



— AP photo/George W. Bush Presidential Center  
**Laura Bush dumps a bucket of ice water over former President George W. Bush.**

## Numbing challenge warms heart

No matter how cynical you are, if you go to Disney World, the place gets you to genuinely smile. Even if you cringe at “It’s a Small World” and would rather get a root canal than ride a spinning tea cup, the magic of the place will find you.

For example, once in a long line with no sign of an end for a ride that wasn’t even on our list of favorites, a Disney employee came up to us and said we were getting a magical moment. No argument. Suddenly, much like the elusive Big Foot, something we’d only heard about in legend, was real. We were ushered to the front of the line, got free portraits and were seated in the front car of said ride. Magic.

Watching my young children accidentally wander into an alcove where Aladdin was hanging out and then have Aladdin be awesome to them turned a strange trip through Epcot’s Morocco into something we’ll never forget.

If that doesn’t get you, an employee will go out of the way to be friendly or helpful, like knowing exactly what drink I’d like at the pool bar and then doubling it after a day of theme parking it.

This has happened with the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. I want to hate it. Every other post in my news feed on Facebook is of a person dumping water on their heads. Every time I see a vertical video, I want to personally explain that you need turn your phone horizontally. That way you won’t get black bars on the side! It is making me insane.

I want to say, yeah? Where’s your money? Do you think donating yourself in ice water instead of donating is a valid way to help a cause?

I want to say, I see you; this is just an excuse for you to wear a bathing suit on Facebook. I’m talking to you, Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos.

But just like a trip to the Magic Kingdom, the Ice Bucket Challenge has wormed its way into my cold black heart. Why? Because \$8.6 million was raised in a single day. Because more than \$15 million has been raised in less than a month.

In the end, watching people joyously use social media to spread a happy and supportive message is awesome.

Since I’m greedy for more money for charities and causes, I’m wondering if other charities can capitalize on this idea? People are totally willing to videotape themselves doing silly things and then share it on social media if it will help a cause right?

To raise money for diabetes research, let’s pour chocolate syrup on our heads. To raise awareness about spaying and neutering, let your pet kittens crawl on your head.

Yeah, I have some work to do on this, but bravo to you Ice Bucket Challenge dumpers and donors. You made a difference and yeah, you got me. Your freezing water has melted my heart.



**Rebecca Regnier**



— Photo courtesy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church  
**Two youngsters test some of the Montessori-type materials that are used at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program in Temperance. The program is expanding in other Monroe County Catholic churches this year.**

## Catholic churches expand children’s faith program

BY SUZANNE WISLER  
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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is expanding.

The Montessori-based youth faith program will have a greater presence at Monroe County Catholic churches this fall when a new classroom — or atrium — opens at St. Michael Catholic Church.

The program already is offered at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Temperance and at Sts. Mary and John in Monroe.

CGS started in Rome in 1954 and came to North America in 1975. Sister Nancy Ayotte, IHM, brought it to Monroe in 2006 and has worked to expand it ever since. Mount Carmel has had CGS for at least seven years.

CGS is a different way to approach faith education.

Offered in three levels, it educates children 3 to 12. It uses no textbooks and children aren’t asked to memorize anything. Instead, it makes use of Scripture and handmade natural materials.

Its premise is that God and children already are in a relationship. Simple nurturing and some language is all that is needed to further this union.

Adult leaders — or catechists — say CGS is an effective way to teach the faith.

“It’s a different way, a different model of teaching religious education. It’s done so beautifully in this program. It’s very effective,” said Ellen Licavoli, director of religious education at Mount Carmel. “We’re very happy to have it here in our parish. Children love it. (Parents) have children go both years.”

Sister Nancy, who leads CGS at the three Monroe churches, agrees.

“The children who experienced atrium have a clearer and more reverent appreciation of the Mass and the liturgical seasons. Their love of God’s word in the Bible is deepened,” she added.

In all three levels, children gather in atriums, dedicated and prayerful learning spaces where furnishings are child-sized and the Bible is given a central place.

Although they are for children, there’s nothing juvenile about atriums. Crosses and pictures of the Holy Land adorn the walls. Materials don’t look like toys and the program isn’t daycare.

Children learn about Jesus the Good Shepherd, Old Testament prophecies, Jesus’ parables (teachings), baptism and Holy Land geography.

Materials typically are made by the catechists themselves

### CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Most programs run September through May. They are at:

- St. Michael Catholic Church, Level 1 (ages 3-5)
- St. John Catholic Church, Level 2 (grades two through three).
- St. Mary Catholic Church, Level 1 (ages 3-5), Sunday mornings; Level 2 (grades one through three), Sunday mornings and Monday nights.

■ Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Level 1 (ages 4-5) Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. Ten spots are available each day. “Classes fill up very quickly,” said Ellen Licavoli, director of religious education.

■ After a two-year hiatus, Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools will have CGS in their school curriculum.

**To find out more** about the Monroe Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, including catechist training, contact Sister Nancy Ayotte, IHM, at 240-8234 or [nayotte@ihmsisters.org](mailto:nayotte@ihmsisters.org).

