

**Time:**

Saturday: 9:00 am - 4:30pm

**Level I, Part A Dates:**

October 18-20, 2024  
December 13-15, 2024

**Level I, Part B Dates:**

April 25-27, 2025  
May 2-4, 2025

**Location:**

St. Edward’s Catholic School  
210 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneota, MN 56264

**Tuition:**

Level I, Part A: \$235  
Level I, Part B: \$200

**Send registration information to:**

Caren Buysse  
210 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneota, MN 56264

**Or**

[cbuyssegoodteacherafc@gmail.com](mailto:cbuyssegoodteacherafc@gmail.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 in the 1950s, 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  
(October and December, 2024)**

**Registration Form**

**(Please write checks to  
St. Edward’s Catholic School)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 as 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

*"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 A Formation Course

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