

Level I, Part A Dates:

July 8 - 10, 2026
July 15 - 17, 2026

Level I, Part B Dates:

TBD, 2027

Time:

8:30am - 4:30pm

Location:

St. Joseph's Sinsinawa
780 Co. Rd. Z
Hazel Green, WI 53811

Host:

St. Joseph, Sinsinawa: Molly Thielen
mollytranel12@gmail.com

Tuition:

Level I, Part A: \$185
(includes \$35 CGSUSA fee)

Level I, Part B: \$150

Online Registration:

www.madisondiocese.org/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd

Please write checks payable to:

St. Joseph's Church
780 Co. Rd. Z, Hazel Green, WI 53811
Memo: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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 I, Part A

July 8 - 10, 2026
July 15 - 17, 2026

Level I, Part B

TBD, 2027

Diocese of Madison
St. Joseph's Sinsinawa

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.)

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

Katie, her husband, and nine children live in rural Verona, WI. She has a master's degree in Montessori Education from UW-River Falls and a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and Psychology from UW-Madison. She has been active in Catholic education since college, teaching and serving in academic, cooperative, and homeschool settings. She began her CGS training in the summer of 2015 and is a certified catechist in all three levels. She is currently Head of School at Divine Mercy Academy, a Catholic Montessori School in Madison, WI. She also serves the Madison diocese, guiding and coordinating Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for parishes, schools, and home atria.

haun.kathryn@gmail.com
608-444-5673



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Formation Course Level I

for catechists working with children ages 3-6

“Let the little children come to me.”

Matthew 19:14