

## Course Description

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** is a practice of religious formation for children based on the educational method of Dr. Maria Montessori. CGS begins at the age of three and seeks to prepare a sacred, "hands-on" space for children called an atrium, in which both children and their catechist can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the Scriptures and the Liturgy.

Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi beginning almost seventy years ago, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd continues to spread worldwide and is used with adaptation in various Christian traditions.

This formation course is sponsored by the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGSUSA). Upon the participant's completion of the course and its requirements, he or she will receive Level I Catechist Certification.



Christ the King Catholic Church  
Attn: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
52473 State Road 933 North  
South Bend, IN 46637

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



## Level I Formation Course

for adults with an interest in the  
spiritual development of children  
ages three to six

**August 2023 - Fall 2024**

Hosted by  
**Christ the King Catholic School**  
52473 State Road 933 North  
South Bend, Indiana

## Course Objectives

- To explore with participants the general development and religious characteristics of the three- to six-year-old child
- To facilitate meditation on the biblical and liturgical themes that form the focus of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- To offer guidelines and assistance on preparing an atrium for young children, writing an album, and making materials
- To deepen the participants' ability to observe and learn from children, and to explore avenues for deepening the community's ability to do likewise

## Formation Leader

**Joanie Rymza** has practiced Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at Christ the King School in South Bend since 2005. She is recently retired after coordinating its dedicated team of volunteers in serving close to 200 children weekly in Level I and II atria for 18 years. She has also served six years as the lead catechist for both lower and upper elementary children at Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend, and was recognized as a formation leader by CGSUSA in 2012. Married to Guy for 31 years and mother of three adult children, Joanie holds both a Bachelor of Architecture degree and Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Notre Dame.

## Course Dates

*Part One in 2023 ~*

Aug 28/29/30, Sep 5/19/26, Oct 3/17/24,  
Nov 7/28 (+ Dec 5 potential make up date)

*Part Two in 2024 ~ Similar Dates TBA*

## Course Times and Format

The course will be in session from 8a - 3p on August dates (with a short break for lunch), and 9a - 1p on the remaining dates listed.

## Refreshments

Coffee, juice, healthy snacks, and simple refreshments will be provided each day.

## Register Now

Registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and are completed when the full-course tuition of \$575 is paid, which will include a one-year membership to CGSUSA for those who do not currently have one. Registrations must be completed by 4:30p on Friday, August 18, 2023, via snail mail or dropoff to the Christ the King Rectory. Incomplete registrations will be filled from the waiting list as soon as this deadline passes.

## Required Texts

- Cavalletti, Sofia. *The Religious Potential of the Child, Vol. 1, 3rd ed.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2020.
- Gobbi, Gianna. *Listening to God with Children: Montessori Principles Applied to the Catechesis of Children.* Loveland, OH: Treehaus Publications, 1998.
- Cavalletti, Sofia, et al. *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey, 2nd ed.* Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2014.

Cavalletti texts available at [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org)

## For More Information

Contact our Course Coordinator:  
Tessa Mammolenti  
[tmammolenti@sbctk.com](mailto:tmammolenti@sbctk.com)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church / School / Denomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Dietary/Other Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amt enclosed (\$100 non-refundable deposit to reserve seat): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance Due by 8/18/23 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation included to defray costs associated with providing formation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Thank you!*

Make checks payable to *Christ the King*, and return this form by **August 18, 2023** to:

Christ the King, Attn: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 52473 State Road 933 North, South Bend, IN 46637