

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD – LEVEL III – 2010-11

Summary of Presentations for March 2011

CREATION I and II

Doctrinal Content: God creates everything from nothing and creates humankind through His Word and from His love. Humankind is created in the image and likeness of God.

Direct Aims: To enable the children to discover how the work of God's creation began and to enable them to discover that humanity is created in God's image and likeness and is given responsibility and dominion over the earth.

The two accounts of Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25) are read. Reflection questions, where did we come from, where are we going, how did the world come to be, who made it and why, what is the world really like, are done. The children discuss the differences between the two readings. The children can work with the materials, copy some of the Scripture text, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Draw your own timeline with the three great moments of Salvation History - Creation, Redemption, and Parousia. Draw or write in the historical events that occurred from Creation to Redemption. Attend Stations of the Cross on Friday Night at 7:00 p.m.

PENTECOST PARALITURGY

Doctrinal Content: The coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been sent by Jesus to each of us, bearing gifts which empower us to know and love God and one another.

Direct Aim: To know and deepen the realization of and celebration into the Mystery of Pentecost.

The children begin by hearing about Pentecost, what it is, when it happened, and why it happened. A procession is done from the Presentation Area to the Prayer Corner, the liturgical colors are changed to red, and the Paschal candle is lit. The Scripture, Acts 2:1-21, is read telling how the Holy Spirit sent tongues of fire to help the Apostles know Jesus. The children are then introduced to the seven gifts given by the Holy Spirit, WISDOM so our inner self may know God's goodness with great joy, UNDERSTANDING to shed light on us to know more about God, FEAR OF THE LORD to place ourselves in the right perspective with God, COUNSEL so we know what should be done and how to do it, PIETY so we can love God and each other, KNOWLEDGE so we know God more and more each day, and FORTITUDE so we are strong in God. As each gift is introduced, a vigil light is lit. After all the vigil lights are lit, each child chooses which gift he/she would like to receive and lights their own candle off that vigil light. Reflection is done on Pentecost being a joyous celebration and the gifts given. The children can work with the materials, meditate in the Prayer Corner, copy the gift cards, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Read the Scripture together as a family and talk about the gift each of you would choose and why. Decorate a half sheet of paper, write the gift you choose, and display it to reflect upon your gift over the next couple of weeks. Light a vigil candle in the annex of the church.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS/LAST CLASS/RECONCILIATION

Doctrinal Content: Our work is to recognize, experience, and use God's gifts to us in ways which will bring us into the fullness of God's joy. It is pleasing to God when we use his gifts wisely and well to further his kingdom. The gifts that we are given by God multiply with our stewardship and participation in the Plan of God. As our relationship with God, creation, and humankind grows, our response also grows deeper, greater, and richer.

Direct Aim: To explore the giftedness of humankind, our roles in the growth of the Kingdom, and God's pleasure when we take part in this growth through wise use of our gifts.

The difference between the denarius (equal to one day's wage for a laborer) and the talent (a monetary unit measured in weight which equaled more than 15 years' wages) is discussed. The parable is read, Matthew 25:14-30. There is meditation on who the master might be, what the talents might be, what it means when the master gives to the servants who invest wisely and made more of what they had been given, could this have been a gift of love and what can we do with such a gift, why the third servant wanted to protect his lone talent, and how the parable reminds us of the Plan of God. The children can work with the materials, copy the Scripture passage, or do an individual art response.

At Home: Talk about the gifts your family has to offer and share in the Plan of God.