

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



**Level One (3-6 year-olds)  
Catechist Formation Course  
September 2025 – June 2026**

**Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
676 W. Lockwood Ave  
Webster Groves, MO 63119**

## ***Course Logistics***

The course will be held at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church which provides Level I atria with additional space for presentations and material making. The format will include presentations, reflections, and time to practice lessons and make materials. Audio recordings for personal use are permitted, however video recordings and pictures during presentations are not allowed.

## ***2025-26 Course Dates***

### ***Part 1:***

September 5-6  
October 10-11  
November 7-8  
December 5-6  
January 9-10

### ***Part 2:***

February 6-7  
March 6-7  
April 10-11  
May 1-2  
June 5-6

Friday sessions will meet from 5:30-8:30 pm; Saturday sessions will meet from 9:00-4:00 pm.

## ***Registration Link:***

The link to register is [here](#) or use the QR code below.



Deposit of \$100 required at registration.

Registration/deposit due: August 22, 2025

Remaining balance due: Sept 5, 2025

- Registration forms will be honored in the order received. Deposits will be returned if the minimum of 12 course participants is not met.
- Scholarships may be available through the National Association. Information is available on their website: [www.cgs.org](http://www.cgs.org)

For more information, contact:  
Ashleigh Keys  
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(334) 379-5122

## ***About the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd***

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a religious formation program based on Montessori teaching principles for children from the ages of 3 to 12. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred “hands-on” environment for children called an atrium, in which both the children and the catechist can hear, ponder and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in Scriptures and Liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Dr. Sofia Cavelletti and Gianna Gobbi over 50 years ago, the Catechesis has since spread worldwide and is used in several denominations.

### ***Catechesis Formation***

There are three levels of training for those interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Level I – for children ages 3-6; Level II – for ages 6-9; and Level III – ages 9-12. Each level involves approximately 100 hours of lectures, meditations, presentations and album page assistance. The participants who complete the course will receive certification for Level I from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

### ***Level I Course Objectives***

- To explore with participants the general developmental and religious characteristics of the 3-6 year old child.
- To facilitate meditation on the biblical and liturgical themes of the Catechesis.
- 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,
- To aid formation of a community of catechists in the Saint Louis area.

### ***The Formation Team***

Ashleigh Keys has served as a catechist for 18 years and is certified in all 3 levels. She has a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and is recognized by the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as a Level I Formation Leader.

Julie Kilian has served as a CGS catechist for over 20 years. She has been trained at all 3 levels and has a MA in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from Aquinas Institute. She is recognized by the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as a Level I Formation Leader.

### ***Tuition and Texts***

Tuition for this course will be \$600 plus the cost of the textbooks. Participants are asked to purchase these texts for the course: *The Religious Potential of the Child*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Sofia Cavalletti; *Nurturing the Whole Child* by Gianna Gobbi; and *The Good Shepherd & The Child: A Joyful Journey* by Patricia Coulter et al. These texts can be ordered from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd National Association on their website, [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org).