

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? (CGS)

CGS is an approach to the faith formation of children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. St. Catherine currently uses Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for ages 3 years old through kindergarten.

The focus of the program is to deepen the child's existing relationship with God; to encourage the formation of a personal prayer life; to participate fully in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church; and to develop a deeper understanding of Catholic identity and tradition.



CGS is rooted in the educational principles of Maria Montessori. It was founded by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi in Rome and has spread to almost every continent.

CGS utilizes the Montessori principles of multi-aging. Each of the three levels of CGS is a three year program:

- **Level One** is for children ages 3 through kindergarten. 
(THIS IS THE ONLY LEVEL CURRENTLY OFFERED AT ST. CATHERINE.)
- **Level Two** is for 1st-3rd grade.
- **Level Three** is for 4th and 5th grade.

"If we want to help the child grow near to God, we should, with patience and courage...seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things..."



*...This requires study and prayer.
The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him."*

Sofia Cavalletti

Foundress of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
with Gianna Gobbi

WE ARE CALLED BY NAME



St. Catherine Catholic Church

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Phone: 507-283-8071



"I am the Good Shepherd"
John 10:11

Five reasons to put your children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

- CGS helps the child to understand and participate in the Mass
- CGS gives your child a peaceful and quiet place of prayer in our loud and busy world.
- The younger the child starts (we accept them at 3), the easier it is for them to fall in love with God.
- CGS assists the child in wonder and curiosity about the Kingdom of God.
- CGS gives parents built in time that can be utilized for their own spiritual growth.

What is an Atrium?

An Atrium is the room in which the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd takes place.

**"The atrium is the meeting ground of two mysteries:
the mystery of God and
the mystery of the child."**

Level I (Ages 3 years old-Kdgn)

Level I encourages children to develop their innate potential for a faith-filled relationship with God. They encounter Jesus, the Good Shepherd who loves them, cares for them, and knows them by name. Catechesis includes Scripture, Mass gestures, prayers, artwork, and music. Level One is for children three years old through kindergarten



ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS)



**Children's Faith Formation
Ages 3—Kindergarten
2026/27 Class Options:**

Ages 3-5:
Tuesday,
9:45-11:15 AM

Kindergarten:
Wednesday,
4:00 – 5:00 PM

**"Where a child can fall in
love with God"**



When St. John Paul II visited a CGS atrium in Rome, he reportedly said, "That is the most beautiful homily I have ever witnessed," and "it is proof that really the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the children."