

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 Cavalletti 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/Metro East area.

The Formation Team

Martie Rheume has been a catechist for 25 years and is the Coordinator of CGS at Saint Nicholas. She has been a catechist and mentor at multiple atria in the Saint Louis area. Martie has a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies with a Concentration in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She is recognized by the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as a Level I and II Formation Leader.

Kari A. Baldwin is a catechist at Saint Nicholas. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame and a Master’s of Social Work from The State University of New York at Albany. She began her journey with CGS as a parent volunteer, and all four of her children have participated in CGS at Saint Nicholas. Kari completed all three levels of catechist formation.

Tuition and Texts

Tuition for this course will be \$500 plus the cost of the textbooks. Participants are asked to purchase these texts for the course: *The Religious Potential of the Child* by Sofia Cavalletti; *Nurturing the Whole Child: Montessori Principles Applied to the Catechesis of Children* 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.

Registration forms will be honored in the order received. Applicants are asked to send in a \$150 non-refundable deposit along with their registration form (by **May 1, 2026**). Deposit will be returned if a minimum of 10 (maximum of 20) participants is not met. *The balance is due at the beginning of the course (Sept. 12, 2026).

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



**Level One (3-6)
Catechist Formation Course
September 2026 – June 2027**

**Saint Nicholas Catholic Church
625 Saint Nicholas Drive
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269**

Course Logistics

The course will be held in the Saint Nicholas Good Shepherd Center which provides three atria with additional space for classroom, material making and reading. Saint Nicholas is located in O'Fallon, Illinois – approximately a 20-minute drive from downtown Saint Louis. We will meet from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each month with additional days scheduled for the beginning and end of the training. The format will include presentations, reflections, and time to practice lessons and make materials.

2026-2027 Course Dates

Saturday, 12 Sept, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 13 Sept, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10 Oct, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 11 Oct, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 14 Nov, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 19 Dec, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9 Jan, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 30 Jan, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 13 Feb, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 13 Mar, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10 Apr, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 11 Apr, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 1 May, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 2 May, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 12 Jun, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 13 Jun, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church /School

Affiliation: _____

Diocese: _____

Please make checks payable to
Saint Nicholas Catholic Church.

Please send registration with non-refundable
deposit of \$150 by May 1, 2026:

Martie Rheume – CGS Formation

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

625 Saint Nicholas Drive

O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Scholarship money for participants from
the Archdiocese of St. Louis is available. To
be eligible, your registration and deposit
must be received by May 1. The scholarship
is available for the remainder of the course
fee (up to \$350/participant). Limited funds
are available at a first come first serve basis
and are also limited to 4 participants/parish.

For more information, contact

Martie Rheume:

martierheume@gmail.com