

OVERVIEW OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION/CURRICULUM

"What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand."

Level I Atrium Spiritual Formation

- **Faith Formation:** Develop a genuine personal relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, through parables and meditations.
- **Prayer:** Develop a personal prayer life, which includes understanding of a sacred space, responding to the Word of God, and caring for a prayer table.
- **Life in the Church/Sacraments:**
 - Learn the liturgical cycle and colors of the church year
 - Learn the names and purposes of articles of the Mass
 - Learn and reflect on the liturgical gestures of the Mass
 - Learn and reflect on the sacramental signs and gestures of Baptism
- **Kingdom of God:** Read and reflect upon parables of the Bible, including: The Mustard Seed, The Precious Pearl, The Leaven, The Hidden Treasure, and The Wheat Seed.
- **Good Shepherd:** Encounter Jesus as the Good Shepherd who knows, loves, and protects me through work with the Good Shepherd materials.
- **Life of Christ:**
 - Recognize prominent locations in the land of Israel at the time of Jesus
 - Read and reflect upon selected Old Testament prophecies
 - Reflect on the Infancy Narratives: The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Adoration of the Shepherds, The Adoration of the Magi, and The Presentation of Jesus
 - Work with the Paschal Mysteries: The Last Supper, The City of Jerusalem (Passion/Resurrection account), The Empty Tomb, and Pentecost
- **Celebrations:** Participate in celebrations of Jesus' Birth, The Last Supper, The Liturgy of Light (Easter celebration), and Pentecost.

Level II Atrium Spiritual Formation

- **Prayer:** Develop both an individual relationship with the Good Shepherd and a communal prayer life with the invitation to organize and lead group prayer.
- **Eucharist:** Develop a deeper understanding of the Mass through the following:
 - Revisit the Last Supper, extending to an understanding of the origin of the Eucharist and how it has come down to us today
 - More detailed exploration of the articles of the Mass and their uses
 - More detailed exploration of the liturgical gestures of the Mass
 - Recognition as Mass as a prayer composed of many prayers through a synthesis of previous work with the Mass

- **Baptism:** Learn the sacramental signs and gestures and the important prayers and liturgical moments in the Rite of Baptism.
- **Sacred Scripture:** Explore the Bible and learn the books that comprise it, the history of the Bible, and how to use the Bible.
- **History of the Kingdom of God:** Learn about the History of the Kingdom of God and the three major moments of Creation, Redemption, and Parousia.
- **Life of Christ:**
 - Geography: Recognize the cities, regions, waterways, and geographical features of the land of Israel at the time of Jesus. Explore scripture citations around these locations
 - Read and reflect upon selected Old Testament messianic prophecies
 - Continued work with the Infancy Narratives, including the exploration of prominent themes common in these texts. Explore the Flight into Egypt.
 - Read and reflect upon the scripture passages associated with the Paschal Narratives.
- **Parables:**
 - Read and reflect upon selected parables of Jesus: The Good Shepherd and the Wolf and the Hireling, The Good Samaritan, The Ten Bridesmaids, The Insistent Friend, The Pharisee and the Publican, and The Sower.
 - Develop further appreciation of the Kingdom Parables explored in Level I.
- **Moral Formation:** Explore selected Gospel maxims and their relationship to our lives and the teachings of Christ.
- **Celebrations:** Participate in the Last Supper, Christmas/Epiphany, the Liturgy of Light (Easter), and Pentecost celebrations.

Sacramental Preparation (INDEPENDENT FROM ATRIUM SESSIONS!): Participate in:

- First Communion Preparation (typically in 2nd grade)
- First Reconciliation Preparation (typically in 4th grade)

Level III Atrium Spiritual Formation

- **Prayer:** Develop both an individual relationship with the Good Shepherd and a communal prayer life with the invitation to organize and lead group prayer.
- **The Plan of God:** Use a variety of materials to explore and recognize history as God's plan.
 - Study the rise, decline, and inheritance of great civilizations in light of the Plan of God
 - Study the presence of good and evil in light of the Plan of God
 - Reflect on one's own 'blank page' and our own participation in the Plan of God.
- **Kingdom of God:** Continue and deepen Level II studies of the History of the Kingdom of God and its three major moments of Creation, Redemption, and Parousia.
- **History of Israel:** Learn the history of Israel as God's chosen people.
- **Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)/Typology Studies:** Study and reflect on selected OT events in light of the Plan of God. Typology includes studying the event

itself and then reflecting on similarities throughout time in Redemption (Christ') and Parousia (Second Coming of Christ). Typology studies include:

- Creation
- Original Sin
- The Flood
- Abraham
- Moses and the Gift of the Law
- **Prophets:** Study and reflect on the Old Testament prophets, including their messianic preaching, their moral preaching, their vocation, and their struggles.
- **Eucharist/The Mass:** Explore a variety of materials to deepen one's understanding and love of the Eucharist and the Mass. Studies include:
 - The structure of the Mass
 - The prayers and liturgical gestures of the Mass
 - The Mass as memorial
 - The historical roots of the Mass
- **Sacraments:** Explore and ponder the rites, prayers, liturgical gestures, and liturgical articles of:
 - Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - Reconciliation
 - Anointing of the Sick
- **Life of Christ:**
 - **Infancy and Paschal Narratives:** Continue personal study and meditation on the infancy narratives and the paschal mystery narratives (begun in Levels I and II)
 - **Miracles:** Explore selected miracles of Christ in light of the history of the Kingdom of God: Christ's fulfillment of the prophecies; Christ's continuing the work of the miracle in our lives today through the Bible and Sacraments; Christ's miracles as 'gestures' to reveal the nature of the Parousia.
- **Moral Formation:**
 - **Parables:**
 - Continued work with Level I kingdom parables and Level II moral parables (The Good Shepherd and the Wolf and the Hireling, The Good Samaritan, The Ten Bridesmaids, The Insistent Friend, The Pharisee and the Publican, and The Sower)
 - Reflect upon new moral parables and apply their messages to one's personal moral formation: The Wedding Feast, The Talents, The Workers in the Vineyard, and The Debtors.
 - **Maxims:** Ponder the maxims of the Bible in light of God's plan for harmony among people and order in the universe.
 - **Virtues:** Study the four cardinal virtues and associated 'sister' virtues; relate these to behaviors expressed in Biblical events, lives of saints, and current events.
- **Celebrations:** Continue to participate in and assume leadership roles in major celebrations of the liturgical year, including Christmas/Epiphany, Last Supper/Passover celebration, Liturgy of Light (Easter), and Pentecost celebrations.