attention of Fr. Szwagrzk, who kept hearing from the teenagers in Margaret’s youth groups about amazing CGS presentations. He became so very impressed, he sent parishioners to a CGSAC formation course to bring CGS to the diocese. Fr. Szwagrzk has since moved to the cathedral in Whitehorse where a Level 1

course will be held this summer. As this painting shows, the Good Shepherd moves always to the peripheries throughout our vast land.

Konrad’s sister put me in touch with her brother. Konrad grew up to become a pediatric urologist and Associate Professor of Pediatric Urology at Indianapolis University School of Medicine. He lives with his wife and three children in Indianapolis. Konrad writes, “I remember doing some of the CGS coursework on Saturdays at St. Michael’s College in Toronto when I was in med school... The Catechesis is such a gift. Hope my kids get to receive it.” I am now helping them to find an atrium, and I plan to mail them a copy of my book, “From Light to More Light”!

Konrad’s painting hangs in my home.



Susan Perna
Formation Facilitator, Sundridge, ON

The season of Lent was a beautiful one in our atrium. I witnessed so many beautiful things the children shared—mostly their hearts expressing a love of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. When I presented the City of Jerusalem to a grade one atrium group, their responses literally moved me to tears.

Following the presentation, I asked the children, "What does Jesus' journey to Jerusalem mean for us today?"

Emmanuel responded, "It means everything to me!"

Ilan, (a child who recently lost his mother after her long battle with cancer), responded, "Jesus' journey is special to me because it means that my mom is in heaven with Jesus and he is taking care of her."

Yes - He truly is!

These young children expressed their trust and belief that Jesus truly came to bring us hope and salvation.



Tracy Geary
Catechist, Port Coquitlam, BC

In the week leading up to Holy Week, I presented the City of Jerusalem to my four-year-old. When I said that Herod and Pontius Pilate wanted to kill Jesus, he was shocked and saddened. He asked, "Why?!" The morning of Good Friday, he asked me to read his Passion Story board book three or four times. The last time I read it, he said, "No one can kill Jesus in my heart."



Cassandra Ursu
Catechist, Regina, SK

I wanted to share something that struck me during the most recent CGSAC Easter Zoom Prayer, "Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene."

This Easter season, while reflecting on Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), I was struck in particular by verse 17. Jesus tells Mary: 'But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Isn't it curious that Jesus instructs Mary to speak in the first person? Not, say to them "Our Lord is ascending", but say to them "*I am ascending*," ie. *she herself is ascending*. It struck me that Jesus was spelling out our personal share in God's Kingdom and glory—we are all now able to ascend to the Father because of Jesus' Resurrection. How beautiful and joyous is such a realization!

Beth Jaz
Catechist, Ottawa, ON

The Paschal Mystery



Contemplating the Last Supper



Level 2 children's Illumination of Easter Halleluah!
Mercy Gate Atrium at St. Maurice Parish, Nepean, ON

During our Pentecost Celebration we heard the words from Acts 2:1-4. We reflected on what we heard. Our many three-year-olds were quiet, except Henry, who immediately said, "They spoke different languages." We explored the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The children each chose one of the gifts and lit their candles.

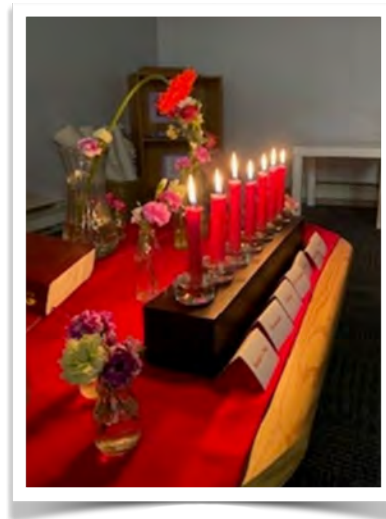
"I wonder what we could say to God about these gifts," I asked. There was silence, then Henry again spoke up. "Truth," he said, and that was it. One word—as simple as that.

Later I went to Mass, and the Sunday Gospel was John 14: 15-21:

"...And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate, to be with you forever. This is the *Spirit of truth*, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him, nor knows him. *You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*"

Henry knows Him, and He abides in Henry. Henry was moved by the Holy Spirit. What seemed like a random response to an invitation to pray, was a real deep knowledge of God, the Holy Spirit. At first glance, one word spoken by the child may not seem to fit, or could be interpreted as an unfinished thought. If we remain open, we may glimpse the relationship that exists within the child's heart.

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to children" (Matthew 11:25).



Thank you, Good Shepherd, for the gift of all the children gathered in the sheepfold that we call the Atrium. It is here that we can listen to you through each other. What a great gift!

