

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Level I Formation Course for Adults

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 180 Loudon Road, Concord, NH

Part I: Sept 25-26 & Nov 20-21, 2021, Jan 29-30 & Mar 26-27, 2022
(May 21-22 snow make-up date); Part II: June 24-29, 2022

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a hands-on method of faith formation based on the Montessori method of learning. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd utilizes a prepared space for children called the “atrium” and trained catechists. The atrium is filled with child-sized furnishings and manipulative models representing people, places, and objects found in scripture and liturgy. Everything in the atrium is made to feed the deep religious needs of children. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in Rome in the 1950s with collaboration between Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew scripture scholar who served on the Vatican commission for Christian-Jewish relations, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator. They spent their lives developing materials that feed the spiritual developmental needs of children ages 3-12. Catechists began using Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the United States over 40 years ago. It continues to grow and today it is used in many dioceses across the nation, in 65 countries, and by several religious orders.

For more information on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, see the National Association Website: www.cgsusa.org

Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd prepares adults to work in the atrium with children. This is a Level I course preparing adults for working with 3-6 year-old children. Often adults also find the courses to be fruitful in their own spiritual lives as well. It is appropriate for those wishing to be catechists as well as others wishing to have a deeper understanding of the spirituality of children.

This course is structured to prepare catechists to begin work in a Level I atrium as early as Fall 2021 and aims to:

- Present the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Explore the general developmental characteristics, religious nature, and the religious needs of the 3-6 year old child.
- Meditate on Biblical and liturgical themes and presentations presented to the 3-6 year-old child.
- Offer guidelines and assistance in creating a 3-6 atrium, preparing the catechist’s album, and making materials.
- Lay the foundation for working with 6-9 and 9-12 year old children in Level II and III atria
- Broaden one’s ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to Scripture, and to deepen one’s enjoyment of God’s presence.

Course Dates and Times:

- **Part I**: Weekends on Sept 25-26, Nov 20-21, Jan 29-30, Mar 26-27, & May 21-22 (snow make-up date):
Saturdays 10am-4:15pm, Sundays 9:15am-3:45pm
- **Part II**: June 24-29, 2022: Friday 10am-5:15pm, Saturday 9am-4:15pm, Sunday 10am-5pm,
Mon-Wed 9am-5:15pm

*Mass times at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: Saturday at 4:30pm, Sunday at 8am and 4pm

Questions about this course? Contact Kim Ostrowski at kostrowski.ihm@gmail.com

Formation Leader: Audrey Walko is a Level I and II Formation Leader certified by the National Association. Audrey has been involved in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd since 1999, having studied with those trained directly under Sofia Cavalletti; she has completed training at all three levels. She has served as a catechist for 20 years. She currently works with children in the atrium located at St. Luke's Church in Fairfax, VT. She has been a Formation Leader since 2010. Audrey has 5 children, all of whom are Atrium graduates.

Course Fee: \$500 \$50 non-refundable deposit due by August 6

Part I tuition \$225 due by September 10; Part II tuition \$225 due June 10

****Discounted course fee for 2 or more registrations from the same parish: \$450 per person**

\$50 non-refundable deposit due by August 6

Part I tuition \$200 due by September 10; Part II tuition \$200 due June 10

Certification: Course fee include a certificate from the National Association for CGS Level I for those who participate in at least 90% of the course.

Required Texts: The Religious Potential of the Child by Sofia Cavalletti; Listening to God with Children by Gianna Gobbi; and The Good Shepherd & the Child: A Joyful Journey by Sofia Cavalletti, Patricia Coulter, Gianna Gobbi, Dr. Silvana Montanaro, and Rebekah Rojcewicz .

Texts available from the National Association:

<https://app.etapestry.com/cart/CatechesisGoodShepherd/default/category.php?ref=628.0.447751261>

or online booksellers

To Register: Please send completed registration form and deposit by August 6.

Space is limited, so registering as soon as possible is encouraged.

It is recommended that 2 or 3 people from a parish take the course together. Beginning an atrium is greatly facilitated if two or more trained people can discuss and execute the work together.

Nursing babies welcome. Childcare, if needed, can be looked into.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Do you welcome texts? [] yes [] no

Parish Name, City, State: _____

Please check which best applies:

[] I am coming from a community with an established atrium [] I am hoping to start a new atrium

Check all that apply:

[] I live within commuting distance and I may be able to host ____ (number) of out-of-town course participants.

[] I am not local and wish to inquire about local lodging accommodations.

Make checks payable to: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (please note on memo line: **CGS course**)

Mail check and this form to: Kim Ostrowski, Office of Faith Formation – CGS Training
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 180 Loudon Road, Concord, NH 03301