

FORMATION TEAM



Shelley Finkler lives with her husband Jerry and 5 children in Eagle River, Alaska. She is an adjunct professor of Christian Education at St. Herman's Orthodox Seminary in Kodiak and a special education teacher. Shelley offers CGS courses with both Catholic and Orthodox-adapted content.



"Children are sent to us as a rain of souls, as a wealth and a promise that can always be fulfilled, but that needs our efforts in bringing about that fulfillment."

Maria Montessori



Rhiannon Jensen has led Level I formation courses in California and Alaska. She currently lives in California with her husband and son serving in the atrium at St. John Neumann in Irvine CA and as Director of Faith Formation for Children. She has a passion for making materials and building beautiful atrium environments for children to encounter Christ.

The Spirituality of Childhood

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Catechist Formation

Part A

June 29 - July 5, 2023

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

LOCATION

Sacred Heart Cathedral

406 Steele Street

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory Y1A 1L4

sacredheartcathedral.ca



Catechesis of
the Good Shepherd
Association of Canada

cgsac.ca





The Level 1 course lays the foundation in theory and practices of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for all three levels.

LEVEL ONE COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the 3-6 year old child.
2. To explore the religious nature and the spiritual needs and capacities of the child.
3. To meditate on the mystery of the incarnation and the paschal mystery through the scriptural accounts shared with children.
4. To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing an atrium, writing album pages and making materials.
5. To deepen the participant's ability to observe and learn from children, and to discuss the challenges of engaging the child in the work of Level 1.

What if every child could have time and space specially set aside for an encounter with Christ?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a time-tested approach to faith formation. Rooted in the pedagogy of Maria Montessori, it feeds the deepest needs of children, allowing each one to get to know God personally.

In a peaceful atmosphere, through the use of special materials designed just for them, children hear the Word proclaimed and grow in their relationship with God.

The most essential treasures of the Christian faith, from scripture and liturgy, touch the heart of each child and lead to deep contemplation, prayer, and joy.

About the Course

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Catechist formation in the CGS method is like a retreat: a time set apart to listen to the voice of the One who calls us each by name. Adults enter training seeking a way to share the faith with children. When they encounter the face of God that the young child most responds to, they discover that their own relationship with God has deepened. This is why we call it “formation” rather than simply “training”.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Catechist formation in CGS engages hand, head, and heart, immersing the adult in:

- Scripture
- Liturgy
- Theology
- Prayer
- the needs and spiritual growth of the young child
- making and using atrium materials

Each course is a minimum commitment of 90 hours, with readings and written work required. The three levels must be completed in sequence.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT

All registration is online at

cgsac.ca/courses-1

For questions, contact Caroline Knickle
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