

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



## Level 1 Formation Course

for catechists working with children ages 3-6

**Course Description** The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program 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 fifty 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 congregation ability to observe and learn from children.

Training hosted by  
**St. Lambert  
& Holy Spirit  
Catholic Church.**

For questions or more  
information contact

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**To Register**  
[Click here](#)

or



**Class Time:** 9:00 am-4:30pm

**Dates:** Level I, Part 1 **June 19, 20, 21 & June 24, 25, 26 2024**  
Level I, Part 2 **June 18, 19, 20 & June 23, 24, 25 2025**

## Training Location Level 1, Part 1:

St. Lambert 1000 S Bahnson Ave Sioux Falls SD

## Registration Fee:

Level I, Part 1: \$235 (Includes Certification Fee)

Level I, Part 2: \$200

Registration is not complete until Part 1 fee is submitted.

Pay online or make checks payable to and send to

Holy Spirit Church 3601 E Dudley Lane Sioux Falls SD 57103

## 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 has been educating children for the past 25 years. Karen directed a large tri-parish religious education program for Prek-6, introducing a vibrant CGS program to the parishes and affiliated school. She has worked as a program director and catechist for CGS for more than 12 years, is a certified Level I Formation Leader advocates for the CGS program throughout the United States and is grateful for this “Road to Holy Joy” with the children. [ksissoncgs@gmail.com](mailto:ksissoncgs@gmail.com)

### Course Materials

The National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers what is referred to as **Bundle for Level 1 Courses** which includes the three key texts: *Religious Potential of the Child*, *the Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, and *Listening to God with Children* for one discounted price.

Materials are recommended but optional.

**“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**