

# It's a CGS Summer

## This summer at Eucharist

In May we will hear the parable of the Good Shepherd proclaimed at Sunday liturgy. This Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season is lovingly referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday". While this parable will be a familiar one for your child, it is important to note that the entire parable is offered to the child progressively over the course of three years time. The youngest child receives just the following passages: John 10: 3(b) - 5, 10(b) - 11, 14 - 16.

"The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers. I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd."



**Read the parable of the Good Shepherd with your child.** This can become your evening prayer, reading a few verse each night. Your child may offer his or her own observation about the parable. You may wonder together: When do we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

**Make your own Prayer Card.** Choose a verse or even one word from the parable that your child would like to write on a prayer card. The card may be displayed on your family prayer table or a prayer space in your child's room.

- [How to make a Prayer Cards – a guide for Parents](#)
- [How to set up a Home Prayer Table](#)

**Illustrate the parable.** Remember we want to focus on the PROCESS of creating art, rather than the PRODUCT itself. This means that we want our children to explore and experiment with different types of paper and mediums, rather than being concerned that the finished product looks a certain way. Consider establishing an ART SHELF for your children this summer. To begin, buy or gather colored pencils, different colored paper, tracing paper, etc.

- [How to set up an Art Shelf at Home](#)

**A Word About Parables:** *When we are in the Atrium with the children, we announce the parable, meditate with the children and wonder with them about the words of Jesus. We allow the child to work with the materials as part of their own meditation, as well as time for silence, prayer or song. The most difficult thing for us to do as adults is to simply stop and be still. We do not want to put ourselves between the Word of God and the child. In parables, we let the scripture do the teaching. We do not tell the children how to interpret parables or offer definitions of the parable, as no one formula or definition speaks to everyone at the same time.*

**Would you like to set up an Altar Area in your home?**  
Mass Articles are available from [Shepherd's Closet](#).

