

## What is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

CGS is a Montessori-based Catholic faith formation program where children can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in Scripture and Liturgy.

### God and the Child

CGS is based on the belief that God and the child are already in relationship. Our work as adults is to provide a place for the child and God to come together and grow.

### The Atrium and Materials

The atrium is a specially prepared room where children can come to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The atrium is prepared with materials that children work with as a way of meditating upon the essentials of our faith found in Scripture and in Liturgy. Examples of materials found in the atrium include small clay figures of Jesus and the disciples used to meditate on the Last Supper; detailed interactive maps of the Land of Israel and the City of Jerusalem to help situate Jesus as a real person in time; Jerusalem Mustard Seeds and beautiful pearls to help ponder the Parables of the Kingdom of God; and a small Baptismal font and Paschal candle used to explore the significance of Baptism.

### Formation Leader

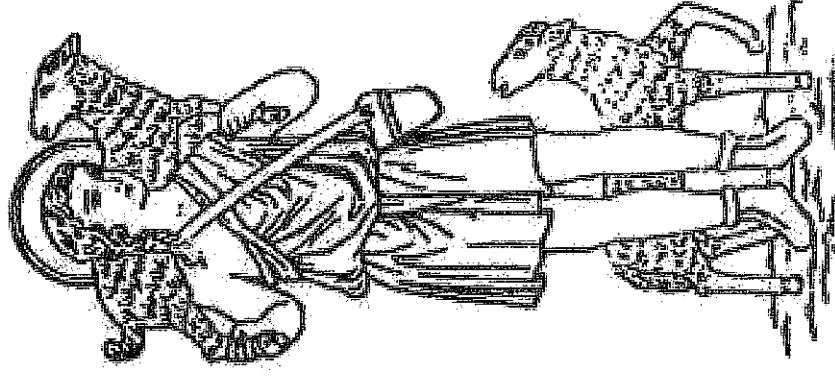
Karen Sisson is nationally certified as a CGS Level I Formation Leader and grateful for the "Road to Holy Joy" that defined her 25 years of actively educating children: she is a former director of religious education for PreK-6, including sacramental preparation and RCIA for children; in her home parish, she implemented CGS for both the parish and school, and worked as a program director and catechist for CGS for more than 11 years for all Levels I-III and continues presently in Level I as well as to assist with the increasing demand for training future CGS catechists. Her undergraduate degree is in elementary education, and she loves her calling to be an advocate for the growth of the CGS program throughout the region.

[ksissoncgs@gmail.com](mailto:ksissoncgs@gmail.com)

**"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration, and wonder."**

**~Maria Montessori**

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



## Level I, Part I Formation Course

**For catechists working  
with children ages 3-6**

**Time:**

9:00 am—4:30pm

**Level I, Part I Dates:**

2024 - June 5-7 and 10-12

**Level I, Part II Dates:**

2025- June 4-6 and 9-11

**Location:**Immaculate Conception  
Church309 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SEWatertown, South Dakota  
57201**Tuition:**

Level I, Part 1: \$235.00

Level I, Part 2: \$200.00

Make checks payable to:

Immaculate Conception Church

**Send registration to:**

Donna Speidel

c/o Immaculate Conception

Catholic Church

309 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE

Watertown, SD 57201

**Course Description**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation for children, beginning at the age of three. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, "hands-on" space for children called an atrium, in which both the children and their catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Catholic faith as revealed in the Scriptures and the Liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi sixty years ago, the Catechesis continues to spread worldwide. This course will ground the participant in the theory and praxis of CGS while also concretely preparing him/her to develop and facilitate an atrium for 3-6 year old children.

**Course Objectives**

- To explore with participants the general developmental characteristics and religious characteristics of the 3-6 year old child.
- To facilitate meditation on the biblical and liturgical themes of CGS.
- To offer guidelines and assistance to catechists for setting up an atrium for 3-6 year olds, preparing an album, and making materials.
- To deepen participants' ability to observe and learn from children while also exploring avenues for deepening parental and congregational ability to observe and learn from children.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level I, Part I****(June 5-7 and 10-12, 2024)****Church of the Immaculate****Conception****Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Use: (Are you taking this training in order to help minister at your home parish / school / for personal formation / etc.)

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