For the Mount Carmel program, contact Ms. Licavoli at 847-2805 or [dre@mountcarmeltemperance.org](mailto:dre@mountcarmeltemperance.org).

CGS also will be represented in a ministry fair Saturday and Sunday at St. Mary Catholic Church. Housed in a tent on church grounds, the fair will showcase many church ministries, including CGS, and offer music and food.

It will be open after all weekend Masses: 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday. Saturday is the church’s annual outdoor Mass in the Park.

Those interested can see the new atrium at St. Michael during Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools’ open house Sunday.

and are constructed of natural items, such as wood, clay, even glass. Nothing is plastic.

Some materials replicate what children see in church, such as the altar, tabernacle and baptismal font. Others are small scenes or dioramas that help bring Scripture to life. Homes and temples, complete with tiny furnishings, for example, help children envision biblical scenes. People are fashioned from clay and other materials and wear clothes of various fabrics and textures.

During lessons, catechists read Scripture, show materials and offer unanswered “wonder questions,” which allow children to come up with their own interpretations.

For the Annunciation (Gabriel’s announcement to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus), for example, the catechist reads from the Bible while moving clay figures around the wooden box that represents Mary’s home.

When Gabriel said the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary, the catechist affixes a small wooden flame above Mary’s head.

“I wonder how Mary felt that day?” and “Why was Mary chosen to be Jesus’ mother?” might be posed to children.

Catechists say children gain much knowledge from the Scriptures.

“It’s very much scriptural. It’s Jesus in the Gospel. You can’t get closer to the reality of Jesus than what he does in the Gospel,” said Ms. Licavoli.

“Children are nurtured in a

deep spirituality and love of Jesus,” added Sister Nancy. “They have reverence and understanding of the liturgy. They are familiar with the Scripture texts and they begin to grow in understanding of their place in the world.”

After a presentation, children can work with the newly introduced material or its extended work, such as tracing, a storybook or free drawing. Or they may choose another material from the atrium.

“(In the atrium there) are lots of little corners and sections and (children) work on whatever the lesson is for that day,” said Ms. Licavoli. “(Children) work together in small groups or individually. They love it.”

Level 1 also has “practical life,” works in which small children learn life and fine motor skills, such as watering plants and picking up small objects and polishing brass.

In Levels 2 and 3 for older children, religious-based materials build on what was learned in Level 1, focusing on people’s relationship with God.

Catechists must complete at least 90 hours of training and observation for each level.

“There are five trained catechists from St. Mary and four currently in training from St. Mary. Every (atrium) in Archdiocese of Detroit has at least three or even four trained catechists,” said Sister Nancy, a religious educator since 1965.

*To learn more about CGS, visit [www.csusa.org](http://www.csusa.org)*

## 1,300 lose power for hours

BY DEAN COUSINO  
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A blown transformer across from Fountain View of Monroe on N. Monroe St. caused more than 1,300 DTE Energy customers to lose power for several hours Wednesday afternoon.

The Mall of Monroe and other businesses along N. Monroe St. also had their service interrupted.

The traffic lights at N. Monroe and Stewart Rds. and N. Monroe and Mall Rds. were affected, and drivers were treating the intersections as four-way stops.

Frenchtown Township firefighters were called about 3:10 p.m. Wednesday to the transformer on the east side of N. Monroe in the 1700 block of N. Monroe to make sure no one got close to the damage, Chief Mark Nicholai said.

They stayed on the scene while DTE crews repaired the outage.

“They are making sure everything is secure and no one touches it and gets electrocuted,” Chief Nicholai said Tuesday.

A construction crew working on rebuilding N. Monroe St. was believed responsible for the outage.

“The contractor came in contact with an overhead line,” the chief said.

Fountain View used a backup power generator to keep lights on in the building.

A power outage from Tuesday’s storm caused the Walmart store at 2150 N. Telegraph Rd. to close early Wednesday. Electricity in the store was restored and the store reopened about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Frenchtown firefighters were called to stand by another transformer that blew near Applebee’s at Mall Rd. and N. Telegraph about 8 a.m. Wednesday.

## Kitchen fire damages apartment

FRENCHTOWN TOWNSHIP — A cooking fire caused minor heat and smoke damage to an apartment Wednesday night.

The Frenchtown Township Fire Department responded to the call in the 1100 block of N. Macomb St. at 6 p.m., said Lt. David McFadden.

The fire damaged a pan and pot holder and caused heat and smoke damage to an area of the kitchen, Lt. McFadden said.

The fire was extinguished by one of the tenants before the department arrived and no injuries were reported, he said.

The Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross, was called to the scene.

## Small tornado damages buildings

LENOX TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — The National Weather Service says a small tornado briefly touched down in southeastern Michigan, causing some property damage but no injuries.

Meteorologist Bryan Tilley said the tornado with winds reaching 75 mph touched down about 3 p.m. Wednesday in Macomb County’s Lenox Township.

Township fire department Assistant Chief Martin Hartway said the winds damaged four homes and three other buildings, including barns.

He said no one was hurt.