

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level I, part B

St. Vincent de Paul School
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Denomination: _____

E-mail: _____

When did you receive L1a Formation?

Location of L1a Formation: _____

L1a Formation Leader: _____

Are you taking this formation course in order to help minister in your home, parish, school or for personal formation?

Auditors

Location and Year of L1b Formation:

L1b Formation Leader:

Time:

9:00am - 4:30pm

Dates:

Part B: July 31 - Aug. 2,
Aug. 7 - 9, 2025

*All 6 days make up the Level I, Part B.

Location:

St. Vincent de Paul School
831 12th Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
54494

Tuition:

\$200 for Level I, part B

Send registration information to:

Peg Klinkhammer
5451 Grant Road
Vesper, WI 54489

Please write checks payable to:

Assumption Catholic Schools
Memo: CGS L1b

Questions? Contact the Hosting Site Coordinator:

Peg Klinkhammer
mklinkhammer@assumptioncatholicschools.org

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

Jenny Johns is a nationally recognized Level I CGS Formation Leader and a certified catechist in all three levels. She has been listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd alongside children in the atrium since 2016, has implemented all three levels of CGS at St. John Paul II Classical School in Green Bay, WI, and is the lead catechist for over one hundred children ages 3-12 in the school's atrium. She has been involved in the sacramental preparation of children for over a decade in both school and parish settings. She is a Consecrated Virgin in the Diocese of Green Bay, WI with an undergraduate degree in Speech Communications.

jennyjohns.cgs@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 B Formation Course

For catechists working
with children ages 3-6