

Time:

9:00 am—4:30pm

Level I, Part I Dates:

July 12 - 17, 2021

Level I, Part II Dates:

July 11-16, 2022

Location:

Sacred Heart Parish
502 2nd Ave SE Aberdeen,
SD 57401

Tuition:

Level I, Part I: \$185
Level I, Part II:\$150

Please note: Sacred Heart,
Aberdeen parishioners
should contact Thomas
about tuition

**Send registration
information to:**

Thomas Eskro
Sacred Heart Parish
502 2nd Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD 57401

thomas@sacredheartaberdeem.net

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 fifty years ago, 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 I
(July 2021)
Sacred Heart Parish, Aberdeen
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Home Parish/City: _____

Denomination: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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 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

Karen Sisson is a nationally recognized Formation Leader of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and former Director of Religious Education Prek – 5th and sacraments at the Churches of St. Mary and St. Michael in Stillwater, MN. She is certified in all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and has worked with implementing CGS in a parish and school setting for the past ten years. Her undergraduate degree is in Elementary Education and she has been actively educating children for the past twenty-five years.

kssisson@scvff.net

"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 I Formation Course

For catechists working
with children ages 3-6