

Time:

9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Refreshments provided.

Level I, Part A Dates:

June 5th-7th, June 12th-14th
(Friday-Sunday, Friday-Sunday)

Level I, Part B Dates:

September 19-20, 2026
October 10-11, 2026
November 21-22, 2026
(Saturday-Sunday)

Location:

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
410 Broadway Ave
Lakefield, MN 56150
701-367-8243

Tuition:

Level I, Part A: \$250

Level I, Part B: \$200
(separate registration)

Send registration info and payment to:

Attn: Michelle Ignaszewski
PO Box 517
Lakefield, MN 56150

Or

stjfaithformation@hotmail.com

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 world-wide. 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 1a

(June 5th-7th, 12th-14th)

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church

Registration Form

(Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Catholic Church)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Home Parish/City: _____

Denomination: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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

Andrea Zachman is a nationally recognized Level One Formation Leader of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She graduated from Lake Region State College in 2001 and worked in law enforcement for 15 years. Andrea received her bachelor's degree in psychology from UND in 2012.

She has worked with children in CGS since 2017 at St Michael Catholic Church. She is the CGS Coordinator there and leads atrium sessions for them.

Andrea is a convert to the faith since 2007.

She has been married for 18 years to her husband Nathan, and they have four children together. She is a homeschooling mother to her children and lives on her hobby farm in Monticello.

She is currently working to complete her MA from Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She is the author of *The Sacred That Surrounds Us*, published by Ascension Press.

"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 1, Part A Formation Course

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