Maureen Foster Fernandes
Catechist, Winnipeg, MB





Claire (age 6)

"This is Jesus' heart. Even though he is hurt, he loves us so much; it's like a fire. But it's not scary, it doesn't burn us, it has life inside of it."



Contemplating the Paschal Candle and the Liturgy of Light

Mystery of Baptism



Five-year-old Pedro considered all of the gifts we receive at Baptism. At the waters of Baptism he stopped and asked, "Why does the priest use a shell for pouring the water?" I didn't really have an answer for him except to say that not all priests use a shell. He thought for a moment before saying, "Maybe John the Baptist used a shell when he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River because he probably picked it up from the river and that is probably why we continue to use a shell."

Therese Wright
Catechist, Guelph, ON

When we surrender our lives to the will of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He will take us places we never knew we could go and reveal more and more of His Sacred Heart that is perpetually enflamed with love for each of His sheep. My very minimal and yet necessary exposure to The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has been such an essential part of my faith journey.

As a woman that appreciates all the smells and bells of traditional Catholicism, the presentations given during level 1 training, in particular on the Eucharistic Gestures and the Paschal Mystery truly made a new connection between having an awe and reverence for the Eucharist and entering into a deeper union with Christ.

Many years ago I was prompted to start the personal devotion of veiling when I am in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I recognized how we veil that which is sacred and life giving. We cover the tabernacle that shelters the Bread of Life. We cover the chalice that will soon witness the transformation of the wine into the Precious Blood and the altar that facilitates the kiss of heaven and earth in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I veil as a woman because it helps me enter into the reality that I am becoming one with Him as I give myself fully in adoration towards the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus.

During the presentation of the Last Supper, I was struck by the significance of blood. After Paula Rush read Mark's Gospel account, she asked a very simple yet thought provoking question, "Can you live without blood?" No, our blood runs through every vein in our body and is essential to life. "Jesus said to them, "Very truly I

tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." - John 6:53. The Eucharist is so essential to our spiritual health and union with God. God doesn't need us but we need Him. He gives Himself fully with every fibre of His divine and earthly self so we can share in His Divinity.

There is something so magnificent to God's intelligent design in knowing we are material beings. Through engaging the senses with the tangible elements of wine and water that He transfigures into His Blood, we participate as co-creators in this incredible gift.

During the presentation of the chalice,

I was totally dumbfounded when I learned that the drop of water represents us, His sheep. All of the wine is poured into the chalice and only a drop of water. A drop is all God needs. I love the 'both/and' aspect to our Catholic faith. The wine and water from the cruets can represent the His humanity and divinity by the blood and water that poured out of His side when pierced with the lance AND it can capture this union with God as He gives everything to us and we give everything to Him in return because it is truly right and just.

Andrea Szejber

Level 1 participant, Kitchener, ON

Mystery of the Eucharist



Noah (age 6)

"The blood that Jesus shed when the soldier pierced his side is His blood we receive at Mass."

WITH GRATITUDE

June 4th, 2023

Feast of the Holy Trinity



Dear CGSAC Members and Friends,

When CGS catechists present the Parable of the Good Shepherd to the children, we sometimes ask them to ponder the following question: I wonder who loves more, the Good Shepherd, or the sheep?

This third issue of “Fruit of the Vine” seems to invite its readers to consider a different question: I wonder who experiences the fruits of CGS more, the child who receives it, or the adult (catechist, parent, etc.) who has been blessed by some connection to this work.

The purpose of CGS is to meet the deepest need of the child—the need for God. Ironically, it is the adults of our community who are the most dramatically changed by CGS. When we attempt to share the love of God with children, it returns to us mysteriously rarefied.

Today, the Church celebrates the great mystery that God is a community of love. His plan for the Parousia is to draw us into this community—this wonderful sharing of love between the Father and the Son.

In the fullness of time, when we are at last one with the Holy Trinity, we will experience love in its essential purity—this purity of which we are

now, through the children, privileged to receive the merest glimpse.

At Parousia, we will love just as the Good Shepherd loves. At Parousia, we will enjoy the Fruits of the Spirit as fully as do the little children, for becoming like them is an essential condition for our participation in it.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the CGSAC Communications Committee—Paula Rush, Annette Bohncke, and Heather Skublics Lampman—for their willingness to serve on the committee and contribute to this beautiful publication. Thank you, Paula, for the many hours you have spent artfully combining the diverse “fruits” we received into a beautiful literary and graphic “feast.”

We hope you have found Issue #3 both delectable and nourishing!

Monica Perry

CGSAC Director of Communications

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Catechesis of
the Good Shepherd
Association of Canada

Our Mission:

To assist the involvement of adults and children in a common religious experience in which religious values of childhood, especially those of contemplation and enjoyment of God, predominate.

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