

# CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD-LEVEL III 2011-12

## Summary of Presentations for November 2011

### STRUCTURE OF THE MASS

**Doctrinal Content:** The mass is the most important moment in the Christian's life when we gather to live God's Word in a particular way: by listening to God's word and by sharing a meal, the Eucharist. Mass is one great prayer made of many prayers, some of which change and some of which remain the same. The Eucharistic Prayer is the central moment of the mass when we live the proclamation "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." Mass is communal. The Good Shepherd calls us to communion with God and with one another through the Bread and Wine which are transformed in the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ.

**Direct Aim:** To synthesize previous lessons on the mass by ordering the prayers and gestures, showing the children there are more prayers. To show the structure of the mass in four component parts. To help the children to discover that Mass is one great prayer made of many prayers.

**Presentation:** Colored tiles are used to represent every prayer in the one great prayer. The children put them in proper order from beginning to end.

**At Home:** Compare and contrast how the family dinner table is like the altar at Church – especially when set with the good china, fancy tablecloth and candles. Discuss how celebrating as a family at home is just as important as the family at Church celebrating around the altar.

### THE ROMAN MISSAL THIRD ADDITION

**Doctrinal Content:** At times in the history of the Church the words to some prayers change in a Mass that we – the global church –celebrate as Jesus called us to during the Last Supper.

**Direct Aim:** To review the specific changes used during the prayers in the celebration of the Mass. Reiterate that the Mass is not changing, only some of the words used during the Mass are changing – due to new knowledge regarding translation/language/meaning.

**Presentation:** Over the course of two weeks each section of the Mass that has a change will be reviewed and discussed including the Biblical origins of the prayers used. The Worship Aid that will be found in the pews at St. Mary's beginning with Father Curt's teaching Masses on November 12, 2011 will also be used.

### GREEN COLORED BASE MATERIAL:

**Doctrinal Content:** Mass is one great prayer made up of many prayers, some of which change and some of which remain the same. In the Liturgy of the Word (green colored base), God is present in his Word. The people gather to listen and to respond. The other colored bases include: Yellow/Preparation of the Gifts, Orange/Eucharistic Prayer and Gray/Communion.

**Direct Aims:** To help the children understand the structure and order of the Mass, to lift up particular prayers that define in a special way our liturgical experience, and to isolate the changeable parts of the Mass.

The Structure of the Mass chart is shown again, and a brief discussion is done about the four parts. A long chart is then laid out and cards are placed for each prayer done during the Liturgy of the Word segment. The prayers are each identified and symbols representing gestures done are placed. The prayers and gestures are reflected upon. The children can work with the materials, copy the prayer cards, or do an individual drawing. At the end of Level III, they would have a completed Missal if they chose to write all the prayers from the four colored bases over the three-year period. This is bound and decorated using Calligraphy and Illumination as embellishment.

**At Home:** If your child has written some of the prayers, bring them to church and look to see when they are done during Mass. Talk about your child's favorite part of the Mass and why it is their favorite part.

**Please Note:** Father Curt will bless the "at home Rosary-making project" on November 16. Christmas Drama sign up begins November 9. No class on November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving! No class November 30 – Families Moving Forward.