

**Time:**

9:00 am—5:00 pm

**Level II, Part A Dates:**

September 26, 2026

October 31, 2026

January 9, 2026

February 6, 2027

March 13, 2027

May 8, 2027

**Location:**

Church of St. Max

217 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N

Delano, MN 55328

**Tuition:**

Level II, Part A: \$235

(includes \$35 fee for CGSUSA)

**Level II, Part B Dates:**

9/25, 10/30, 12/4, 1/29, 2/19, 4/1 (27-28)

(Level I, Part B: \$200)

**Send registration information to:**

Andrew Zeisel

Church of St. Max

217 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N

Delano, MN 55328

Or

andrew@stmaxkolbechurch.org

**Course Description**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi in the 1950s, the Catechesis continues to spread worldwide. This second cycle of the Catechesis is designed to meet the developmental needs of the 6–9-year-old child. The fundamentals of our faith, presented in Level I, are built upon and deepened. New themes are introduced at this level corresponding to the child's heightened sense of morality and developing ability to think abstractly. Part B of this course will give particular focus to the direct preparation of children receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

**Course Objectives**

- To explore the most vital religious needs and the general developmental characteristics of the 6–9-year-old child.
- To meditate on the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 6–9-year-old as provided by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi.
- To further the catechist's ability to observe and learn from the elementary age child.
- To offer guidance and assistance in preparing the atrium, making the catechist's album, and materials for the Level II atrium.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd****Level II, Part A****(2026-27 School Year)****Registration Form****(Please write checks payable to St. Max)**

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

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

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

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

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

Denomination/Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Level I formation leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Level I completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Use: (Are you taking this training in order 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

Carolyn Kohlhaas is a nationally recognized Formation Leader for CGS at all three levels of formation. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and in Religious Education from Franciscan University of Steubenville and her AMI Primary (3-6) and Elementary (6-12) Level Certifications from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. Carolyn has a Master of Education degree (Loyola College, Maryland) as well as a Master of Arts in Theology (St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity). She has worked with children in Atriums in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis since 2006 and with adults in formation courses across the US since 2009.

carolyn.kohlhaas@gmail.com  
www.wosatrium.weebly.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 II, Part A Formation Course

**For catechists working  
with children ages 6-9**